### **Outline**

### **Understanding the Legal System**

Statutes

Rules and regulations

Case law

Finding the law

### **Legal Exposure**

Civil liability

Licensing board complaints

Criminal liability

### **Establish the Treatment** Relationship

The professional relationship: beginning and end

The legal and ethical principle of informed consent

Informed consent as part of the treatment modality

Use of and reliance upon written consent

### **Assessment, Treatment and Management** of Suicide Risks

Statistics and populations at risk

Assessment of risk

Screening tools and interview techniques

Securing of outside records

Cognitive interventions

Use of concrete and outside management resources

Documentation

**Target Audience:** Counselors • Social Workers Psychologists • Case Managers Addiction Counselors • Therapists Marriage & Family Therapists • Other Mental Health Professionals • Nurses

### **Record-Keeping Practices**

Record-keeping regulations Items which constitute the record Access to records via written requests, subpoenas and court orders

### The Ethics of Duty to Protect and Warn

Duty to protect by warning potential third party victims

Review of specific Pennsylvania case law governing danger to others

A clinical approach to the duty to protect by warning

#### **Treatment of Minors**

Age of majority

Consent to treatment and access to records

Treatment of minors in situations of family separation and divorce

#### **Non-Sexual Boundary Violations**

Email correspondence, cell phone and texting

Treatment vs. advocacy for patients

Professional contacts with attorneys and the legal profession

In-court expert testimony

### Live Webcast Schedule

(Times listed in Eastern)

**8:30** Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch Break

**4:30** Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

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- Determine specific state and administrative laws that are pertinent to establishing and maintaining an ethical clinical practice.
- Develop policies on ethical issues such as restraints, seclusion and informed con-
- Determine which notes, documents, reports, forms, and clinical data constitute an official medical record in the state of Pennsylvania.
- 4. Evaluate your current record-keeping practices in order to ensure compliance with ethical and legal requirements in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Designate the treatment provider's responsibilities relating to mental health issues and duty to warn law in Pennsylvania.
- Explore the legal and ethical considerations for the treatment of minor populations in Pennsylvania with regard to age of consent, confidentiality and custody
- Articulate issues related to the assessment, treatment and management of clients at risk to die from suicide.



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and the Assessment, Treatment, and Management of Suicide Risks for

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## Mental Health Professionals

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- Apply ethics to everyday practice
- Review the assessment, treatment, and management of suicide risks

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# Ethical Principles and the Assessment, Treatment, and Management of Suicide Risks for

## Pennsylvanía

### Mental Health Professionals

Many continuing education ethics programs are generic in nature. Often, such programs stress risk management strategies to the detriment of the attendees, especially when the program is presented by an attorney.

This program is different. Rather than avoiding clinical issues, this program explores the manner by which

"This was an extremely relevant program provided by a very knowledgeable presenter who provided very clear and thorough explanations. The fact that the presentation was state-specific was its most valuable aspect."

clinical and ethical issues affect the everyday practice of the mental health professional in Pennsylvania. This unique blend of clinical and ethical concerns allows for a more meaningful understanding and interpretation of the rules that govern mental health practice.

These goals are reached through the experience and the interactive style of the presenter, Allan M. Tepper, J.D., Psy.D. Different from other individuals who possess joint degrees in psychology and law, Dr. Tepper actually maintains an active psychology practice and an active law practice. He functions as a clinician, and he represents mental health professionals who experience legal difficulties. In this regard, Dr. Tepper brings an extremely unique perspective to the practical understanding of ethics.

These goals also are reached through an updated manual utilized in the seminar. The manual materials are not generic in nature. All of the written materials are state specific to Pennsylvania.

This seminar fulfills the Act 74 of 2016 one hour of continuing education mandated for all Pennsylvania licensed psychologists; licensed social workers; licensed professional counselors; and licensed marriage and family therapists.

When interacting with an attorney, it sometimes is difficult to hear the words, "Trust me." For this seminar, however, we do say, "Trust us!!" We guarantee, you won't walk away disappointed.

