

Workshop Title

Honouring the Strengths and Skills of Families:
Integrating the Practice of Social Work by Applying the Narrative Approach

Detailed Workshop Description

The workshop will introduce the narrative approach in general by briefly unpacking the philosophical underpinnings and exploring some general strategies. It will present the narrative approach as an empowerment based methodology and a wide-ranging companion for social work practice. It will explore the narrative approach as overarching a variety of settings and explore its ability to integrate social work's diverse practices within the concept of 'the collective narrative assignment'. The workshop will present the concluded narrative research project 'Honouring the Strengths & Skills of Families' and illustrate the narrative concept of the 'Outsider Witness' by offering it as a framework for the participants to respond to the document. The participants will begin to create their own short collective narrative document exploring the method experientially as the presenter facilitates the discussion. The dialogue will be captured and developed by the presenter to create a narrative letter. The letter will be mailed to both the participants of the workshop and to the coauthors of 'Honouring the Strength and Skills of Families' to further thicken their experience of empowerment.

Learning Objectives

An Introduction to the Narrative Approach – its philosophy such as Michel Foucault's Duality & the Great Imposition and techniques such as Supporting Deconstruction and Reconstruction (Michael White), Scaffolding & Mapping, Double Listening, outsider witness, and a framework for using the narrative approach in empowerment and research groups called Collective Narrative Assignment (Cheryl White, David Denborough).

Target Audience

Social workers who are new to the field or to narrative practice ranging to seasoned social workers who are interested in implementing or gaining support for narrative practice in their work. Social workers interested in the areas of counselling, community development, group work, the Narrative Approach, or research. Social Workers wanting to explore approaches that characterize social work values.

Presenter Information

Terri Peterson

Terri Peterson grew up in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and although she has explored many other lands, she and her family call Saskatchewan home. Terri studied social work at the University of Regina within the Saskatoon campus while raising her family and working within the field. She holds both a Bachelor degree and a Master degree in social work and is a registered member of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers. She has been working in the field of mental health and wellness for the last ten years. She has a good deal of experience working with individuals, families, couples, and groups specializing in the field of relationships. She has specific training within a variety of mental health counselling techniques knitting in the arts, empowerment based methodology, and the narrative approach into her daily, direct practice. Terri enjoys working with adults, couples, families, and communities to craft a sense of balance, connection, and resiliency within people's lives. Terri began concentrating on Narrative Theory and its underpinning philosophies within the last five years. She has joined with the Narrative approach to support the synthesis of her passions within social work: counselling, research, community development, and advocacy. Terri completed a narrative research project partnering with Aboriginal postsecondary students in 2005 that was published with the Dulwich Centre and has recently accomplished another project honoring the strengths and skills of families which she is here to present. Terri is

interested in engaging with other social workers and exploring the Narrative approach in our work.