The Circle of Change- Skillful conversations for Impasse Resolution/A reading with commentary

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The Circle of Change argues that there is important hidden knowledge to explain patient conflict, impasse, resistance to plan of care and lifestyle changes beyond technology’s reach that can only be gained through trust and rapport—and asking the right questions. While physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and others are trained to take inventory of the body’s biological systems, practitioners often lack the skill set to ask the right questions to explore personal, family, and cultural systems. And therein lies the pedagogic vacuum to be filled. It is this text’s purpose to introduce a systems-based problem-solving approach, The Circle of Change, as map and compass for harvesting and processing patients’ narratives to uncover meaning and care for the illness.

Dr. Jeffrey Trilling graduated from New York Medical College and completed Board Certification in Family Medicine with added qualifications in Geriatrics. For 18 years he was Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Stony Brook’s School of Medicine, Family Medicine Chief of Staff at Stony Brook University Hospital, and President of Stony Brook Primary Care. He is on the academic faculty in the Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine’s Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics. Dr. Trilling was past President of the Alaska Academy of Family Medicine and has practiced medicine for 44 years in both academics and the private sector. He has been an ad hoc reviewer for national medical journals, additionally serving as Series Editor for the International Journal of Family Practice. Dr. Trilling has multiple peer-reviewed publications and presentations both nationally and internationally.

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