Arlene Istar Lev describes sexual orientation and gender identity expression and treatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) clients within a developmental and systemic perspective.

Disks 1-4 focus on understanding definitions and identity integration, and the role of discrimination in psychological development for LGBT people. Arlene also examines barriers to successful and ethical treatment, including the overlap of mental health and substance abuse problems within LGBT families and communities.

Disks 5-8 focus on the specific concerns for transgender, transsexual, and gender non-conforming clients and their families. Arlene discusses the role of the psychotherapist in the evaluation of medical treatment, evolving Standards of Care, and issues in treating children and youth.

Both days include in-depth discussion of ethical considerations in treating LGBT clients including issues of transference and counter-transference, boundaries, informed consent, confidentiality, advocacy and bias in public policy.

Objectives: Participants will be able to describe
1. How sexual orientation & gender identity develops
2. Barriers to effective treatment
3. Boundary, transference and other ethical considerations
4. Treatment considerations
5. Transgender treatment issues
6. Transgender health related issues
7. Ethical considerations in treating transgender clients
8. Special transgender treatment considerations

Arlene “Ari” Istar Lev, LCSW, CASAC, is a social worker, family therapist, educator, and writer whose work addresses the unique therapeutic needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. She is the Founder and Clinical Director of Choices Counseling and Consulting in Albany, New York (www.choicesconsulting.com), providing individual and family therapy for issues related to sexual and gender identity issues.


Arlene is the Founder of two LGBT clinical training programs, serves as the Clinical Supervisor for a low-cost therapy program through the local gay community center, and trains and consults internationally. She serves on the editorial boards of The Journal of GLBT Family Studies, The Journal of Lesbian Studies and The Journal of Transgenderism. She is a highly recognized and dedicated leader in the field of LGBT therapy and has received various awards and recognitions for her work and achievements.

12 CE Hours Approved Home Study for Psychologists Counselors Social Workers Nurses AOTA

Exam Enclosed Participant Practice Level—Intermediate

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American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) – 1.2 hours

Pennsylvania Department of Education – Act 48 approved for (12 hours)

Pennsylvania Certification Board (12 hours)

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This course is approved by the Association of Social Work Boards – ASWB NJ CE Course Approval Program. Provider 88 Course 882 from 1/13/2017 to 1/13/2019 Social workers will receive the following type and number of credits: Clinical Social Work Practice 3, Social and Cultural Competence 6, Ethics 3

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