GROUP RELATIONS
CONFERENCE

Authority and Leadership in Recovery from Addiction

August 6-9, 2015

Roosevelt University, Schaumburg Campus
1400 N Roosevelt Boulevard
Schaumburg, Illinois

Conference Director:
Jeffrey D. Roth, MD, FASAM, FAGPA

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Midwest Group Relations Center (Midwest-AKRI) and the Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems (CSGSS-AKRI) of the A.K. Rice Institute

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• Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association
• International Association of Social Workers with Groups, Illinois Chapter
• Illinois Council on Problem Gambling
• Hazelden
• Rooted Center for Self Expression
• Working Sobriety

An experiential conference in the Tavistock tradition offering a unique opportunity to study group and organizational processes.

EMAIL US AT
grcrecoveryfromaddiction@gmail.com

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www.grouprelationsconference.com

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THIS CONFERENCE is designed for individuals who wish to study the exercise of authority in groups and understand more about their own responses to exercising and encountering authority. The Conference is organized as a sequence of group and inter-group interactions. Events include experiences in:

• SMALL GROUP — examines the life of an eight- to twelve- member group as it unfolds. A consultant assists the group with the task.

• LARGE GROUP — consists of all conference members with a team of consultants and meets to study its own behavior in the here-and-now. This simulates processes and dynamics of larger social systems as they struggle with the problems of formation, transition and rapid change.

• INSTITUTIONAL EVENT (IE) — members form their own groups to interact with other member groups and with staff. The primary task of the IE is to study authority, leadership, and overt/covert processes as groups evolve and interact in the here-and-now.

• REVIEW/APPLICATION GROUP — consists of five to ten members with one or two consultants; provides opportunities for members to further reflect on their experiences and roles in the different conference events and relate them to their work roles in community and institutional settings.

• OPEN MUTUAL SUPPORT MEETINGS — members and staff attend a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous or Al-Anon. This provides an opportunity to compare and contrast the dynamics of a mutual support group with a small or large study group.

Please note: The conference is designed to provide an integrated experience. Learning occurs not only during individual conference events but also from their sequence and relationship to one another; therefore, membership entails a commitment to attend all events.

Effective leadership and the meaningful exercise of authority require more than intellectual and technical understanding. The Group Relations model in the Tavistock tradition provides a well-defined context within which to examine group-level forces and dynamics as they occur in the here-and-now. As people work in groups, families and other social systems, their participation takes on many different meanings — influencing thoughts, feelings and action. The confluence of individual meanings powerfully affects the identities, roles and authority we take on in groups, schools, organizations, institutions, communities and society.

MEMBERS OF A GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY EXPERIENCE

• How people join and engage in group work, delegate and resist authority, and develop roles and reputations.
• How people contribute to and obstruct getting the group’s work accomplished.
• How members of a group exercise authority, power and influence in meaningful and appropriate ways — both as leaders and as followers.
• Group collusion in the creation and enabling of maladaptive roles.
• Group cooperation in the creation and enabling of adaptive roles.

In applying the learning from group relations conferences, having two or more people from the same organization attend the conference together is often useful. The fee structure is designed to encourage this.
## Conference Schedule

