

ADVANCED ISSUES IN ETHICS

Ethical Dilemmas

1. Community Program

There is a community that you want to engage in your prevention efforts but to date you have had no success. Now a community leader has requested a presentation on prescription drug abuse during a community forum that includes youth, parents and other community members. The agenda includes a police officer demonstrating the ways prescription drugs are abused and a speaker who will talk about his drug abuse history. You are concerned about being part of a program that is using strategies that you know are ineffective, and possibly harmful. However, this is the first opportunity you have had to work with this community.

2. Use of Funds

Near the end of the fiscal year your program expense sheet indicates that there is money left in your prevention line. At a budget meeting with your supervisor, you notice that the funds have been eliminated from your budget. It is money that than be used to expand the program to more people in the community. However, you are told they have been diverted to a line item in another program budget in the agency that has a deficit. When you question this, you are told that the decision is not yours to make.

3. Use of Data

Your organization is tasked to launch a media campaign on underage drinking targeting parents in your region. Data from the past 5 years indicate youth in your region have higher alcohol and binge drinking rates than youth statewide. But the most recent (not-yet-published) data indicate a significant downward trend in underage drinking rates. Because the latest data are not yet public, leadership wants to use the older data for the campaign. You know that the latest data may actually be only a one-time “blip” in data over the long-run. Which data do you use?