

Moral Deliberation

Enabling a necessary learning environment within FICs

by Julien Topal
EFICA International Conference
16-11-2018

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

A 'moral' look at the FIC's work

- The people at FICs do heroic work
 - situations with high stakes;
 - vulnerable stakeholders;
 - Need for courage/no fear for decision-making
- A lot at stake for many
 - The victim/survivor
 - Those working at FICs
 - Society at large

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

Practical challenges servicing victim/survivor

- For each individual: risk of moral stress/injury
- For FICs: Mission drift/overdrive
- For FICs and individuals alike: moral frustration (with government, society...)
- Within FICs: no 'shared language' to talk about victims/perpetrators

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

On the necessity of moral deliberation

- In general, moral deliberation serves two goals:
 - To strengthen individual judgment ('moral deliberation is a *skill*')
 - Enhance the learning capability of an organization ('a practice of deliberation is needed')
- Specifically, within FICs it serves two more goals
 - Providing a coping-mechanism for individuals ('by sharing and unpacking the weight of the case and potential culpability')
 - Providing a shared language to enable the victim-centered, survivor-driven focus in a multidisciplinary context

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

How to organize moral deliberation?

First and foremost: repetition!! (man, a creature of habit...)

- A measure by which to decide the morally right choice
 - Cannot be subjective ('my opinion... Norms&Values...')
 - Has to be acceptable by all as *the* measure
 - Has to be critical
- A method that guides you through your investigation
 - Specifies the primary moral question on the table
 - Allows feelings and intuitions to be uttered
 - Enables a, shared, investigative stance within the people at the table
 - A procedure that ensures a careful investigation
 - A means to decide in an unambiguous manner between the two competing options on the table

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

A measure to decide on the morally right

'Doing right by the Other'

'Sufficiently take into account the rights, interests and wishes of all involved'

(in this concrete situation)

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

The method

- 1) What decision am I faced with?
 - What option do I choose intuitively and what is the main objection against this choice?
- 2) Whose involved in my decision?
- 3) Who is deciding?
- 4) What information do I need to make my decision in a responsible manner?
- 5) What arguments speak in a favour of both options?
- 6) What is my final conclusion?
 - Additional step: damage control
- 7) How do I feel about the judgment I arrive at?

GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY