Dr. Spiro will present a complex case of long term intensive psychodynamic treatment spanning approximately 2 1/2 years with an extremely at-risk 16-year-old adolescent female who was discharged only 14 days before from a residential wilderness program after one and one-half years of inpatient treatment preceded by one month in a rehab facility for drug and alcohol abuse. She is just beginning her sophomore year at boarding school and is away from home for the first time in a fairly unrestricted setting with minimal supervision. She presents with six suicide attempts, anorexia nervosa, self-mutilation, PTSD, and significant drug and alcohol abuse. Dr. Spiro will show how attachment theory, self-psychology and Alice Miller’s theoretical perspectives have shaped the course of this treatment.

He will explore the therapist’s multidimensional role in maintaining the robustness of the therapeutic frame as the patient confronted different developmental challenges while simultaneously creating and maintaining a working relationship with a borderline mother and an emotionally absent father. In addition, her treatment encompassed changing geographical locations requiring the mixed use of different modalities including face-to-face meetings, texting and FaceTime and occasionally acting in loco parentis. He will also explore transference and countertransference through detailed clinical notes providing ample opportunity for discussion during the course of the presentation.

Dr. Spiro received his Ph.D. from Yeshiva University in 1973. Upon completing his clinical internship at Montefiore Hospital he was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neurophysiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Hospital, Bronx New York. He then joined the staff at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Advanced Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Psychology from 1972-1976. Next Dr. Spiro became a member of the staff and served as Co-Director of Admissions from 1978-1982 and concurrently was a Lecturer in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven CT.

He was appointed as the Director of Assessment, Psychological Services Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA from 1983-1985. In 1985 he left this position to become Clinical Consultant and eventually Clinical Director of the Berkshire Learning Center in Pittsfield MA, a residential treatment facility for approximately thirty adolescent males. Dr. Spiro remained in that position until 1997 when the Center closed. Concurrently he served as Clinical Supervisor at the Counseling Center of Bennington College, Bennington VT from 1988-1991.

After the close of the Berkshire Learning Center, Dr. Spiro worked full-time in private practice in Williamstown, MA for 34 years until he relocated to Florida in November 2017.

Objectives:
Upon completion, you will be able to:
1. Identify an effective therapeutic approach with a high risk adolescent within a self psychology framework.
2. Identify how to maintain a good therapeutic and working relationship with a high risk adolescent away at boarding school and her parents.
3. Analyze the importance of both the real and the analytic relationship in intensive long-term psychoanalytic psychotherapy.
4. Identify the benefits and limitations of teletherapy.