



## Life-Threatening Public Policy: An Eight Part Series

Public policy that has threatened the lives of people with physical and mental impairments and other devalued people is not a new, or even a modern concept. However, the legitimizing of methods and policies that result in the deaths of people in today's world is unprecedented. Life-Threatening Public Policy is an eight part lecture series designed to explore contemporary examples of deathmaking through public policy, to describe them as a pattern contributing to the vulnerability of people with impairments, and to call participants to careful reflection and to positive action. This is a course designed for anyone interested in defending the lives of people with impairments, especially for those willing to consider that ours is a society which is prepared to do away with those it devalues.



## **The Participant in this Series Will:**

- Appreciate the vulnerability of impaired and devalued people to having their lives abbreviated
- Have the conceptual foundation to consider the interrelatedness of all forms of deathmaking.
- Be invited to come to resolution toward forming a coherent stance in light of the pervasiveness of deathmaking.
- Have some examples of means to oppose life-threatening public policies.

## **Who Should Attend:**

Anyone interested in the lives of devalued people including people with impairments, elders, family members of human service recipients, members of citizen boards, legislators, policy makers, advocates, human service workers and administrators, educators and friends.

## **Format:**

Each session will meet via video conferencing for three hours a time, including a presentation on a topic, reflection questions and discussion. Sessions will be limited to twenty participants. Every session will begin with a description of how the particular topic relates to the preceding ones covered in the series. Participants will be encouraged to keep a journal during the series.



## List of Topics:

### Session 1:

Public Policy

A Lesson From History: The German Euthanasia Program and Its Echoes in Our Own Day

### Session 2:

Social Devaluation and the Killing Thought: Common Life Experiences of Service Recipients and How These Contribute to Their Deaths

### Session 3:

The Values of Modernism and the Contemporary Culture of Death

### Session 4:

Materialized Medicine



**Session 5:**

Euthanasia versus Good End of Life Care

**Session 6:**

An Exploration of Violence in Human Service with a Concentration on Restraint as a Human Service Technique

**Session 7:**

Structural Violence in Contemporary Society

**Session 8:**

Standing in Contradiction to the Culture of Death



## Follow-up Topics:

- *Protecting the Health and Lives of Hospital Patients (3 two hour sessions)*
- *Medical Safeguards (5 two hour sessions)*
- *The War On The Poor: Exploring The Link Between Poverty And Vulnerability (1 hour session)*