

Developing an Education Plan for a Bioethics Advisory Committee at SickKids

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Introduction

Hospital Ethics Committees (HECs) began to develop over 30 years ago with a variety of structures and functions ranging from consulting and decision-making to education and policy development.

The Ethics Committee that formed at SickKids in the early 1980's developed into the current Bioethics Department (BD) that is creating a Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC) to assist and enhance the work of the BD. Currently, there are no studies of orientation educational training of BACs whose members have a diverse knowledge background.

Goal

To develop a SickKids Bioethics Advisory Committee education plan to help members meet the objectives of the new committee.

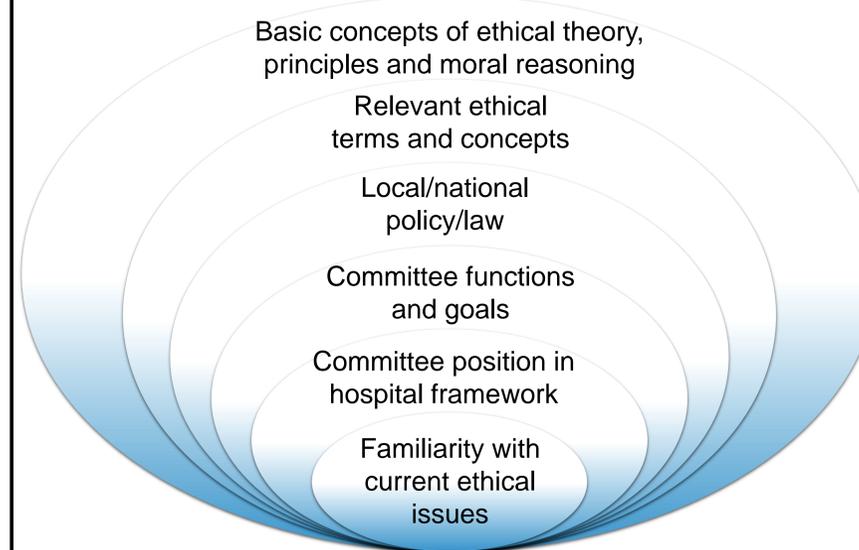
Objectives

- To describe the evolution of HECs and how they have evolved to meet the needs of their specific institutions
- To review the educational programs of different institutions educational plans for their HECs
- To determine the core competencies required for members of this BAC to fulfil its mandate
- To determine the optimal manner of conveying this educational program to incoming members

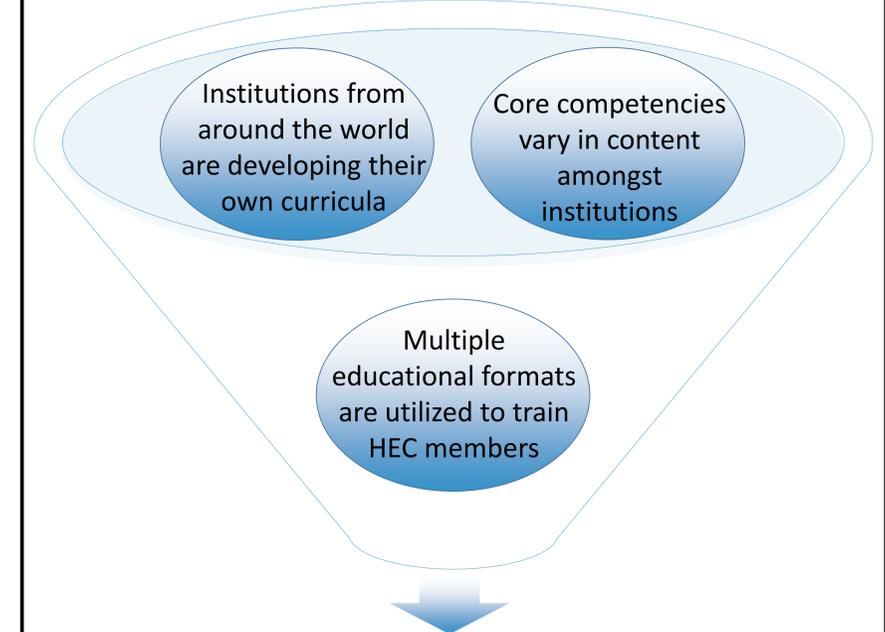
Methods

- I (AC) completed an ethics training course to familiarize myself with ethics material
- Performed a literature review exploring types of HECs, trainings, core competencies, and formats
- Studied how other hospitals administer their training
- Had weekly meetings to review information with supervisors
- Reviewed findings and identified key elements of an education plan for the SickKids BAC

Core Competencies



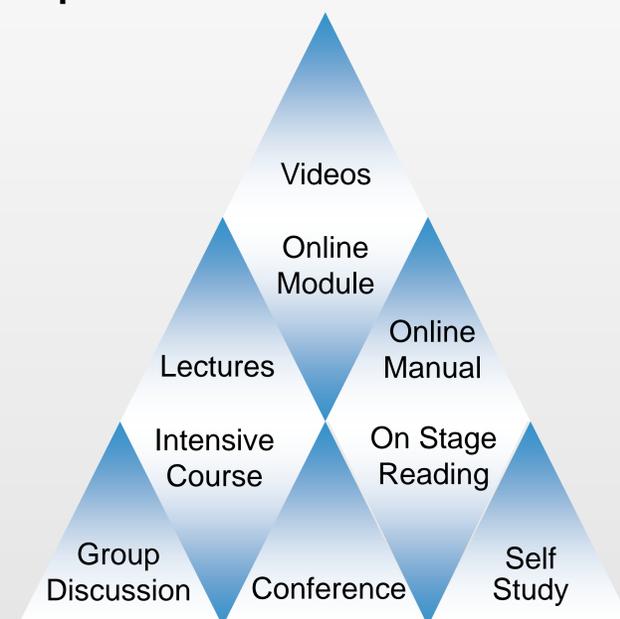
Findings



SickKids' BAC plan informed by other institutional programs



Examples of Educational Formats Utilized



Practical Application for SickKids

- An educational orientation plan for the new SickKids Bioethics Advisory Committee is being developed
- Further refinement of the educational initiative will be determined by the needs of the members
- By strengthening committee members' familiarity and knowledge of relevant bioethics concepts and principles, they can better facilitate and enhance the mandate of the committee
- This educational plan can be a model for other bioethics advisory committees

References & Acknowledgements

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