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Answer Questions on a Psychiatric Clinician Team Member

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The dilemma from a personal perspective is that I feel I have to help patients get better after witnessing what my brother experienced. I feel patients suffering from mental disorders must get the necessary treatment and support and should not be discharged early before their needs are addressed because doing so does not amount to helping them get better. In this regard, I feel that mentally ill patients should not be discharged early from the medical facility, where the bottom line is fundamental than their health and well-being. The second dilemma is that I am a member of an interdisciplinary team that oversees and evaluates the status of patients, their medical compliance, and their ability to manage their medicine intake. My team is tasked with making crucial patient decisions, but some team members, like the supervisor, advocate for the early release of patients who require more time at the facility. He is my senior and whatever he is doing is wrong and I feel my professionalism is being challenged and I must do something.

Each day, social workers advocate for social justice, giving unprecedented and disadvantaged groups a voice. They contribute to the betterment of peoples' lives and thus to the betterment of society itself. The NASW ethical standards are meant to serve as a reference to the daily professionalism of social workers as stated by JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY (n.d). It lays out six ethical values that set forth philosophies that all social workers must seek. They include service, inclusivity, decency, and worth of each person, the value of human relations, credibility, and professionalism. As a social worker, my obligation as per the NASW code of ethics is to the patient first. Therefore, I must strive to ensure that I work in the best interest of the client. That reason alone explains why it would be an injustice to discharge a patient who is yet to get better. In addition to that, I owe a duty to the profession to maintain

integrity and ethical standards in my daily practice. This obligation means that I must not condone ill practice at the expense of the mentally ill patient.

Towards my colleague, I am obliged by the ethical and moral standards of the profession to inform them where they go wrong and ask them to correct themselves. I would first start by reminding my colleague about the responsibility of a social worker as stated under the NASW code of ethics. Since we work as an interdisciplinary team that evaluates the status of our patients, it is easier for me to raise my reservations about the current happenings when we have our next meeting. I will remind every team member regarding our ethical responsibility to the patient and the profession and tell them about my personal experience and how I lost a brother who had a mental condition, and the consequences of the lack of proper care. Suppose my colleagues fail to heed my appeals. In that case, I am ethically and morally obligated to raise the matter with the senior management or even report the matter to the relevant agencies dealing with unethical conduct in social work.

To better serve the patients in the psychiatric facility, I must first mediate the personal conflict I am experiencing following the loss of my brother and witnessing the supervisor's conduct of releasing patients before they get better. One way of mediating the personal; conflict with the passing of my brother is to accept that it has happened and take the necessary steps to ensure that no other patient losses their lives due to early release when they are yet to get better. I understand that I cannot serve patients better if I am not in the right frame of mind. In this regard, I will work hard and focus on the future, as opposed to the past experiences like the passing of my brother, limiting my ability to help others. More importantly, I must share my thoughts and experiences with someone who can advise me since I have a close understanding with the psychiatric nurse and decide on the right course of action to pursue.

Reference

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY. (n.d.). *NASW code of ethics summary*. JSU |

JSU. https://www.jsu.edu/socialwork/career/NASW_Code_of_Ethics.html

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