



ARCA's 2025-2026 Webinar Series
We are pleased to present on

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026
12:00 P.M. — 1:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

“WALKING THE LINE: BALANCING CLIENT AUTONOMY AND COUNSELOR BENEFICENCE IN ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING”

PRESENTED BY
DR. MICHAEL T. HARTLEY, CRC

This presentation explores the ethical balance between honoring client autonomy and fulfilling the counselor's responsibility to promote client well-being. Participants will examine how these core principles can sometimes come into tension, particularly in situations involving risk, impaired decision-making, or value differences. Using a structured ethical decision-making model, the session guides counselors in evaluating options and documenting their reasoning. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for collaborative, client-centered decision-making that respects individual choice while reducing potential harm.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Participants will be able to explain the ethical principles of client autonomy and counselor beneficence and describe how these principles can come into conflict in clinical practice.
- Participants will be able to apply a structured ethical decision-making model to analyze situations where client choice may result in potential harm.
- Participants will be able to identify and implement at least two counseling strategies, e.g., motivational interviewing, shared decision-making, that support client autonomy while still promoting client well-being.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER. . . .



Dr. Michael T. Hartley is a professor in the Counseling Program at The University of Arizona. His scholarship is focused on the intersection of rehabilitation counseling and mental health counseling with an emphasis on supporting people with diverse physical, sensory, mental, and cognitive disabilities to function well in different environments. He is dedicated to the ethics of integrative care and the complex connections between physical and mental health, including the role of trauma and social determinants of health.

In this way, his research, teaching, and service all revolve around critically framing the application of ethical principles within a dominant cultural context that has historically devalued and socially restricted the lives of people with disabilities. Much of his work targets distributive justice issues and therefore has included the importance of promoting resilience and of advocating against ableism, i.e., ways in which society's structures, institutions, and ideological systems continue to disadvantage people with disabilities. Unique across his scholarship is deep commitment to self-determination, advocacy, and social justice as foundational principles guiding the history and evolution of the contemporary practice of counseling. Dr. Hartley identifies as rehabilitation counselor scholar with expertise in mental health, psychiatric rehabilitation, somatic therapies, and the social construction of mental health.

CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVAL FOR LIVE 1.0 HOURS IN ETHICS. . . .

for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) and Certified Vocational Evaluation Specialists (CVE/CVES) continuing education clock hours. These CEs are part of a webinar series offered by ARCA from March 2024 through March 2025 under a single approval number. This webinar is also approved for the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) continuing education clock hours.

REGISTRATION FEES (includes CEs as applicable). . . .

Current ARCA Member: FREE*

NON-ARCA Individuals/LAPSED ARCA Member: \$12.00

****ARCA membership must be current at the time of registration and will be verified. If your membership has lapsed, you will be contacted and subsequently your registration may be cancelled so you can register as a non-member and pay the \$12 registration fee.***

Please note, your registration can be cancelled; however, there are no refunds.

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