## Ethics and Compliance: Do you need both in order to operate an Effective Compliance Program? Yes! Courtney E. Thiele Director, Bloethics Graduate Programs Instructor, Division of Bioethics The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio The Ohio State University College of Medicine Columbus, Ohio STRADLEY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# What will we cover today? 1. What does your Board of Directors need to hear about how you have integrated Ethics and Compliance into your Effective Compliance Program? 2. Why do Ethics and Compliance go hand in hand to strengthen your Compliance Program and fundamentally root Employees' Trust in your Organization? How will your Compliance Program benefit from talking about Ethics on a regular basis when Compliance is also always front and center in your Organization?



# As individuals: Foundational for who we are as individuals – moral communities How we agree to live together in community

As MCOs: At the core of healthcare ("do no harm" — this is the operational level of ethics as a *modus vivendi* — ethics/values we agree to as a way of living in community. Having an organization that is ethically-minded should direct towards the mission the organization is founded upon. In healthcare, some of these "core" ethics include focusing on:

- Healing (patients)
- Stewardship (patients, members, communities, your organization)
- Trust (patients, members, employees, board, regulators, public)

As an organization we must establish our compliance program with core principles which:

Will never be compromised.

Will never be sacrificed.

Will always be followed.

Will always be openly discussed.

Will be readily identified as coming from the Compliance Department.

### Practically, this looks like:

- Having integrity (looking to one's individual character)
- Taking responsibility for your own actions, but also being sensitive to the impact of your actions on those around you and your organization
- Being mission-oriented remember the goals of your organization and to whom the mission is focused on serving
- Being transparent with your organization's compliance
- Being honest with all that you encounter (members, regulators, board, legislature, public)
- Being the ethical leader in the room at every meeting and during every conversation – especially with the board

Business Ethics in Healthcare: Beyond Compliance, Leonard J. Weber, Bloomington: Indiana University Press: 2001.

Healthcare as a Service-based organization v. profit-based organization? Navigating this relationship calls for prudence

Focusing on the mission will help set the tone and direct how decisions are made

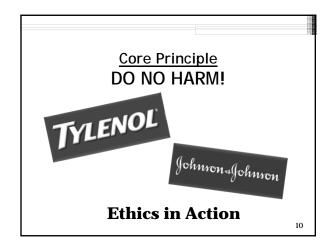
Think of who are you are responsible to: owners (profit focused) or patients and community (service focused)

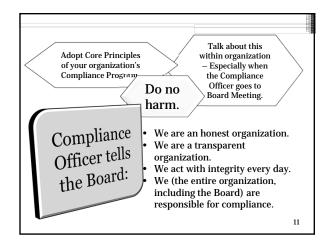
Healthcare as a service, and as such comes with responsibilities beyond a "typical" for-profit business (even if the healthcare service provider is a for-profit entity)

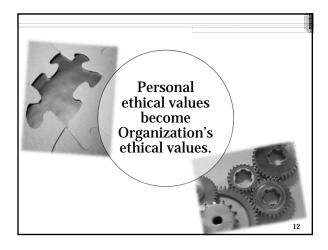
Recognizing the reality that finances play – both in terms of cost and profit, but consider in the context of the mission of the organization

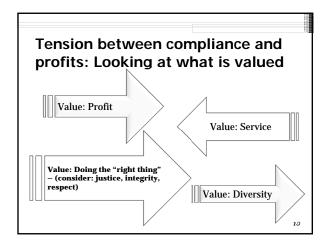
Business Ethics in Healthcare: Beyond Compliance, Leonard J. Weber, Bloomington: Indiana University Press: 2001.











How will your Compliance Program benefit from talking about Ethics on a regular basis when Compliance is discussed?

Change in culture

– Managed care as
a fiduciary
relationship with
patients/members

- Transparency
- Honesty
- Stewardship
- Prudence

 $\underline{See}$  . Business Ethics and Health Care: The Re-Emerging Institution-Patient Relationship," John F. Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, Vol. 24, No. 5, pp. 535–550 (1999).

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## John Dean - Ethics in Action



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### **Honesty and Responsibility** in Action

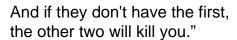


## United Airlines Flight 232 Ethics Begins a Long Time Before an Emergency Arises



Look for Personal Values in People "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and

energy.



- Warren Buffett

## THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

Transparency - Investor and Regulatory Demand for Full Disclosure



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#### THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

Independence – Investor and Regulatory Demand for Independence Between Management and Its Overseers and Gatekeepers (e.g., Independent Directors, Counsel and Auditors)



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## THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

Control – The Struggle for Control of the Company Among Its Management, Its Board, and Its Owners

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



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#### THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

World Citizenship – An Increasing Emphasis on Social Responsibility (e.g., Green Initiatives, Fair Labor Practices, Foreign Corrupt Practices)



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## THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

Equity – Public and Regulatory Focus on the Gap Between Executive Compensation and Median Income



## THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE: FREE MARKET FORCES, PRESSURE POINTS, AND TRENDS

Diversity- At all levels of the organizational structure as well as in third-party relationships



'We need to focus on diversity.

Your goal is to hire people who all look
different but think just like me.'

Stradley Ronon

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#### LAW v. ETHICS IN THE MCO SETTING



LAW: "DO NO HARM"

TRANSLATION: "DON'T BREACH
THE STANDARD OF CARE."

ETHICS: "DO GOOD"

TRANSLATION: "PROVIDE CARE"



**SOME CAUTIONARY TALES** 







Evan Greebel



#### **SHKRELI and GREEBEL**

- Classic case of "robbing Peter (Retrophin) to pay Paul (MSMB Capital and MSMB Healthcare)."
- Greebel was Retrophin's outside counsel and a partner at Katten Muchin.
- Found guilty by a federal jury in New York of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud.



#### **ENRON**







## ENRON: A MASSIVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND A TOTAL LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

- Fastow, who was Enron's CFO, formed two limited partnerships that were counterparties to extremely complex structured financings.
- Enron itself was on the other side of the structures.
- The resulting, egregious conflict of interest was presented to Enron's Board of Directors.
- The Enron Board waived the conflict!



## ENRON: A MASSIVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND A TOTAL LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

- In October 2001, the structured financings began to unravel because they were premised on a constantly rising Enron stock price.
- The financings had previously been unknown to Enron's investors because Enron's inside and outside accountants had signed off on "off-balance-sheet accounting."
- When bond rating agencies lowered Enron's bond ratings in the face of the revelations, all of Enron's debt covenants were triggered, and Enron collapsed.
- Fastow spent six years in prison for accounting fraud and related charges.  $\begin{array}{c} STRADLEY \\ RONON_{30} \end{array}$

## Practical Advice/Takeaways: What YOU can do to set an ethical tone: Integrity Honesty in work in work Respect in interactions with one another role as a steward Recognize that challenges will arise sometimes when there are competing values

## Practical Advice/Takeaways: What YOU can do to set an ethical tone:

Operating a with a clear goal: ethics valued, not just as a "have to" but a transformational approach to work, interactions with one another and the patients/members you serve – even if you don't see them

#### Practically, this can take a systematic approach:

- Where procedures about how to handle ethically challenging situations are defined,
- Ethics is discussed and valued (eg ethics workshops/ continuing education)
- Modeling ethics from management and enforcing ethical standards that are in place

QUESTIONS 2