**THURSDAY**
August 6

- **Registration**
  7:30-8:20 AM

- **Plenary Opening**
  8:30-8:55 AM

- **Small Group 1**
  9:00-10:15 AM

- **Large Group 1**
  10:45-noon

- **Lunch Provided at Mutual Support Meeting 1**
  12:30-1:30 PM

- **Small Group 2**
  2:00-3:15 PM

- **Large Group 2**
  3:45-5:00 PM

- **Review/Application Group 1**
  5:30-6:30 PM

**FRIDAY**
August 7

- **Small Group 3**
  8:30-9:45 AM

- **Large Group 3**
  10:15-11:30 AM

- **Lunch Provided at Mutual Support Meeting 2**
  Noon-1:00 PM

- **Plenary & Institutional Event 1**
  1:30-2:30 PM

- **Institutional Event 2**
  2:45-3:45 PM

- **Institutional Event 3**
  4:00-5:00 PM

- **Review/Application Group 2**
  5:30-6:30 PM

**SATURDAY**
August 8

- **Small Group 4**
  8:30-9:45 AM

- **Large Group 4**
  10:15-11:30 AM

- **Lunch Provided at Mutual Support Meeting 3**
  Noon-1:00 PM

- **Institutional Event 4**
  1:30-2:30 PM

- **Institutional Event 5**
  2:45-3:45 PM

- **Institutional Event Plenary Review**
  4:00-5:00 PM

- **Review/Application Group 3**
  5:30-6:30 PM

**SUNDAY**
August 9

- **Small Group 5**
  8:30-9:45 AM

- **Large Group 5**
  10:15-11:30 AM

- **Lunch Provided at Mutual Support Meeting 4**
  Noon-1:00 PM

- **Plenary Conference Review**
  1:30-2:30 PM

- **Institutional Event 6**
  3:00-4:00 PM

- **Member and Staff Social Hour**
  4:30-5:20 PM
MEMBERSHIP AND FEES
Enrollment will be limited to 60 members; early registration is advised. The Conference is offered at reduced fees for faculty, students and employees of the host and sponsoring institutions, for students in general and for those able to register early.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Partial scholarships are available based on financial need and on a first come, first serve basis. Applicants for scholarship should complete the Conference Registration Form, and return it with payment of the $30.00 (non-refundable) Conference registration fee and a letter explaining the scholarship request. Scholarship requests received after July 1, 2015 will not be considered.

WITHDRAWALS AND CANCELLATIONS
Withdrawals after July 1, 2015 will not be refunded unless the position can be filled by someone on a waiting list. The $30.00 registration fee will be withheld to cover administrative costs in the event of cancellation.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS
The staff at the Conference is committed to meeting the needs of physically challenged members to every extent possible. Please advise the Assistant Director for Administration of special needs.

REFERENCE LETTER
Experiential learning can sometimes be stressful. Therefore, individuals who are ill or experiencing a period of significant personal difficulty should forego attendance at this time. In addition to the completed Conference Registration Form, available at the conference web site, each applicant must provide a letter of reference from someone who can vouch for his or her capacity to participate in an intensive learning experience. The applicant is responsible for seeing that this letter is submitted before July 15, 2015. Letters should be sent via e-mail to the conference e-mail address.

lodging
Out of town members may wish to stay at Suites Chicago Schaumburg, which is just a few blocks from the conference site. Reservations may be made at http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chisg-springhill-suites-chicago-schaumburg/.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION
Email addresses of members will be shared with sponsoring organizations unless a member explicitly requests not to have his/her email address shared.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

PAYMENT OF FEES
Registration should be submitted online at www.grouprelationsconference.com. Payment may be made by credit card using Paypal. Checks may be sent to us at Group Relations Conference, 25 East Washington Street, Suite 1811, Chicago, IL 60602. For alternative payment options, please contact us at grcrecoveryfromaddiction@gmail.com.

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE = $500
(Postmark before June 1, 2015)

REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE = $600
Faculty and employees of sponsoring institutions may register before June 1, 2015 for $450 and for $550 after that. Students from the host institution and other sponsoring institutions may register for $350.

Students from non-sponsoring institutions may register for $400.

When three or more members from the same organization register, each will receive a $25 reduction if they are not already benefiting from other discounts.

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT www.grouprelationsconference.com
DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO grcrecoveryfromaddiction@gmail.com

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Sponsored by:
This conference is sponsored by the Midwest Group Relations Center (Midwest-AKRI) and the Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems (CSGSS-AKRI) of the A.K. Rice Institute and by Roosevelt University Department of Psychology, University of Chicago Department of Psychiatry, University of Louisville, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Loyola University, Department of Social Work, College of DuPage Addictions Program, Illinois Psychiatric Society, Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society, Faces and Voices of Recovery, Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association, International Association of Social Workers with Groups, Illinois Chapter, Illinois Council on Problem Gambling, Hazelden, Rooted Center for Self Expression, and Working Sobriety.

The principles and methods of this Conference originated at the Center for Applied Social Research, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, England under the leadership of the late A.K. Rice. The Washington School of Psychiatry and the Department of Psychiatry of Yale University Medical School introduced conferences using these principles and methods to the United States in 1965. The A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems, a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1970 to advance knowledge of the dynamics of groups, organizations and social systems.

**CME ACCREDITATION AND CREDIT DESIGNATION**

**Accreditation Statement**
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and Working Sobriety Chicago. The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Credit Designation Statement**
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 28 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses and other healthcare professionals will receive a Certificate of Participation. For information on the applicability and acceptance of Certificates of Participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by the ACCME, please consult your professional licensing board.

**CONFESSION STAFF ROLES**

- Act collectively as management
- Take responsibility and authority to provide the boundary conditions to engage in the primary task of the conference
- Play specific directorial, administrative and consultant roles
- Offer interpretations and working hypotheses about what is happening in the here-and-now events
- Contribute in whatever ways they believe will advance the work

*The way staff exercise their authority and roles is explicitly available for study by Conference participants.*

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STAFF BIOS

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