



# Welcome!

## Articulating the Role of Social Work

Laurie Dahley, PhD, MSW/LISW

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Think of Your  
Wackiest Requests!

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## What works against us?

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- Media
- People's past experiences
- Lack of knowledge
- Other professionals prepping or not for our entrance to their lives



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## WE DO... WE, OUR OWN WORST ENEMY?

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OUR FOCUS ON ADVOCACY FOR CLIENTS VS OUR  
PROFESSION

OUR INABILITY TO ARTICULATE WHAT OUR ROLE SHOULD  
BE TO MAXIMIZE OUR POTENTIAL

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## MY HISTORY of ROLE DEFINITIONS

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St. Luke's Hospital  
 Eventide Lutheran Homes  
 Dakota Hospital  
 Hospice of the Red River Valley  
 Concordia - case studies



## Lessons From Nursing

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REFRAMING THE NARRATIVE



## By Invitation Only – A Place at the Table

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- Working in a host setting
- Defining the role – who is doing it?
- What influences the role?
- Role of licensure and risk of licensure



## Lessons Learned from Case Studies

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- Whose in charge?
- Can you articulate why you are at the table?
- Differing values and differing power
- The power of licensure

# Current Roles and Action Plans

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## Bouncer

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“Shape up or Ship out”

➤ DRGs, discharge planning, related to admission process, connection to rapport/relationship?

➤ Impacts?

➤ Action Plans?



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# Janitor

“Clean up on Aisle 5”

- Once again related to our relationship skills....”You could handle this difficult situation better:”
- Related to the “Dabbler“

➤ Impacts?

➤ Actions?



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# Firefighter

Rather....Fire Prioritizer

- Time spent seeking info to understanding origin, due to people waiting too long to approach social work for help

➤ Impacts?

➤ Actions?



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## Juggler

“Administration believes X but care team believes Y”

- Due to our role as client advocate and at times, team advocate
- Perception we will take the risk, juggling different values/priorities

➤ Impacts?

➤ Actions?



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## Challenger

“You want me to do what?” We end up challenging direction.

- Given lack of knowledge, people will decide what path they wish us to take, even in opposition to our values

➤ Impacts?

➤ Actions?



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# So how do I articulate to others and why does it matter?

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## Importance and Differences

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### Professionals

- Insure we are the best we can be
- Insure they understand what we can offer and refer appropriately
- Maximize the outcomes for our teams

### Clients

- Insure their openness to working with us
- Insure they understand what questions/issues to bring our way
- Maximize their outcomes with our team



# What's Your Elevator Speech?

FOR PROFESSIONALS AND CLIENTS



## The End and the Beginning!

Laurie Dahley, PhD, MSW/LISW

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# Questions?

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## **Social Work Online Courses**

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**Revised Code of Ethics | 2.0 CEUs**

Coming in November

**Boundaries: Ethics Training | 1.0 CEU**

Coming in December

**Articulating the Role of Social Work | 1.0 CEU**

Coming in December

**Supervision Training | 30.0 CEUs**

Coming in February

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## Leadership Events

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### **St. Paul | Luther Seminary Campus**

November 14 - 15 | Dare to Lead™ Workshop

### **Concordia College Campus**

January 29 | One-day Dare to Lead™ Refresher

January 30-31 | Dare to Lead™ Workshop

March 5-6 | Coaching 101

April 16-17 | Dare to Lead™ Workshop

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## Contact Information

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