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*by* B J

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**Ethics in Applied Field Work**

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### **Ethics in Applied Field Work**

I agree with Lehnerer's decision to become involved in the game of information control because it provided the opportunity to practice her ethics of rebellion, aiming to cushion the house members who were subjected to the unfair treatment and experiences at Halfway House constantly. She was not pleased with the malpractices carried out by other staff members, especially towards the housemates and sorted to help out by getting involved in the game of information control, which I believe was the right thing to do at that particular moment. In addition, I concur with Lehnerer's decision to become involved in the game of information control because she claims it provided an opportunity to express competence and care and upholding a client-staff member relationship, something that was lacking in Halfway house. Therefore, Lehnerer's intentions were positive because she wanted to make a better place for its members halfway and, most importantly, improve on the relationship between the staff and clients, thus why I agree with her decision (Lehnerer. 1996).

I was surprised at the way feelings influenced policy in terms of life skills classes and casework management. It is unethical to claim that like and dislike majorly depend on an occupant's capacity to present themselves in a way that displayed the aspiration to go through the routine while everyone requires equal treatment. However, like Eddie Ray's, residents who failed Lehnerer, even though she was devoted to transforming the system by getting involved in information control, instigated this treatment. She felt betrayed as she had tried to conceal information to save these individuals, but Eddie lied to her. Therefore, I believe that these previous experiences played a part in the way feelings later influenced policies. In addition, it is pretty interesting to see how feelings influenced Lehnerer to launch direct complaints to caseworkers because of the frustrations of previous experiences.

I think that Lehnerer's ethics of rebellion did more good than harm; even though her actions of keeping secrets might have been a discourteous elucidation of Camus's description of agitation, it was the most suitable action to take in this setting. Her informal and friendly approach towards interviewing new arrivals looked to create a warm relationship that was lacking between clients and staff members, thus warranting her ethics of rebellion.

Lastly, the ethical dilemma covered by Lehnerer that I would like to know more about is the best way of performing assigned duties by an institution that is rather oppressive while upholding the dignity of clients and ensuring that the institution's standards remain intact. I chose this dilemma because it is more apparent in the current world, and understanding it more would prepare me for future activities.

### Reference

Lehnerer, M. (1996). *Caring, Information Control, and Emotionality: Fieldwork Trade-offs*.

Southwest Missouri State University.

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