Psychedelic Ethics & Regulations Syllabus

Session 1:

10am-6:30pm MT
Facilitators: Alison McQueen, Lindsey Morris, Michael Franklin, Brendan Caldwell

Session 2:

10am-6:30pm MT
Facilitators: Alison McQueen, Lindsey Morris, Brendan Caldwell

*See Required Materials section and be sure to order your supplies in time!

Course Overview

This course provides a foundational exploration of ethics and regulatory frameworks essential to safe and legal psychedelic facilitation, particularly within the context of Colorado's Natural Medicine Health Act (NMHA). Through lectures, experiential learning, readings, discussion, and personal reflection, participants will explore how to responsibly navigate client care, legal responsibilities, and their own ethical edges as facilitators.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Interpret and apply the Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics to real-world facilitation scenarios.
- Understand the regulatory requirements and legal responsibilities of facilitators under the NMHA.
- Identify and navigate ethical vulnerabilities unique to transpersonal and psychedelic work.

● Articulate reasonable expectations and boundaries for client outcomes and care.

● Integrate self-reflection and self-care practices as core ethical commitments.

Required Materials

● *The Ethics of Caring* by Kylea Taylor (required)

● Notebook or journal for reflection and personal process

● Black paper & drawing materials needed if you're attending class online (in person students- don't worry about it): You will probably only need 2 sheets of black paper per person (one for each Saturday).. This link or this one are good examples but it doesn't have to be exact. Since you only need a few sheets each, feel free to share resources with other students or pick up a few sheets from CMM if you come in person. You also need drawing materials *that will show up on black pape*r- for example oil pastels or chalk pastels. If you aren't able to get black paper, the experiential will also work on white paper but black is preferred. Boulder folks- Art Parts Creative Reuse Center is a great resource for very cheap art supplies so check it out.

● Draft Colorado Forms and Regulatory Documents (provided digitally)

Course Schedules

Session 1:

● 10am - 12pm - Ethics Lecture - Michael Franklin, PhD, ATR-BC
● 12pm - 1pm - Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics
● 1pm - 2pm - Lunch
● 2:10pm - 3:30pm - Facilitator Paperwork
● 3:30pm - 4:15pm - Art Experiential
● 4:15pm - 5:30pm - Awareness of increased vulnerability associated with altered states of consciousness

- 5:30pm - 5:45pm - Break
- 5:45pm - 6:30pm - Setting Reasonable Expectations for Client Outcomes

Session 2:

- 10-12pm- Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics
- 12pm-1pm Art experiential
- 1-2 Lunch
- 2-4pm - Navigating NMHA Regulations in Colorado
- 4pm - 4:15pm - Break
- 4:15pm - 5:30pm - Providing accurate information about current research on the efficacy of natural medicines and facilitator scope of practice
- 5:30pm - 5:45pm - Break
- 5:45pm - 6:30pm - Professional Therapeutic Boundaries

Course Requirements & Assignments

Participants are expected to complete all assigned readings and homework prior to class sessions and be prepared to engage in group discussions and experiential activities.**Homework & Preparation (~26+ hours total)Session 1 (to be read before class):**

Assignment Description	Estimated Time
Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics	1 hour
Read and reflect on the full code; initial focus on Sections 1–4.	
Case Studies	1 hour
Review case studies and answer a few of the follow-up questions to be discussed in class.	
NMHA Paperwork	4+ hours

Read relevant documents and begin drafting a version designed for your facilitation practice.	
Kylea Taylor's *The Ethics of Caring* (Selected Chapters)	~12.5 hours
Required reading to support class discussion and deepen ethical insight:	
– Ch. 3: Considering Our Ethical Vulnerabilities (pp. 51–54)	
– Ch. 7: Ethical Attention in Extraordinary States (pp. 97–122)	
– Ch. 8: Extraordinary Experiences & Support (pp. 125–149)	
– Ch. 10: Ethical Vulnerabilities in Transpersonal Work (pp. 159–176)	

Session 2 (to be read before class):

Assignment Description	Estimated Time
Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics	1 hour
Read and reflect on the full code; initial focus on Sections 5–9.	
Natural Medicine Regulations	4+ hours
Review current rules and regulations to build foundational understanding of compliance and scope of practice.	
Providing Accurate Information to Clients	1.5 hours
Review the 'PAT Research Reference Guide' and handout on 'Providing Accurate Information to Clients'.	

Ethical principles of traditional Indigenous medicine	1 hour
Review ‘Ethical principles of traditional Indigenous medicine to guide western psychedelic research and practice.’	

Course Topics

- Ethical Principles in Psychedelic Facilitation
- Legal Frameworks & Natural Medicine Health Act (NMHA)
- Colorado Facilitator Code of Ethics
- The Ethics of Vulnerability and Transpersonal States
- Power, Privilege, and Practitioner Boundaries
- Art-Based Exploration of Practitioner Ethics
- Client Expectations & Media Influence
- Financial Ethics and Professional Transparency
- Ethical Advertising and Representation
- Developing a Personal Code of Ethics
- Self-Care as an Ethical Practice
- Communicating Accurate information to Clients about Psilocybin-assisted Therapy

Participation & Engagement

This course is highly interactive and experiential. Full participation in both pre-course homework and in-person sessions is expected. Participants should be prepared to engage with vulnerable topics, reflect on their own practice, and contribute thoughtfully to discussions.