

Eastern Kentucky University

Encompass

EKU Faculty and Staff Scholarship

Faculty and Staff Scholarship Collection

Fall 10-29-2018

How Ethics Can Inform Spiritually Sensitive Social Work

Ann M. Callahan

Eastern Kentucky University, ann.callahan@eku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://encompass.eku.edu/fs_research



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Callahan, A. M. (2018, October). How Ethics Can Inform Spiritually Sensitive Social Work. Workshop presented for the North American Association of Christians in Social Work's 68th Annual Convention in Hartford, CT.

This Conference Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty and Staff Scholarship Collection at Encompass. It has been accepted for inclusion in EKU Faculty and Staff Scholarship by an authorized administrator of Encompass. For more information, please contact Linda.Sizemore@eku.edu.

**North American Association of Christians in Social Work
68th Annual Convention
Hartford, CT
October 25-28, 2018**

Name and Contact Information:

Ann Callahan, PhD, LCSW
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
223 Keith Building
Richmond, KY 40475-3102
office phone: (859) 622-1651
cell phone/text: (865) 383-7006
fax: (859) 622-8167
email: ann.callahan@eku.edu

Title: How Ethics Can Inform Spiritually Sensitive Social Work

Summary (252 words):

Sensitivity to the importance of spirituality in social work practice has grown over the past thirty years (Kvarfordt, Sheridan, and Taylor, 2017; Oxhandler & Pargament, 2014). Research suggests that social workers more commonly consider spirituality as an expression of cultural diversity, if not inherent to being human adding to biopsychosocial dimensions of development (Barker, 2007; Kvarfordt et al., 2017; Lun & Wai, 2015). However, social work practitioners and educators express discomfort in addressing spirituality, perhaps, due to limited training (Buckley, 2012; Oxhandler & Giardina, 2017; Oxhandler, Parrish, Torres, & Achenbaum, 2015) and supervision (Birkenmaier, Behrman, & Berg-Weger, 2005). As with any approach in social work practice, a review of professional ethics can provide essential direction (Hodge, 2005, 2006, 2016; Rice & McAuliffe, 2009; Sherr, Singletary, & Rogers, 2009; Sheridan, 2010). This workshop will define spiritually sensitive social work based on a comprehensive review of the literature (Canda & Furman, 2010; Callahan, 2017) and professional guidelines set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (2015), National Association of Social Workers ([NASW], 2015), and North American Association of Christians in Social Work (2017). The NASW (2017) Code of Ethics followed by ethics-based practice models that employ Virtue Ethics and Care Ethics (Banks & Gallagher, 2009; Chamiec-Case, 2007, 2013) will be discussed. This discussion will focus on broad application of professional ethics for the delivery of spiritually sensitive social work. The workshop will conclude with an opportunity for participants to apply new learning to case scenarios and share the potential for application in practice.

Abstract (50 words):

Sensitivity to spirituality in social work practice has grown over the past thirty years; however, social work practitioners and educators express discomfort in addressing spirituality. This workshop provides an opportunity for participants to learn more about ethics-based practice models for the delivery of spiritually sensitive social work.

