Transforming People Problems

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Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. Brenda David

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Core Essential Element: Communication and Conflict Resolution

As leaders within our professional areas of practice, how we represent ourselves and present research findings, thoughts, and beliefs to another person or group can help transform people's problems while simultaneously harming, as this author learned through personal experience. Indeed, it is incumbent upon leaders who desire to bring about positive social change to learn how to communicate effectively with others to prevent audience misunderstandings, where they feel judged or criticized, or, worse, triggering someone who has an unresolved past trauma. This author realizes that when the topic of abortion is discussed, it is nearly impossible not to offend, and the best way to move forward is to acknowledge past mistakes, apologize when necessary, and take ample time to critically assess potential growth areas on how to communicate better with audience members.

When speaking on the topic of abortion to a group of mental health professionals, this author learned through that experience that when presenting on such a sensitive topic, more preparation is required – both as a speaker presenting the material and preparing the audience before delving into the material. Since abortion is a highly controversial topic with differing worldviews, it is naïve to assume a conflict-free environment and conflict-resolution skills are crucial for building bridges and easing tensions, keeping the eye focused on the goal - to improve overall well-being and human flourishing for those harmed by abortion.

For example, while speaking to an online group at a United Nations conference, this author experienced many women with the opinion that abortion was good for them, and through the online chat, it was apparent that what I was presenting was offensive. For example, one woman questioned my motive for presenting on the topic of moral injury and how it applies to abortion. Was this a pro-life strategy to control a narrative? While we cannot control how others feel or what they will say, we can control what we say, how we say it, and how we will react when conflicts arise. Indeed, this author is excited to study conflict resolution and how to motivate people for change in this class.