FOUR DIMENSIONS

By: Dr. Cedar Barstow

Dimension One: Guided Use of Power

BE INFORMED AND PRESENT

- Own your role power and track your influence.
- Use your ethical guidelines and moral compass.
- Work with the dynamics created by the power differential.

Focus on INFORMATION

This dimension is about guidance of many kinds:

- Owning and having a felt sense of the impact of the power differential role (its potential, its responsibilities, its distortions, and its vulnerability for those in down-power roles) as the basis for all ethical guidelines;
- Understanding and being guided by information contained in ethical codes as they are wisdom culled from the lived history of our professions;
- Tracking your impact, and gathering and effectively using information from clients and students;
- Paying attention to inner guidance and humanistic and spiritual values;
- Making informed ethical decisions in complex or challenging circumstances and in everyday attitudes and interactions.

Dimension Two: Conscious Use of Power

BE COMPASSIONATE AND AWARE

- Engage your curiosity and use your history well.
- Stay present and receptive.
- Infuse your power with heart.

Focus on SELF-AWARENESS

This dimension is about **Self-awareness**:

- Understanding and learning from your attitudes, beliefs, wounds, and habits in relation to issues of power and authority;
- Engaging curiosity about yourself and your clients as a deepening and safety-enhancing skill and attitude;
- Showing up and staying attentive;
- Standing in your strength while staying in your heart;
- Exploring your empowered and disempowered selves and how your use of power and influence affects others;
- Working with shame as a power issue because it isolates and deresources;
- Practicing compassion as a resonating concern for all.

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Dimension Three: Responsible Use of Power

BE CONNECTED AND ACCOUNTABLE

- Use the 150% principle.
- Track your impact and stay connected.
- Resolve and repair.

Focus on RELATIONSHIP

In this dimension the focus is on relationship:

- Increasing skillfulness in tracking for difficulties and staying current in care-giving relationships;
- Recognizing that your impact is often different from your intention;
- Being guided by the 150% principle of greater responsibility held by the person in the up-power role;
- Recognizing that we all make mistakes; understanding how relationship difficulties, when either ignored or dismissed, can escalate to grievance processes;
- Practicing staying connected even in conflict and using conflict to clarify and resolve difficulties;
- Attending to relationship repair and using apology effectively.

Dimension Four: Wise Use of Power

BE SKILLFUL AND PROACTIVE

- Be proactive with yourself and with others.
- Ask for and use feedback well.
- Self-reflect, selfcorrect and let qo.

Focus on SKILL

This dimension is about the development of wisdom:

- Understanding that doing the right thing is more effective when it's done wisely;
- Deepening skill in identifying tendencies, beliefs, and barriers that may make you vulnerable to specific misuses of power;
- Understanding good self-care as vital for wise use of power;
- Reflecting on examples of misuses of professional power and learning about the shadow aspects of increased power;
- Practicing sensitive and skillful down-power influence;
- Practicing and refining the skills of asking for, receiving, giving, and using feedback;
- Becoming more skillful at knowing when and how to persist and when and how to let go;
- Being nourished by wise and skillful uses of power as a social force for good.