Stories have the ability to shed light in the dark corners of our hearts, where straight reason can not.  ~Dorothy Sander
OUTLINE

Setting an intention to let stories breathe

Introduction to narrative ethics

Exploring a narrative together

Sharing and listening to stories from practice

... Moving forward ...
LETTING OUR STORIES BREATHE

Openness
Supports awareness
Link between body/mind
Always present
Always changing
Healing and transformative
Foundation of life
STORIES TO LIVE BY
NARRATIVE ETHICS

• A place to being bioethics exploration
• Insight into context, and particulars of a situation
• Helps us to hear our own hearts
• Clarifies what values, beliefs and experiences guide our choices
• Professional development tool

(Nisker, 2004; Abma, 2005)
EXPLORING MOMENTS OF CHOICE: A STORY FROM PRACTICE

What are your initial reactions to this story? Feelings – Thoughts - Experience in your body?

Why was this story told?

Where were the moments of choice?

What values and beliefs are inherent in the story?

How can engaging with this story lead to more ethical practice in the future?

Did this story bring up/remind you of one of your own?
“Essentially, we have come to understand moral distress as being what nurses (or any moral agents) experience when they are constrained from moving from moral choice to moral action”

Rodney, Brown, Lienschenko, 2004, p. 162
Developing a Personal Narrative Approach to Ethical Practice

1. Become sensitive to ethically important moments

2. Acknowledge these practice moments as significant

3. Communicate ethical concerns – what is at stake?

4. Be reflexive – what are the various standpoints? What are there limitations? What are there strengths?

5. Be courageous – risk vulnerability – open self beliefs/values and practice to critique.

(Guillemin, McDougall & Gillam, 2009)
Application of Narrative Based Ethics

• Make a choice: Live with it. Learn from it.

• Engage in ethical narrative practice.

• Share stories.

• Listen closely to/for the ‘ethical moments’ of colleagues.

• Use as tools for educational and organizational changes and to support improved practice.
LETTER STORIES BREATHE MEANS NEVER FINALIZING THEM

A story is never finished. It is fluid. It can have a new ending, a new understanding, it has opening, it is not closed or static.

(G. Lindsey, personal communication, Feb. 19th, 2013)
“Collective wisdom reflects a . . . capacity to learn together and evolve toward something greater and wiser than what we can do as individuals alone.”

~ Briskin, Erickson, Ott, Callanan

"For me, the promise of this work is that we all learn more and more how to meet one another in our wisdom. Then our challenges will appear not as threats to our way of life but as opportunities to grow into life itself."

~ Peter M. Senge

Excerpts from: The Power of Collective Wisdom


