

Workshop 2: “Injecting human positive growth and strength perspectives in working with the elderly.” This workshop focuses on a necessary but often overlooked prerequisite to conducting evidence-based practice in health settings – engagement of the client in a positive therapeutic relationship. Two generic but key concepts for measurable outcomes of health care practice today are: client empowerment; and, client-directed care. In order to achieve these, a social work practitioner must be able to quickly engage the client as an active participant in the therapeutic relationship. This involves validation of the client and developing a strengths based perspective as part of the framework for practice. This workshop discusses techniques used to overcome two challenges to engaging elderly clients: a) a preconceived or socialized passivity surrounding medical treatment; and, b) a feeling of overwhelmedness stemming from the nature of their medical problems.

Outcomes: a) to identify client outcomes in health care settings; b) to understand the role of engagement in developing the client as a positive participant in their own health care; and, c) to identify obstacles to engagement and techniques used to counter such challenges.