

SPOTLIGHT ON EVENTS

Conference on Compliance and Business Integrity

The VHA Office of Compliance and Business Integrity, in conjunction with the Employee Education System, sponsored a conference on Compliance and Business Integrity in August 2001. National Center for Ethics staff member Michael Cantor, MD, JD gave a presentation entitled "Gaming the System." Dr. Cantor discussed the interrelationship of ethics programs and compliance programs and how VHA is creating ethics and compliance programs at the national, network and local levels. If you have VA Intranet access you can review Dr. Cantor's slide presentation by going to: vaww.va.gov/vhaethics/Gaming.ppt.

National Ethics Committee Report Accepted for Publication

The recently released National Ethics Committee report *Advance Proxy Planning for Residents of Long Term Care Facilities Who Lack Decision-Making Capacity* has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. It is scheduled to appear in the April 2002 issue.

National Center for Ethics and Employee Education System Co-sponsor Annual Intensive Training in July

Once again this past July, the National Center for Ethics and the Employee Education System co-sponsored our annual Intensive Ethics Training program. This four-day course, *Intensive Ethics Training: Building an Integrated Ethics Program*, was designed to provide ethics program leaders within VHA, including administrators, clinicians, and members of Ethics Advisory Committees, with specialized knowledge and skills to improve their programs' effectiveness. Sessions addressed practical topics, including: building an integrated ethics program, applying a results-oriented approach to ethical problem solving, overcoming common barriers to success, and creating an action plan to develop an Integrated Ethics Program. A new feature this year was the emphasis on attendance by interdisciplinary teams appointed by a VISN or facility to lead a systematic effort to improve ethics quality. Staff with VA Intranet access can view handouts and slides from the 2001 Intensive by going to: vaww.va.gov/vhaethics/education_2_1.cfm.

Development of VISN-level Training on Integrated Ethics Programs

The National Center for Ethics is currently developing a new educational initiative to supplement our annual Intensive Ethics Training program by providing training at the VISN level. The goal of this initiative is to help VISNs and facilities develop plans for instituting integrated ethics programs (IEPs). Programs will be offered VISN-wide, as a joint program between VISNs, or to groups of facilities within a VISN. The targeted audience will be health care professionals who are potential

change agents within their respective organizations-those who can use the knowledge and skills they gain to enact change. The first VISN-wide program will be offered in early 2002.

[Click here](#) to see a list of Upcoming Events.