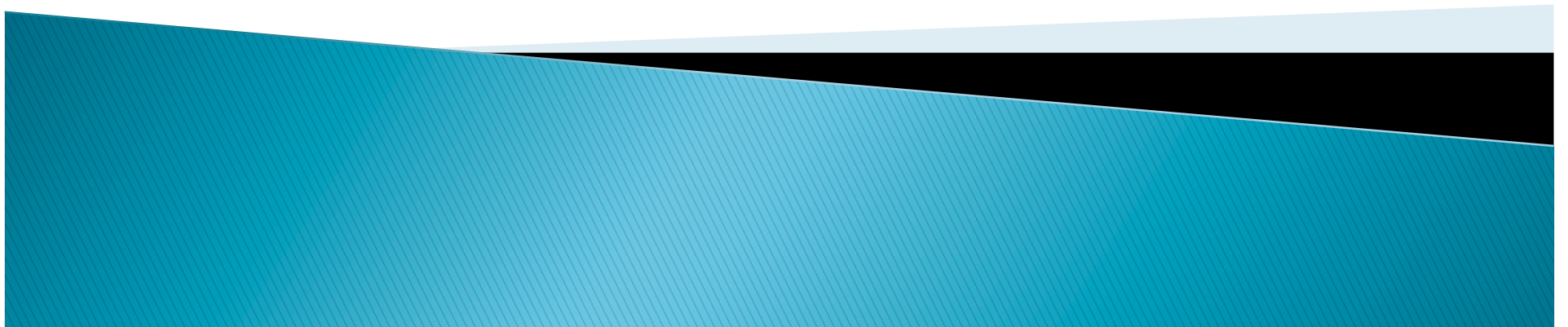
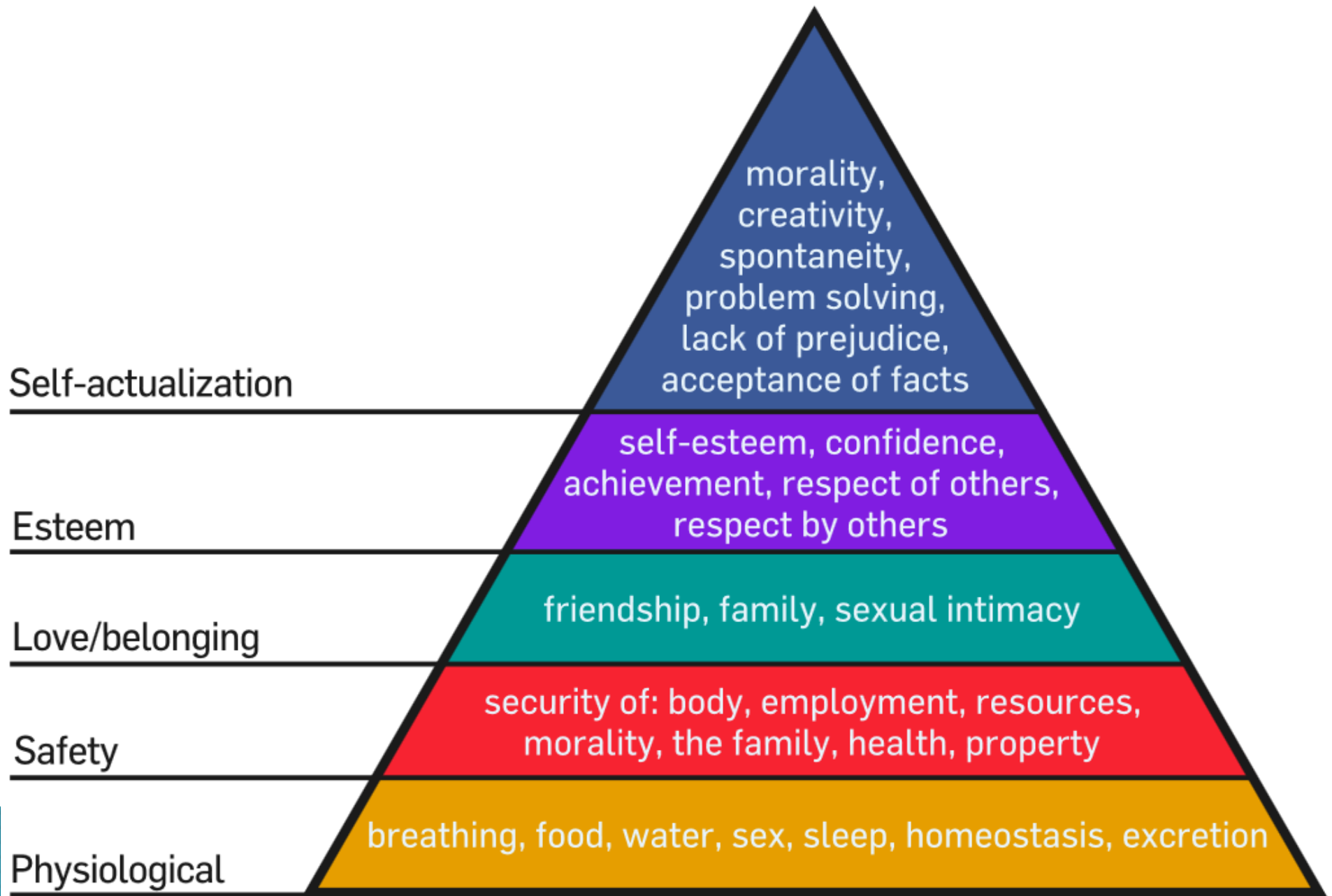


LIFE SPAN CONSIDERATIONS

Jane Heupel, MSW LSW



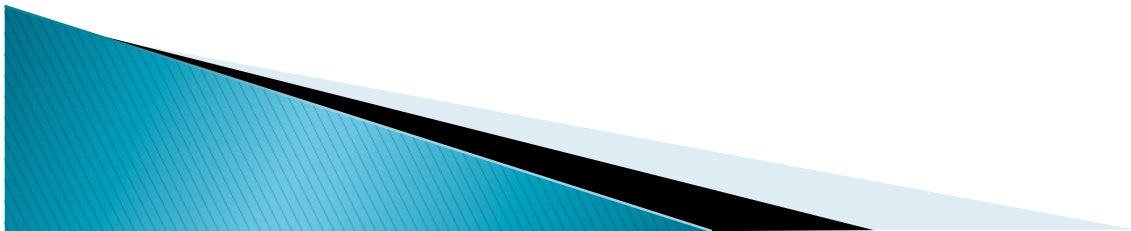


Life Stages

Young Adulthood

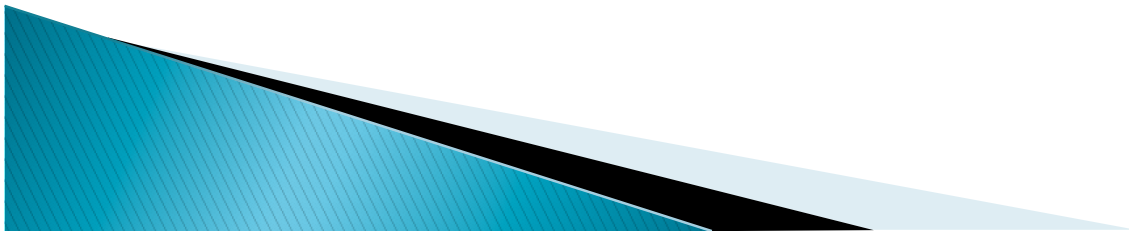
Midlife years

Senior Adult



Milestones Young Adult

- ▶ Complete High School
- ▶ Education/Employment/Military
- ▶ Mature adult friendships
- ▶ Serious coupling
- ▶ Family planning
- ▶ Life goal setting (career, relationships, personal)
- ▶ Define self



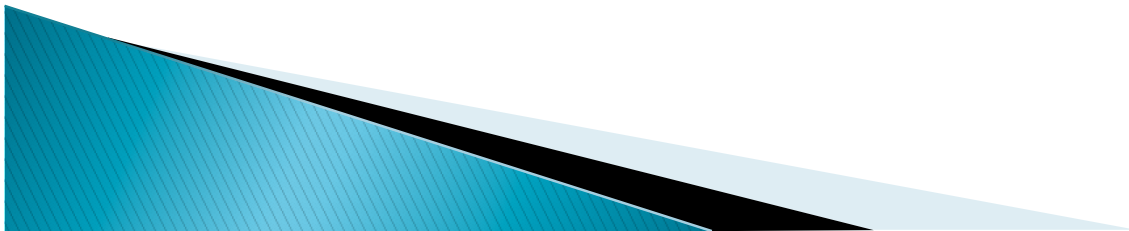
Milestones – Midlife

- ▶ Move in to “life profession” / career solidified
- ▶ Complete financial independence
- ▶ Planning / contributing to future / retirement
- ▶ Mature family relationships
- ▶ Parenthood
- ▶ Caring for own parents
- ▶ Goal maintaining / refining
- ▶ Refining self – This is who I am and who I have made myself to be



