

Spiritual Care

KEITH METCALFE
Professional Practice Leader (Charlton, West 5th)

Scope of Practice

Certified Spiritual Care Practitioners and Psycho- Spiritual Therapists seek to improve the quality of life for individuals and groups experiencing spiritual, moral and existential distress related to changes in health, maturation, ability, and life circumstances. They utilize a holistic, relational approach to assess the nature and extent of the concerns, collaboratively develop a plan of care, provide therapeutic interventions to promote, maintain, and restore health and/ or palliate illness and injury, and evaluate the implementation of the plan of care to ensure its efficacy and effectiveness.

Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	PTE	POSITION
Charlton	5		Certified Spiritual Care Practitioners and Psycho- Spiritual Therapists
West 5th	3		

Major Achievements

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CARING

Clinical Practice:

Revisions of the recently introduced policy related to Smudging inside and outside of the buildings. Members of the Spiritual Care team and leadership, worked in collaboration with patients, staff, and further members of the Indigenous community to revise the Smudging Policy and related procedures to ensure the respectful and safe provision of Smudging Ceremonies within and outside of the buildings of SJHH. This continued adaptation is to ensure full accessibility of Smudging Ceremonies in the most efficient and streamlined ways possible, while ensuring patient and staff safety.

LEARNING

Education:

St. Joseph's Healthcare has a longstanding tradition of offering Spiritual Care learners clinical placements, mentorship, preceptorships, as well as formal education on-site through the year in the form of Clinical Psycho-spiritual Education (CPE) - formerly, Clinical Pastoral Education.

Clinical Education

- 3 units of Clinical Psycho-spiritual Education (CPE) provided in 2023, 9 learners in total. Throughout 2023, Spiritual Care Educators welcomed in and provided educational and clinical opportunities to 9 candidates interested in the Spiritual Care profession

Formal Teaching

- The Spiritual Care Department has SJHS System-Wide Academic Affiliation Agreements with Martin Luther University College, Knox & Emanuel Colleges (University of Toronto) and the Diocese of Hamilton (to ensure Deacon candidates have an opportunity to learn pastoral care in healthcare settings)

Internal Education

- Chaplains collaborated with the Palliative Care Medicine Team to provide palliative care medicine residents education about spiritually supporting patients, this also included medical residents shadowing spiritual care providers in the ICU

BUILDING

Internal Education:

- Spiritual Care providers are often called upon to provide education and awareness training at unit based orientations throughout the year

Professional Practice Development

- Staff Chaplain completed course in Professional Ethics
- Staff Chaplain completed course in Human Development
- Staff Chaplain completed training with Canadian Association for Spiritual Care to become a Certified Spiritual Care Educator
- Staff Chaplain Completed unit of Clinical Psycho-spiritual Education.
- PPL / Interim Director Completed Mission Leadership Program offered through Unity Health and the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario

LEADING

- Collaborated with System Executive Leadership and the Woodland Cultural Centre to bring Executive Leaders from across the St. Joseph's Health System to the Woodland Cultural Centre for a Truth and Reconciliation Workshop as well as a tour of the newly renovated Mohawk Institute (former residential school)
- Sponsored and raised the Survivor's Flags at each site of the St. Joseph's Health System for the Month of September to acknowledge and honour the Survivors' and those lost to the Indigenous Residential Schools
- Annual Christmas Tree lighting event – Charlton, King, and West 5th sites

External Activities:

Presentations

- Staff Chaplain presented to the ICNA (Islamic Community of North America) SISTERS Hamilton at a workshop they were hosting on Mental Health
- Staff Chaplain presented on "Navigating a Serious Illness" to The Muslim Women of Cambridge, Hospice Waterloo Region and The Islamic Centre of Cambridge at an information session
- Staff Chaplain offered a presentation entitled "what is grief?" for 30 minutes along with other speakers: A palliative care doctor from Cambridge memorial hospital, speaker from Hospice Waterloo and the Imam from the Islamic Center of Cambridge

Committees

- PPL/Interim Director Regional Chair for Professional Practice (Canadian Association for Spiritual Care)
- Staff Chaplain – Regional Treasurer (Canadian Association for Spiritual Care)

Major Initiatives for 2024/25:

LEARNING

- Revamp the Spiritual Care Education program throughout St. Joseph's Health System. Re-classification of Spiritual Care Educators as Spiritual Care Clinician-Educators

BUILDING

- Beautify the Spiritual Reflection Centre to make a warmer and more inviting, calming space for staff to engage in spiritual/wellness activities