FERTILITY COUNSELING POSTGRADUATE COURSE (FCPG)

Live Teleconference
Ten Monthly Sessions
September 2019 to June 2020

The field of fertility counseling is a rapidly growing specialty area in psychotherapy. Many clinicians are finding more patients presenting with reproductive issues and a complex history of reproductive loss. Whether infertility is a presenting problem or occurs during the course of therapy, clinicians need to understand challenges faced by clients as they navigate the world of assisted reproduction. Further, the fallout and aftermath for families who have struggled with infertility continues long after family building is resolved, and can impact relationships for generations.

The FCPG is a formal, live, interactive, teleconference-based program in fertility counseling for mental health professionals to address a broad range of issues seen in clients experiencing impaired reproduction and psychosocial functioning. Through didactic, interactive visual presentations and clinical case discussions, participants have the opportunity to integrate knowledge into practice. The FCPC will address the following topics including:

- Psychological and Medical Overview
- Assessment
- Treatment Approaches
- Third Party Assessment and Counseling
- New-age Families
- Pregnancy and Reproductive Loss
- Special Fertility Counseling Issues
- Transference and Countertransference
- Legal/Ethical Challenges
- Practice Building

Readings and discussion are based on the texts ***Fertility Counseling: Clinical Guide & Case Studies*** (2015) S.N. Covington (Ed.); ***Infertility Counseling: A Comprehensive Handbook for Clinicians 2nd ED*** (2006), SN Covington and LH Burns, Eds; and ***Frozen Dreams: Psychodynamic Dimensions of Infertility& Assisted Reproduction*** (2005) A Rosen, (Ed.) as well as selected articles provided by the instructors.

In our fourth year, this course will be taught by Sharon Covington, LCSW-C and Linda Applegarth, EdD who are internationally recognized leaders in the field for over 40 years.

Sharon Covington, M.S.W. is Director of Psychological Support Services at Shady Grove Fertility, on the Clinical Assistant Professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine Dept of OB/GYN, and has been an associate investigator in Reproductive and Adult Endocrinology at the NICHD/NIH. She has over 40 years of clinical experience working

with adults in individual, couple, and group therapy.

Linda Applegarth, Ed.D. is Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology in the Depts. of OB/GYN & Psychiatry at Weill Medical College of Cornell University in NYC, and has been affiliated for over 30 years with the Center for Reproductive Medicine where she was Director of Psychological Services. Dr. Applegarth served on the Board of Directors for National Resolve, and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. In addition to her 40 years of clinical experience, she is actively doing research in third party reproduction.

Learning Objectives:

1 Participants will integrate reproductive medical technology with the psychological impact of infertility on individuals and couples.
2. Participants will utilize relevant clinical approaches for clients who have had or who are currently experiencing impaired reproduction and reproductive loss.
3. Participants will apply their understanding of the long-range implications for families created through assisted reproductive technologies (ART).
4. Participants will assess and incorporate the ethical challenges occurring when counseling clients using assisted reproduction and/or working in a reproductive medical setting.
5. Participants will assess their own transference and counter-transference reactions when working with a broad range of reproductive issues.
6. Participants will be able to apply this knowledge to clinical work and practice.

The class will be conducted live by a HIPAA secure teleconference website. Materials will be provided via email for participants to download and keep in a notebook. Participants must have a PC or MAC computer with a WIFI bandwidth speed of 50 mb with a camera and audio.

The fee for the 10-month study group is $2000, which can be paid in two segments (September and January). As enrollment is limited, a $200 deposit is required to hold your place.

There will be two monthly classes available: **Monday from 11AM-2 PM (ET)** and **Tuesday from 3PM-6PM (ET).** *Tentative dates for Monday/Tuesday are: Sept. 23/24; Oct. 28/29; Nov. 18/19; Dec. 16/17; 2020: Jan. 20/21; Feb. 24/25; Mar. 23/24; Apr. 27/28; May 18/19; June 15/16.*

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners has approved this course for thirty (30) Category I Continuing Education Unit's, including three (3) of Ethics.
The District of Columbia Board of Psychology has approved this course for 30 Continuing Education Credits.

For more information, please go to
https://covingtonandhafkin.com/supervision-training/
Click at the bottom to fill out an application and send to:
Linda Applegarth at lia2004@med.cornell.edu or 1-646-962-3315 and
Sharon Covington sharon.covington@SGFertility.com or 1-301-279-9030