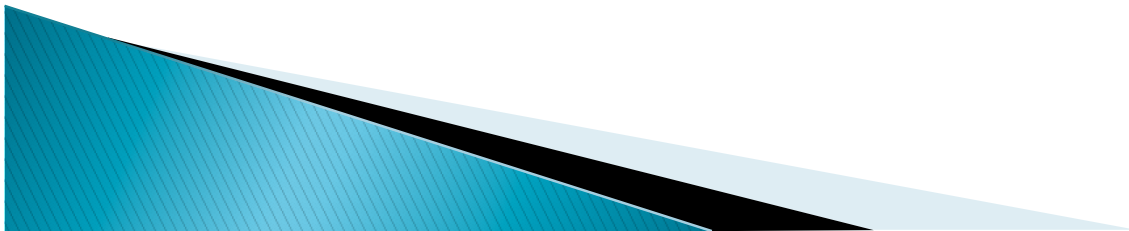
Milestones – Senior Adult

- ▶ Realization/fulfillment of life goals
- ▶ Retirement/stop working
- ▶ Financial independence
- ▶ Empty nest
- ▶ Caring for spouse
- ▶ Culmination of a life well lived



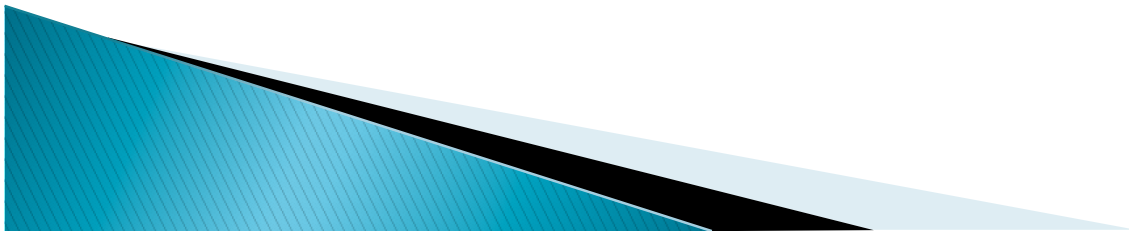
Young Adult Physiological

- ▶ No concept of illness
- ▶ Denial of seriousness of kidney failure
- ▶ Feeling invincible frequently leads to non adherence



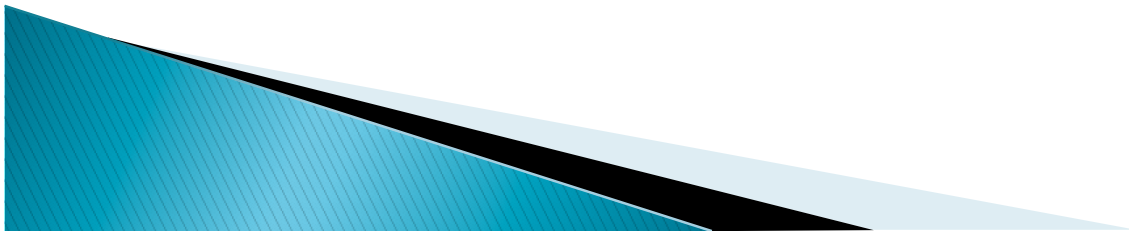
Young Adult Safety

- ▶ Many prematurely “give up” long range plans
- ▶ Frequently ineligible for benefits – no “pay in”
- ▶ Limited options with limited income/
resources



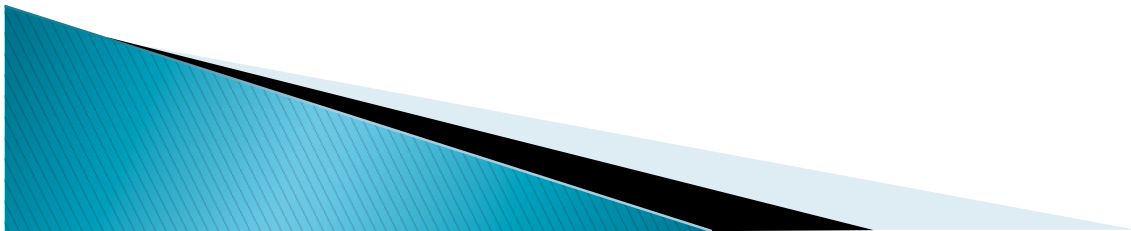
Young Adult Love/Belonging Stage

- ▶ Limited income/independence = limited life partners
- ▶ Sexual dysfunction
- ▶ Body image issues – catheters & fistulas
- ▶ Family planning



