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It is important to understand and become familiar with the basic code of conduct and guideline, which a therapist would follow before a client starts therapy. There are many organizations presently working in the country that provides services regarding the mental health problems. Every such organization follows the certain ethical codes to give satisfaction to their clients and to maintain their standard. In this paper the two successful mental health organization discussed are APA and APA and ACA acknowledge the important need of culturally skilled mental health therapists and have designed strategies to assess the mental health specialists to work precisely and efficiently with the diverse society. Both the associations have provided clear knowledge of their ethical standards on their websites, discussed below, for the audience to choose their organization for getting help in regard of mental health problems.
The APA is a professional association for psychologists that requires complete adherence to its code of ethics from all of its members as mentioned on their website. It is mentioned in a simple way on their website that the ethical codes of APA contain standards that are related to the basic areas of professional practice. These particular standards are intended to provide help to psychologists in taking decisions in respect to their professional etiquette.
The code of conduct of the APA bounds the psychologists to maintain the standard of competence at a high level in their work. The services provided by psychologists would provide services, according to their education level and expertise. Psychologists are expected to get training first from experts to render their services. If the activity or ethical responsibility of any psychologist diverges from the law then that psychologist would have to resolve the clash in a responsible manner.
All the psychologists are bound to practice in the context of professional that is already defined. Psychologists of this organization carry the suitable knowledge of current scientific and professional areas to be aware of new additions so they can practice according to the present studies. Psychologists are trained to be able to handle people from any walk of life. The members of APA do not knowingly engage in any kind of harassment.
The ACA is professional setup that is made up of professional therapists like licensed professional counselors (LPCs). The ethical codes of this organization, which are explained on their website, are strictly relevant to the professional practice and deals with particular factors of mental health practice. Codes of conduct of ACA say that if any counselor’s practice conflicts with the law then he or she is expected to resolve these issues in a responsible manner. ACA Code of Ethics and Standard of Practice have also stated the responsibility of the psychologists to give respect to the clients and bring the non-discriminating behavior to their practice. The code assists in supporting the mission of association of the counselors. It is made clear in the code of ACA that the members are required to conduct the best practice possible by keeping the track of current scientific publications and researches in the field.
ACA has made it necessary for the counselors to strictly keep the confidentiality of the client and provide him or her assurance of privacy. The therapists will practice according to level of education them possess and the limitations of their expertise. Before entering the area outside of their expertise, the suitable trainings from the experts are provided. Also, the code defines the relationship of the counselor and clients and directs it to be strictly professional in order to carry the sessions successfully.
Both APA and ACA explicitly demonstrates that a mental health professionals are encouraged to get the personal awareness that how a person’s cultural background, attitudes, experiences, biases, and values could influence the procedure of counseling which also can be considered as the main approach of both associations to keep the standard of therapies provided by their members. Maintaining the confidentiality of the client is a prolonged commitment that lasts forever. Among both the mentioned mental health organization, ACA Code of Ethics explicitly says that the therapist that is a part of the organization is bound with the requirement of the protection of the deceased client’s confidentiality. The APA code of ethics indicates the obligation of psychologists to be responsible and take precautions to protect important and confidential information of the client that is stored or obtained in any medium. All the concerning information about the work of both organizations is provided in detail on their websites.
After assessing the ACA website it can be said that there are a lot of useful information provided. They seem to be open to everyone’s suggestions and also it is observed that the ACA keeps things updated on a yearly basis according to feedback they receive from the website. They have a very lengthy and monotonous list of rules but they are clear and straightforward at the same time. Someone who does not have a patience or time would not be able to go through all of the principles mentioned on the web.
The principles defined by ACA covered everything that can be thought of, from privacy and confidentiality of a client to the sexual relationships not being legal between a therapist and client. It can be observed after the analysis of the website that it is not as good mapped out as it should be, like it should be brief and less time consuming for a surfer. The APA web site provides visitor with the options right from the starting to select your psychological issue. For example, if you choose to click on autism, complete related information comes up that is essential to know for understanding of the process. It gives information, options for treatment of autism, related news articles, and a book section where a book could be chosen to read for alternative options for self-help. There can be a lot of information available that is understandable and straightforward without going through any unnecessary options or detailed unwanted information. Choosing between both the websites regarding the accessibility to the knowledge, definitely the APA website would be the best choice as it is easy to navigate and easier to understand.
APA has provided useful information not only for scientists, but for clinicians, educators, and students also. They have an immense amount of information on their website associated to scholarships, rewards, and grants provided by the organization in case of contribution to the advancement in the field of psychology. It is designed for scientist, psychologists as well as those who are seeking knowledge about psychology. The website of American Psychological Association includes diverse topics of many psychological problems that some people might be struggling with, and it consists of numerous links to variety of additional websites, events, and publications.
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