Welcome! This interactive session will examine the concept of self-determination as it is displayed in the movie “Still Alice” and a more nuanced look at the complicated issue of competence as playing out in the Henry Rayhons real life trial in Iowa. To assist in guiding the small group discussions I have included the following:


As a beginning approach to problem solving the following steps are helpful:

1. **Identify the problem** and the persons, institutions, clients, professionals and others involved in the problem.
2. **Determine who should be involved** in the decision making.
3. **Identify the relevant values** held by those involved including the client and social worker.
4. **Identify the goals and objectives** if attained could resolve or reduce the problem.
5. **Identify alternative intervention strategies and targets** and assess the effectiveness of each.
6. **Select and implement** the most effective strategy.
7. **Monitor the implementation**, paying particular attention to unanticipated consequences.

**Ethical rules screen:**

1. Examine the NASW code of ethics to determine if any of the Code rules are applicable. These rules take precedence over the social worker’s personal value system.
2. If one or more of the Code Rules apply follow the code rules.
3. If the code does not address the problem or if the code rules provide conflicting guidance use the ethical principles screen below:
Ethical principles screen (these principles are listed in their order of importance):

1. Principle 1: Protection of life (the preservation of life is the highest principle)
2. Principle 2: Equality and Inequality
4. Principles 4: Least Harm
5. Principle 5: Quality of Life
6. Principle 6: Privacy and Confidentiality
7. Principle 7: Truthfulness and Full Disclosure

Key factors in carrying out our ethical responsibilities to clients:

- Fully informed consent
- Competence and appropriateness of care
- Maintenance of appropriate boundaries
- Awareness of personal limitations
- Attentiveness to confidentiality and its limits
- Commitment to career long professional development