### Gray Areas of Ethics -

**Deaf Professionals and** 

Interpreters

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### Dual/Multiple and Overlapping Relationships

- \*What is dual relationship?
- \*What is overlapping relationship?

\*Discuss examples

### Dual/Multiple Relationships

Some may ask what makes multiple relationships problematic.

Schank and Skovholt (2006) pointed out several critical factors:

- \* 1) they are pervasive,
- \* 2) they are difficult to recognize,
- \* 3) they sometimes are unavoidable,
- \* 4) they are the subject of limited advice,
- \* 5) they are potentially harmful,
- \* 6) they involve risk to clients and to psychologists,
- \* 7) they have effects on other consumers, other professionals, the profession, and society (p. 36-42).

### NEGOTIATING THE GRAY AREAS OF ETHICAL DECISION MAKING: DEAF THERAPISTS WORKING IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY (Thew, 2010)

#### The study:

- Many DHH therapists reported that the APA ethical principles and codes do not often allow much freedom to participate in many events organized in the DHH communities
- Explored decision-making patterns
  - All multiple relationships in the study are nonsexual
- Differentiate the concepts of overlapping and dual relationships
- Developed an ethical decision-making model to use with Deaf therapists
  - Documented the importance of a collaboration discussion with patient/client
    - Important part of Deaf culture value (subtle vs direct)
      - Reduces the likelihood of distrust at pt feels respected/valued

## Dual/Multiple Relationships (from study)

- \* Potential for exploitation or conflict in the roles
- \* Implicitly harmful
- \* Common in rural and small communities due to limited access to services/options
  - \* DHH community
    - Every deaf person is considered a potential client if not already a client

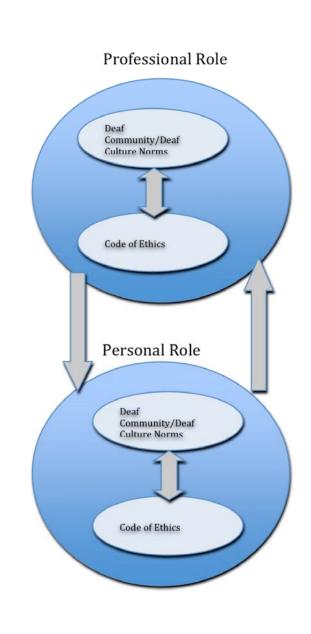
### Overlapping Relationships (from study)

- \* New concept for many
- \* Broadly defined as:
  - Common interest or activity outside of therapy or work
    - \* E.g., political, religious, social endeavor
- \* Minimal or no potential for exploitation or role conflicts

# NEGOTIATING THE GRAY AREAS OF ETHICAL DECISION MAKING: DEAF THERAPISTS WORKING IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY (Thew, 2010)

- \* Professional vs. personal self
  - \* Diagram
- \* Decision-making model
  - \* Flowchart

Interactions of
Deaf Culture and
Code of Ethics
within the
Professional and
Personal Role.



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Proposed
DecisionMaking Model
for Deaf
Therapists who
work in the
DHH
Community.

Identity as a DHH individual Professional Role Personal Role Identify the problem Attend same events or member of the Having more than same organization. one role that The relationship is involves being in a Assess Situation and considered not position of power. determine if it is a Dual harmful. Potential harmful. or Overlapping Relationship Identified Dual or **Identified Overlapping** potential Dual or potential Overlapping Review time frame relationship relationship Review code of ethics and legal mandates How long ago was Our values become the previous hidden motives that relationship influence all our decision. Determine the values or recent, 6 months, 2 It is important to make motives involved years, 5 years? them conscious to reassess them and reframe them if necessary. Recognize the Consult with a local cultural and agency licensed supervisor Consult with DHH licensed values related to the supervisor regarding to Deaf Culture values, motives, and Code of Ethics Evaluate the long-term effects of your choices on your client Whose needs will be met? Whose interests will be served? Are there short Have a collaborate discussion with term effects to consider? patients/clients to ensure that the How does the How will present and patient/client feels respected and client/patient react to the future clients be affected valued member therapist's choice? Does by your choice? How about the client/patient feel the community and comfortable with the profession as a whole? therapist's choices? How Document every discussion, are the boundaries consultation and decision (s) made established?

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#### Conclusion

(from study)

- Strive to achieve healthy balance in both personal and professional roles
  - Multiple shades of gray
- Proposed decision-making model derived from this study can be modified to meet the needs of other small communities in other professions
- Quality supervision is critical
  - Cross state supervision is prohibited by most state ethical board
  - Many Deaf professionals would benefit from VP supervision/consultation

### **Group Discussion**

- \* Where do Deaf professionals go for support?
- \* Where do interpreters go for support?
- \* Who can you talk with to ensure that you maintain your professional ethics?
- \* What is the missing piece of puzzle for your small community? (e.g. Deaf professionals, interpreters, etc)
  - \* What resources do you need to accomplish this?

#### Thank You!!!

(reminder to self to insert picture of some kind © before presentation)