Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence (SCIPE)

(Formerly the Ideal Intervention Project)

Report to the ACPE Research Network
May 18, 2013

A Look Back

On November 26, 2008 the first issue of the Ideal Intervention Project e-Newsletter was sent to approximately 100 practitioners, administrators and educators in the professional spiritual care movement “because of your commitment to improving the quality of spiritual care and education”. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) students had been submitting “ideal intervention” papers that consolidated their learnings from verbatim presentations to Fr. Henry Hefferman, SJ for editing into a potential online knowledge base. Approximately one year later that knowledge base was active and freely accessible online, thanks to the good graces of ACPE Research Network coordinator John Ehman. If you have not yet done so, please visit http://www.acperesearch.net/IIP.html (click on KNOWLEDGE BASE OF SAMPLES) to see for yourself. In 2009 John J. (Jack) Gleason assumed the editing task for this growing collection.

The new knowledge base was quickly seen as potentially valuable well beyond expediting the use of a written exercise to help CPE students consolidate learning. Newly identified benefits included providing second opinions in difficult cases, educating administrators and the public about the nature of chaplaincy work, and assembling baseline data for effectiveness research—to include replication of effective interventions toward designation of evidence based spiritual care best practices. In order to meet these additional purposes the knowledge base was built not only with student work, but with the papers of experienced practitioners and educators.

Accomplishments

• A professional spiritual care knowledge base capped at 395 entries, approximately 40% of which were provided by experienced practitioners and educators via workshops offered at national, regional and local gatherings of spiritual care professionals;
• A tentative effectiveness rating for each of the 395 samples, as explained in the online introduction to the collection;
• A 12-item spiritual care effectiveness survey to be completed by the recipient of that care shortly after the intervention (a revision of the survey thoroughly researched and developed by Scottish chaplains);
• A SCIPE e-News mailing list that gradually grew from 100 to 450, enabling ever-wider visibility for the project throughout the professional spiritual care movement;
• A name change more fully describing the project’s evolved dual core purposes, namely, the achievement of professional spiritual care excellence and the attainment of a strong position for professional spiritual care in the emerging pay-for-performance (P4P) culture.

Publications

• “Something New Under the CPE Sun?” (Letters to the Editor), ACPE News, September 2008;
• “Ideal Intervention Project Report,” East Central Region ACPE Newsletter, December 2008;
• “Building a Resource for Evidence-Based Best Practices in Chaplaincy Care,” APC e-News. 13:5, August, 2011;
• “Can Chaplains Survive and Thrive with P4P?” Chaplaincy Today, 28:2, Autumn/Winter 2012. 13-19;
• “A Professional Spiritual Care Knowledge Base: Boon or Bane?” Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy, 19:45-53, 2013;
• 29 issues of the Ideal Intervention Project e-Newsletter and the SCIPE e-News.

Workshops & Presentations


As noted in the Spring 2013 issue of the e-News, in the near future almost all US Health Care professionals—doctors, nurses and members of the ancillary disciplines, including chaplains—will likely be paid on the basis of the quality of their performance—Pay for Performance (P4P)—by achieving evidence based best practice desired outcomes that impact institutional bottom lines positively. Thus, “...assembling baseline data for professional spiritual care effectiveness research—to include replication of effective interventions...” (see above) will be essential to this process.

Spiritual care researchers dedicated to improved quality of care and the survival of professional spiritual care practitioners and educators in the P4P era are invited to make use of the freely available knowledge base to advance the work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack

(Rev) John J. (Jack) Gleason, DMin BCC (retired)
ACPE Supervisor Emeritus
831 Gazebo Way
Greenwood IN 46142
317-887-3341
mariejohn50@att.net