References

- Banks, S. & Gallagher, A. (2009). *Ethics in professional life: Virtues for health and social care*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Barker, S. L. (2007). The integration of spirituality and religion content in social work education: Where we've been, where we're going, *Social Work & Christianity*, 38 (2), 146-166.
- Birkenmaier, J., Behrman, G., & Berg-Weger, M. (2005). Integrating curriculum and practice with students and their field supervisors: Reflections on spirituality and the aging (ROSA) model. *Educational Gerontology*, 31, 745-763. DOI: 10.1080/03601270500250150
- Buckley, J. W. (2012). Empirically based spirituality education: Implications for social work research and practice. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 38, 260-271. DOI: 10.1080/01488376.2011.647979
- Callahan, A. M. (2017). *Spirituality and hospice social work*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Canda, E., & Furman, L. (2010). *Spiritual diversity in social work practice: The heart of helping*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Free Press.
- Chamiec-Case, R. (2007). Exploring the filtering role of Christian beliefs and values in the integration of Christian faith and social work practice. *Social Work & Christianity*, 34(4), 498-512.
- Chamiec-Case, R. (2013). The contribution of virtue ethics to a richer understanding of social work competencies. *Social Work & Christianity*, 40(3), 251-270.
- Council on Social Work Education. (2015). *2015 Educational policy and accreditation standards for baccalaureate and master's social work programs*. Retrieved from https://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS_Web_FINAL.pdf.aspx
- Hodge, D. R. (2005). Spirituality in social work education: A development and discussion of goals that flow from the profession's ethical mandates. *Social Work Education*, 1, 37-55. DOI: 10.1080/0261547052000324982
- Hodge, D. R. (2006). Moving toward a more inclusive educational environment? A multi-sample exploration of religious discrimination as seen through the eyes of students from various traditions. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 42(2), 249-267.
- Hodge, D. R. (2016). Spiritual competence: What it is, why it is necessary, and how to develop it. *Journal of Ethic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 2, 1-16. DOI: 10.1080/15313204.2016.1228093
- Kvarfordt, C. L., Sheridan, M. J., & Taylor, O. (2017). Religion and spirituality in social work curriculum: A survey of Canadian educators. *British Journal of Social Work*, 0, 1-19. DOI: 10.1093/bjsw/bcx069
- Lun, A., & Wai, M. (2015). A qualitative study of students' perception of spirituality and religion. *Social Work & Christianity*, 42(2), 178-192.
- National Association of Social Workers. (2015). *Indicators for the achievement of the NASW standards for cultural competence in social work practice* [Brochure]. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/standards/NASWCulturalStandards.pdf>
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW). (2017). Code of ethics. Retrieved from https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ms_ArtLqzeI%3d&portalid=0
- North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW). (2017). Mission & Christian Identity. Retrieved from <http://www.nacsw.org/about-nacsw/mission/>

- Oxhandler, H. K. and Pargament, K. I. (2014). Social work practitioners' integration of clients' religion and spirituality in practice: A literature review. *Social Work, 59*(3), 271-279. DOI: 10.1093/sw/swu018
- Oxhandler, H. K., Parrish, D. E., Torres, L. R., and Achenbaum, W. A. (2015). Integration of clients' religion and spirituality in social work practice: A national survey. *Social Work, 60*(3), 228-237. DOI: 10.1093/sw/swv018
- Oxhandler, H. K. & Giardina, T. D. (2017). Workers' perceived barriers to and sources of support for integrating clients' religion and spirituality in practice. *Social Work, 62*(4), 323-332. DOI: 10.1093/sw/swx036
- Rice, S. & McAuliffe, D. (2009). Ethics of the spirit: Comparing ethical views and usages of spiritually influenced interventions. *Australian Social Work, 62*(3), 403-420. DOI: 10.1080/03124070902964640
- Sherr, M., Singletary, J. E., & Rogers, R. K. (2009). Innovative service or proselytizing: Exploring when services delivery becomes a platform for unwanted religious persuasion. *Social Work, 54*(2), 157-165.
- Sheridan, M. J. (2010). Ethical issues in the use of prayer in social work: Implications for professional practice and education. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 91*(2), 112-120. DOI: 10.1606/1044-3894.3980

Learning Outcomes:

1. Define spiritually sensitive social work
2. Identify ethical guidelines that apply to social work practice
3. Apply ethical guidelines to inform spiritually sensitive social work

Biography (103 words):

Ann M. Callahan, PhD, LCSW is an Associate Professor in the Social Work Program at Eastern Kentucky University. She has a license in clinical social work and over 20 years of social work-related experience. Dr. Callahan has extensive experience in teaching across the social work curriculum with a commitment to quality course design and facilitating online education. Her research focuses on advancing hospice, palliative, and long-term care through the delivery of spiritually sensitive social work. This has resulted in numerous presentations and publications, including the book *Spirituality and Hospice Social Work* published by Columbia University Press. Please visit <http://dranncallahan.info/> to learn more.