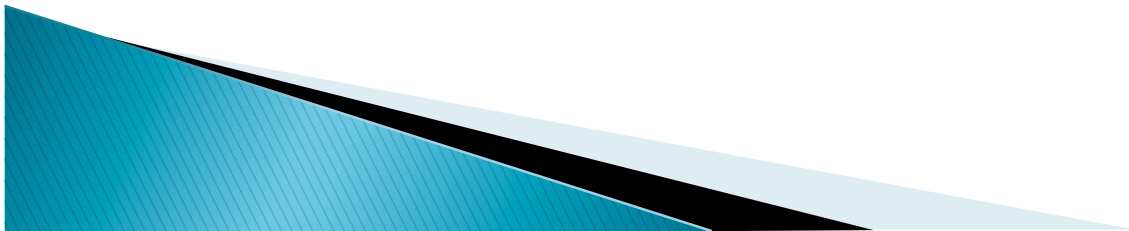
Midlife Physiological

- ▶ Returning post-transplant patients
- ▶ New co-morbidities surface
- ▶ Physically/mentally wearing down



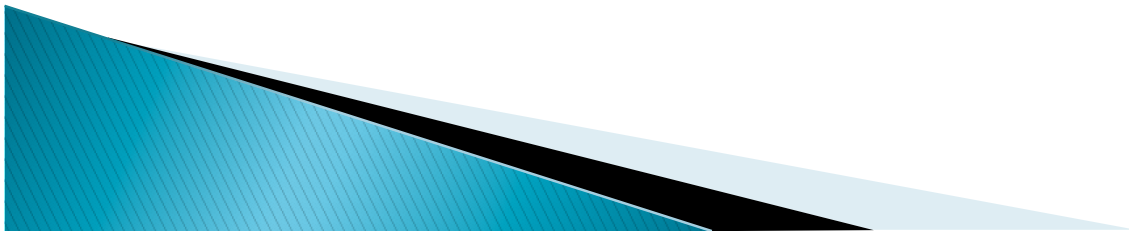
Midlife – Safety

- ▶ Financial constraints carry larger impact
- ▶ More people dependent on income
- ▶ Lose employment = loss of financial freedom
- ▶ More patients at this stage want to give up
- ▶ (middle child syndrome)



Midlife Love / Belonging

- ▶ Change in spousal roles – financial
- ▶ Redefinition of roles – care giving
- ▶ Change/loss of sexual functioning



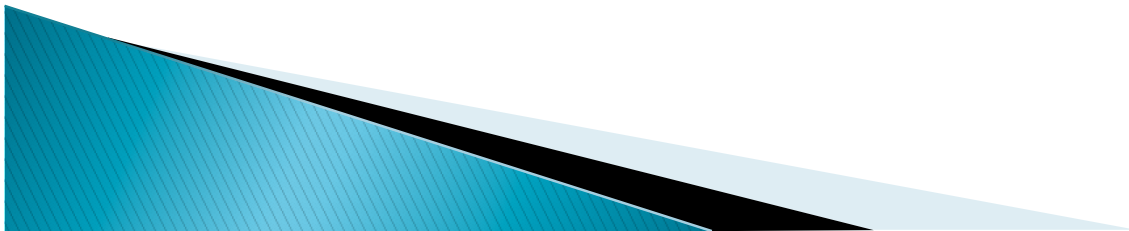
Midlife – Esteem

- ▶ Age group receives less assistance and attention
- ▶ More difficult to cope with loss of physical/emotional/sexual abilities
- ▶ Societal intolerance for illness



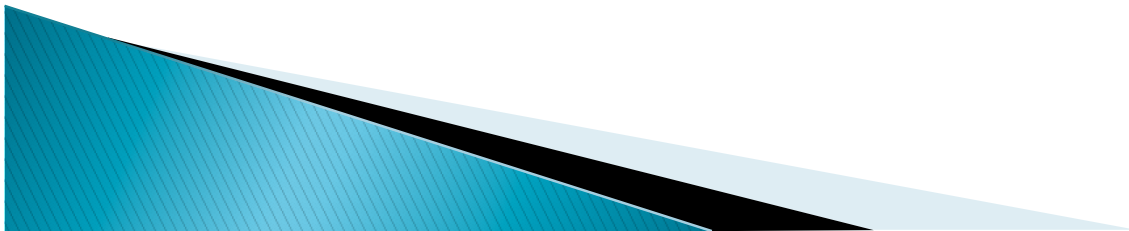
Seniors – Physiological

- ▶ Older, sicker population
- ▶ Co-morbidities moving into primary focus
- ▶ More dependent on others – unable to live independently and complete ADL's



Seniors – Safety

- ▶ Financial security shattered with cost of care
- ▶ Fewer treatment options available
- ▶ Prevalence of depression
- ▶ End of life issues/decisions amplified and urgent
- ▶ More patients isolated at this stage
- ▶ Age related loss of cognition



Seniors

Love / Belonging

- ▶ Most patients not as bothered by sexual issues
- ▶ More patients isolated/lonely at this stage
- ▶ Patients see themselves as a “burden” to family members