## Speaker

**Allan M. Tepper, J.D., Psy.D.,** is engaged in the private practice of both law and psychology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a psychologist, Dr. Tepper specializes in forensic matters and has testified on numerous occasions in cases involving civil, criminal, domestic relations, and death penalty issues. As an attorney, Dr. Tepper has extensive trial experience, including the representation of mental health professionals in ethics and licensing board proceedings. He has been an adjunct faculty member at the Widener University Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology, the Philadelphia Chapter of Great Lakes Colleges Association, and Immaculate College Graduate School. Dr. Tepper conducts ethical training for mental health professionals throughout the United States and is well-known for his engaging style. He publishes frequently in the areas of law and psychology, and is co-author of *Pennsylvania Law, Ethics, and Psychology Sixth Edition*. He received his J.D. degree from Albany Law School and received M.S. and Psy.D. degrees in clinical psychology from Hahnemann University. Visit his website at www.allanmtepper.com.

Speaker Disclosure

Financial: Allan Tepper is in private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: Allan Tepper has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.



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If your profession is not listed, please contact your licensing board to determine your continuing education requirements and check for reciprocal approval. For other credit inquiries not specified below, or questions on home study credit availability, please contact cepesi@pesi.com or 800-844-8760 before the event.

Materials that are included in this course may include interventions and modalities that are beyond the authorized practice of mental health professionals. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.

PESI, Inc. offers continuing education programs and products under the brand names PESI, PESI Healthcare, PESI Rehab and Psychotherapy Networker.

**Ethics:** This seminar includes 6.25 hours of state specific ethics instruction. If ethics is not specified within your licensing board's approval statement below, please contact your board to determine the applicability and amount of ethics allowed.

Pennsylvania Addiction Counselors: This course has been reviewed and approved for by the Pennsylvania Certification Board. This course will award 6.25 PCB Approved Hours of Education. (Valid for PA locations only)

**Counselors:** This intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. Please save the course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filing requirements.

Pennsylvania Counselors: CE credit is available. This course consists of 6.25 continuing education clock hours for Pennsylvania Counselors. The Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors confirms under 49 Pa. Code 5.49.36 that CE providers approved by the ACE Program of the Association of Social Work Boards meet the Board standards and qualify as approved providers. PESJ, linc. is an approved provider. Please see social work approvals for this program.

**Pennsylvania Counselors Suicide ACT 74:** 1.0 clock hour(s) of this activity consists of continuing education instruction in the assessment, treatment and management of suicide risks.

Marriage & Family Therapists: This activity consists of 380 minutes of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. You should save this course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific filling requirements.

Pennsylvania Marriage & Family Therapists: The Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors accepts many national association CE approvals, several of which PESI offers. For a full list, please see your State Board regulations at https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Board-sCommissions/. This Intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction.

**Pennsylvania MFTs Suicide ACT 74:** 1.0 clock hour(s) of this activity consists of continuing education instruction in the assessment, treatment and management of suicide risks.

Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists: PESI, Inc. is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Nurses in full attendance will earn 6.25 contact hours. Partial contact hours will be awarded for partial attendance.

Pennsylvania Psychologists: CE credit is available. PESI, Inc. is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Psychology to offer continuing education for psychologists. Provider #PSY000211. PESI maintains responsibility for the program(s). This program qualifies for 6.25 continuing education hours.

Pennsylvania Psychologists Suicide ACT 74: 1.0 clock hour(s) of this activity consists of continuing education instruction in the assessment, treatment and management of suicide risks.

Social Workers: PESI, Inc., #1062, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program.

Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. PESI, maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: January 27, 2020 - January 27, 2023. Social Workers completing this course receive 6.25 Ethics continuing education credits. Course Level: Intermediate. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to social workers who complete the program evaluation.

Pennsylvania Social Workers: The Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors accepts many national association CE approvals, several of which PESI offers. For a full list, please see your State Board regulations at https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Board-Scommissions/. This Intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction.

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Other Professions: This activity qualifies for 380 minutes of instructional content as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Save your course outline and certificate of completion, and contact your own board or organization for specific requirements.

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND THE ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF SUICIDE RISKS FOR PENNSYLVANIA MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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