

Engaging Clients to be Active Advocates

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Learning Objectives

- Build skills in coaching clients in effective communication techniques
- Increase understanding of worker's ethical obligations to client in supporting their self-advocacy
- Be able to identify and manage additional ethical issues that may arise in support of client self-determination

Starting Where We Are...



- Introductions
- Roles
- Skill-building needs

What is Self-Advocacy?

- How do you define self-advocacy?
- Where did you learn how to advocate for yourself?
- What do you know now about self-advocacy that you wish you knew earlier in your life?

Starting with the End in Mind

- What are the goals of client's self-advocacy?
- What strengths and skills do they bring to the process?
- What barriers exist to their success?

Exploring Barriers to Client Self-Advocacy



- Micro
- Mezzo
- Macro

Exploring Client Strengths to Support Self-Advocacy

- Life Experience
- Family and Relationships
- Survival Skills
- Unique Attributes



Using Your 'Self' to Support Clients in Building Self-Advocacy Skills

- Modeling
- Mirroring
- Mentoring

Ethical Obligations in Supporting Client Self-Advocacy

Obligations connected to Social Work Values:

- Commitment to service
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Competence
- Integrity
- Social Justice

Obligations connected to Social Work Ethical Standards:

- Commitment to clients
- Commitment to employer
- Self-Determination
- Informed Consent
- Competence
- Conflicts of Interest
- Confidentiality

Skill-building Practice



- Break into small groups to discuss case vignettes and role play
- Return to large group to share insights and ideas

Case Vignette Discussion Prompts

- What other information do you need to gather to move forward with the client?
- Which ethical issues do you identify in this case scenario?
- Who else could help you support this client?

Final Thoughts and Questions



Resources and References

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