5th Annual Social Work Continuing Education Event

Sponsored by: EMU School of Social Work Alumni Board

Keynote: Amanda Maria Edmonds, Executive Director of Growing Hope
“Social justice with food access and security”

Growing Hope is a ten-year old nonprofit in Ypsilanti dedicated to helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening and healthy food access. Growing Hope’s Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, home vegetable gardening program for low-income families, leadership training for community gardens, urban farm, and policy work are showing people that they can be the healthy change they wish to see in the world. Growing Hope believes in giving people across lines of class and race and ability that usually divide us that chance to participate in positive change.

Breakout Sessions

The Role of Social Work Pain and Symptom Management in End-of-Life Care
Stephanie P. Wladkowski, PhD, LMSW, ACHP-SW

There is limited understanding of the social worker's role in pain and symptom management. For individuals in end-of-life care, pain can be experienced through physical, emotional, and spiritual ways. This presentation will assist social workers to integrate the skills and perspectives of their social work education, identify barriers to successful pain assessments, and lay the foundation for pain and symptom management competencies.

Cultural Competence and Practice Considerations with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients
Yvette Colón, PhD, ACSW, LMSW

Research has demonstrated that LGBT individuals experience disparities not only in the prevalence of certain physical and mental health concerns, but also in care due to a variety of factors, including experiences of stigma, lack of awareness, and insensitivity to their unique needs. In using affirmative models of practice, social workers can assist LGBT individuals in a variety of ways, from providing one-on-one/family/group psychotherapy and education to fighting for equality and social justice.

The New Desert: Food Insecurity as a Social Justice Issue
Julie Harkema, LMSW and Haley Moraniec, BSW student

Increasing understanding of food insecurity as it relates to their client populations including attention to current hunger shifts and needs. Participants will leave with practical ways to address this issue directly with clients as well as agency wide. Class process will include lecture, discussion, strategizing and case examples.

Understanding Autism Across the Spectrum
Sarah Bretz, LMSW, BCBA

A comprehensive overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This presentation focuses on identifying the common signs of ASD as well as discussing how those signs may differ from individual to individual. Diagnostic criteria as well as diagnostic tools will also be reviewed. Additionally, a review of available treatment options will be discussed, focusing on universal supports and take-home techniques.

Addiction & Recovery – What to Know & How to Help
Anna Byberg, LMSW, CAADC

Social workers encounter alcohol and other drug use in a variety of settings, and professional familiarity with substance use disorders enhances practice. This course will focus on the basics of addiction and recovery, and provide practical skills for supporting sustained recovery.

Register online: bit.ly/emu2016

*EMU Social Work Alumni Chapter members receive discounted event rates. Activate membership for a one time gift of $10.