

Resisting The Opioid Epidemic:

Fighting Vicarious Trauma with Collective Care & Justice-Doing

10 am – 4 pm - Tuesday, June 26th, 2018 at the 519 – 519 Church St.

Knowledge exchange for support service providers caring for people living with, affected by or at risk for HIV.

Please register at registration@caseyhouse.ca



Vikki offers an alternative approach to the notion of 'vicarious trauma' and worker burnout in this experiential workshop.

Workers responding to the opioid epidemic, working with people struggling with substance use, poverty, violence and oppression are often told that they will 'burn out', and that it is the connection to the client's pain that 'traumatizes' them, that is one perspective. Vikki offers another, she believes that "clients don't harm us, nor does their suffering, it is the spiritual ethical pain that follows when we are unable to work in ways that are ethical, dignified and structurally supported. When we stay with connection, resist disconnection and enmeshment we are able to do 'collective care' as opposed to self-care. We shoulder each other up by working in line with our collective ethics and enacting what is at the heart of our work. Bringing hope is an ethical response to despair, and we'll consider how to keep a finger-hold on a believed-in-hope amidst the darkness of tragic death and mean spirited politics. And that leads us to the 'Zone of Fabulousness', where the people we are here to serve are at the centre, and we are 'walking our talk' collectively."



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