Ethical Considerations for Recovery Community Organizations

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina

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Donald McDonald, Disclosures

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

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When we empower our professionals through deliberate education & vigilant advocacy, more lives are saved, more people find wellness, & more communities prosper.
I still have no idea what I’m doing
Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

• Understand the difference between an RCO, an RCC, and other clinical, treatment, or recovery settings
• Know what a Recovery Coach is and how to stay in that lane
• Come to a consensus definition of ethics
• Understand why ethics are important in all helping roles
• Begin the process of developing guidelines for making ethical decisions
Introductions

One Minute or Less

• Name
• Recovery Status
• Where are you from?
• Why are you here?
RCO’s, RCC’s, & other stuff

Recovery is Contagious
A recovery community organization (RCO) is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. These organizations organize recovery-focused policy advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and/or provide peer-based recovery support services (P-BRSS). (White, 2007)
RCO’s, RCC’s, & other stuff

A Recovery Community Center (RCC) is a place free from stigma that offers peer recovery support to the entire Recovery Community, regardless of pathway. Types of support fall within four categories: emotional, informational, instrumental, and affiliational. That means we have space to provide everything from Recovery Coaching & peer support groups to job readiness training & professional education to help accessing social services & transportation to ping pong tournaments & cookouts. (RCNC)
Staying in Your Lane
Staying in Your Lane

The practice of a certified substance use counselor consists of the Twelve Core Functions, including screening, intake, orientation, assessment, treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client education, report and record keeping, consultation with other professionals in regard to client treatment and services, and referral to treat addictive disorder or disease and help prevent relapse. (NCSAPPB)
Essentially, the process of sponsorship is this: An alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A. (Questions & Answers on Sponsorship, AA General Service Conference)
Staying in Your Lane

“A Recovery Coach is a person who helps remove personal and environmental obstacles to recovery, links the newly recovering person to the recovering community, and serves as a personal guide and mentor in the management of personal and family recovery.”

-William White
Morality & Ethics
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**Morality**: beliefs about what is right behavior and what is wrong behavior

**Ethics**: rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad

(Merriam-Webster)
Ethical Scenarios
Partner for Recovery

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References


