

Peer Support Specialist Values, Ethics, & Boundaries Situations

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Situation 1:

CPSS Maggie regularly attends a local mutual support group meeting which she regards as an essential part of her personal recovery. Joan, another support group attendee, becomes a client of the agency where Maggie (the only CPSS on staff) works.

What CPSS CoE principle(s) is/are involved?

Can Maggie serve as Joan's CPSS? Do Maggie or Joan have to stop attending that support group?

Boundaries: Professional, Personal, Agency

Situation 2:

CPSS Gregory works with client Maryellen whose family and friends cut ties with her due to her past drug use and are no longer in contact with her in any way. She often states that she has no friends and once told Gregory that he is the only one who cares about her. During an appointment, Gregory and Maryellen are talking about the possibility of her participation in a substance use treatment program, and Maryellen asks Gregory if he ever attended that program and what he thinks of it. Gregory has in fact attended that program in the past and does not wish to share that information. But he is worried that if he refuses to answer, it will set Maryellen back and be detrimental to their relationship as CPSS and client.

What CPSS CoE principle(s) is/are involved?

Is it an ethical violation for Gregory to avoid answering Maryellen's question?

Boundaries: Professional, Personal, Agency

Situation 3:

Stanley worked as a CPSS with Milton for eight months, two years ago. Milton and Stanley meet by chance at Walmart, and they have a friendly conversation about a mutual interest that came up in conversation while Milton was receiving services: antique cars. Milton asks Stanley if he'd like to go with him to an antique car show that will take place in a nearby town in a couple of weeks. Is it ethical for Stanley to go to the car show with Milton?

What CPSS CoE principle(s) is/are involved?

What if Milton is a current client? What if Stanley no longer works at the agency where he met Milton?

Boundaries: Professional, Personal, Agency

Situation 4:

Client Kim is meeting with her CPSS Clark and tells him that she'll be starting a new treatment program with a clinician at the same agency. Clark participated in that treatment program in the past and did not feel it was helpful. In fact, he has serious reservations about it and doesn't believe it is appropriate for Kim – or perhaps for anyone. Kim seems excited about this new treatment and asks Clark what he knows about it.

What CPSS CoE principle(s) is/are involved?

Is it an ethical violation for Clark to share his experience with the treatment program? His views on the treatment program?

Boundaries: Professional, Personal, Agency