

IPI Ethics Committee Meeting Notes

3/29/15

6-7pm

Present: Caroline S., Judy R., Mike S., Michael K., Andi P.

Main points of discussion:

- *Awareness of potential boundary issues when faculty person has patient that wants to pursue IPI training
- *Ethics committee mandate – preventative or reactive?
- *A task of committee can be to develop ethics code and procedures
- *Whether and how to facilitate discussion about ethics at upcoming faculty retreat
- *Importance of not overreaching as a committee
- *Use of ethics-related vignettes to encourage thinking together as community
- *How faculty approach the issue of having a patient who is being considered for a faculty position (Ethics and procedure)
- *Group leaders' boundaries with students – concern re: mingling with students before/after group
- *Professional liability insurance
- *Ethics professor as consultant

Caroline (C):

- Welcome Andi to 1st meeting
- Agenda
- Ethical concerns raised at Steering Committee meeting
- Discussion with Janine re: issues raised
 - Possible 1st task of ethics committee: Discuss faculty person's concern regarding capacity to maintain boundaries with patient who is interested in IPI training
 - Have to be very careful about discussion in order to maintain confidentiality
 - After further reflection: Recommend not to speak further about this particular situation

Judith (J):

- Bottom line: Need to be alert to such boundary issues

Mike S. (MS): Agrees – no need to discuss further

(C): #4 on agenda: Mandate

- Ethics committee originally thought of as ad hoc
- Board suggested it be a standing committee
- Is task of Ethics committee preventative or reactive?

Andi (A):

- Does IPI have an ethics code?

(C):

- IPI does not have its own ethics code
- Possible task to take on

(A):

- Each committee member could draw on ethics code of respective discipline (psychiatry, social work, psychology, counseling) to inform development of IPI code

(J):

- IIPT does have ethics code and procedure
- Consider overlap and distinction between possible IPI code and IIPT code

(C):

- Judy is chair of IIPT Ethics committee
- In addition to disciplines mentioned, psychoanalysts are on our committee – Consider also Ethics codes of Psychoanalytic associations
- A possibility: IPI Ethics committee could establish a general screening to use in response to ethics complaints, then refer person to his/her own discipline's Ethics board
- Different analytic groups have different procedures
- Have to think further how we'd want to handle that

(J):

- We need to have both ethics code and procedural guidelines

(C):

- This can be a task of our committee

- Next: IPI Faculty Retreat – Should there be a discussion at retreat regarding ethics?
- Can we offer 1 CE credit for being part of ethics discussion?
- There have been ethical concerns raised by faculty, one person in particular had multiple ethical concerns

Michael K. (MK):

- Did s/he have concerns about specific ethical violations?

(C):

- S/he was not willing to elaborate and wanted to remain anonymous
- Do we want to use time at faculty retreat to think together about ethical issues?

(J):

- Does Janine want that to happen?

(C):

- She wants committee to discuss it
- I like the idea – Gives an inside view of a portion of IPI community

(MK):

-How would it be structured into retreat?

(C):

-Not Ethics committee's task to decide that part

(J):

-In previous retreats, there were smaller group discussions about various topics

(MS):

-We're not at the point where we have enough to offer CE credits

-We could invite faculty, in either small or large group, to think together about ethical issues

-There seems to be confusion about difference between whether something is unethical or just not a good idea

-In developing ethics code, keep in mind IPI is an educational institute, not a clinic

-Different professions have different perspectives on some issues – Ex: Social work association is opposed to Skype therapy whereas Psychologist Ass. Takes more flexible stance

(J):

-Do not want to overreach as a committee

(MS):

-Faculty retreat can be an opportunity to get a feel for where group is on these issues

(C):

-Another issue:

-When faculty is treating someone who is being considered for faculty position

-Raises different possibilities each with different consequence:

*Faculty can leave the discussion – but then reveals her/himself as treating clinician

*Faculty can stay but not speak

*Faculty will feel prohibited from speaking

(MS):

-Would be unethical for treating to say anything about patient

-Procedural issue: What faculty person does in this situation

(J):

-Does the committee take a stand on this?

(C):

- American Psychoanalytic Association has a casebook in which vignettes are used to generate thinking about responding to various ethical dilemmas
- We could offer something like this to encourage thinking about ethical issues together as a community

(All):

Agree

(C):

- Links back to question of whether to bring this discussion to upcoming faculty retreat

(Discussion leads to agreement that it is a good idea to raise ethics discussion at retreat – the decision of how this will be structured will be deferred to Janine)

(C):

- #6 on agenda: Another concern raised at steering committee – Group leaders' boundaries with students
- Specific concern was that some leaders were mingling with group participants before and/or after group

(MK):

- Has there been a precedent set on this issue?

(J):

- History of IPI: Used to be clear that group leaders were not to mingle in such ways
- Loosened up over time

(Discussion progresses: This raises the issue of how we conceptualize function of the group, and the complexity of IPI as an institute that educates about therapy. Are we applying thoughts about therapy to something that's not therapy? Do not want to overreach as a committee. Possibly encourage thinking about this issue through the use of a vignette.)

(C):

- Professional liability insurance for students who do not have license?
- Should the committee have an ethics professor as group consultant?

(A) and (M):

- Consultant would be helpful

(J):

- Want to think about it more.

(C):

-Wrap up: Group agrees to keep the frequency of meetings the same (quarterly) unless an issue arises that requires more frequent meetings