March is Social Work Month!

Promoting Self-Determination in Mental Health - Helping Clients Critically Assess the Benefits and Risks of Medication

Presenter: Janet K. Acker, Ph.D., M.Div., LCSW-R

3 Continuing Education Hours for NYS Social Workers

Social workers in the mental health field play an important role in helping clients make informed decisions about their treatment both with psychosocial and pharmacological interventions. To do this effectively critical thinking and informed decision making are important aspects of the client/social worker interaction. In light of some of the risks related to psychotropics, this has become even more important. This workshop will present current literature, raise ethical considerations that are informed by the literature, and help participants develop a process that supports critical thinking and therefore self-determination in their practice.

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

1. Assess their own knowledge base regarding psychotropic medicine as part of a treatment plan
2. Be able to identify the ethical issues around medication and self determination
3. Understand the relative risks and benefits of psychotropic medication
4. Be able to identify the resources for evidence based literature on psychotropic medication
5. Be able to create a process to help clients make more informed decisions about psychotropic medication

Online registration is required for this event- go to http://tinyurl.com/MHSelfDetermination to reserve your spot as space is limited. This event is approved for 3 CE hours.

Cost: $60 ($30 for SSW field instructors).

There are a limited number of free scholarships for current SSW students and new social workers for this event. Please email if interested: sswceu@albany.edu

University at Albany, School of Social Welfare is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers.
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Janet K. Acker, Ph.D., M.Div., LCSW-R

Janet Acker is Assistant Professor of Social Work at the College of Saint Rose and has over 25 years of practice experience in mental health, child welfare, and HIV services. Her research interests focus on the ethical considerations and process of supporting self-determination and informed consent for persons accessing mental health services.

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