

Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence e-News

(Formerly the Ideal Intervention Project e-Newsletter)

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Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence

What's in a name? A good name brings to mind the essence of its subject. Alas, since its inception in 2006, the *Ideal Intervention Project* has been hampered by its name: promising too much with the term *ideal*, and, perhaps, some say, even demeaning the sacred task of offering spiritual care by describing that holy effort as mere *intervention*. This is to declare a new and more precise project name: *Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence*.

SCIFE Mission Statement

The Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence (SCIFE) carries forward the work of the *Ideal Intervention Project* by planning, developing and executing the communicative, financial, and procedural processes necessary to achieve two closely linked primary goals: professional spiritual care excellence and a strong position for professional spiritual care in the pay-for-results culture.

Professional Spiritual Care Excellence Defined

Professional spiritual care excellence is the act of embodying the inner meaning of faith in interaction with persons at the point of their need via appropriate ritual, affective, rational, verbal and non-verbal means by certified caregivers who masterfully integrate empathy, technical skills, intuition, spontaneity and openness to guidance from the deep sources of faith, all toward achieving the maximum possible healing, supportive, educative and challenging outcomes. In its execution the desired spiritual care effort combines the best features of both evidence based practice and narrative based practice.

The SCIFE Cohort

Certifying bodies include: American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Association of Professional Chaplains, Canadian Association for Spiritual Care, and National Association of Jewish Chaplains, National Conference of VA Catholic Chaplains, totaling approximately 10,000 members. (Other groups are welcome to be added to this list by submitting organization names and membership numbers to the editor at mariejohn50@att.net.)

Assessment of Spiritual Care Effectiveness

As SCIFE moves into a new phase involving assessment of the effectiveness of specific spiritual care efforts, reputable and thoughtful colleagues have asked, "How can you possibly evaluate the spiritual power?" The theological premise of SCIFE is that the spiritual power of the Mystery that energizes and brings Godly healing into the holy acts of professional spiritual care is far beyond any human capacity to examine. Therefore, the assessment of spiritual care effectiveness involves what can only be directly observed on the outer, visible (and audible) spiritual layer, the *spiritual epidermis*, namely, responses to the efforts of certified spiritual caregivers seeking to enable Divine healing. Thus the sole basis for such assessment is visible and audible direct feedback from recipients of the care. The dual purpose of such assessment is to increase the quality of professional spiritual care, and in so doing, assure its continuing and increasing contributions in the emerging pay-for-results culture.

Get a Second Opinion from the SCIFE Knowledge Base

The SCIFE Knowledge Base online at <http://www.acperesearch.net/IIP.html> (click on KNOWLEDGE BASE OF SAMPLES) now contains 327 samples organized in 25 categories. To benefit from the learnings of another practitioner regarding a current spiritual care situation, go to the category in the TABLE OF CONTENTS that most closely fits, find a sample title that is similar to your situation, and then scroll down to the appropriate page number. Apply any wisdom you find there to your situation, but avoid formulaic responses. Then write up your experience on the Spiritual Care Situation Summary form (see below) and send it to the editor for inclusion in the Knowledge Base after you approve any edits. Be sure to indicate on the SCSS which sample you used to inform your work.

Experienced SC Practitioners: Make a Professional Contribution for the Greater Good

Experienced SC practitioners, please know that you can use the five-step outline below to do painless self-supervision and then to make your most memorable interventions available for study by others in complete anonymity. Cut and paste the form below into your files. Then create and submit your own Spiritual Care Situation Summaries as a vital part of your reflective practice. Confidentiality is assured, and you must okay any revision before its entry into the national SC knowledge base. Please remember, the ethical imperative and the professional

challenge is to join in these timely efforts to learn at a deeper level, to contribute to the cause of eventually identifying, testing, and validating SC best practices, to keep getting paid, and most importantly, to better serve the SC needs of patients, family members and staff. Your Spiritual Care Situation Summaries will contribute significantly in these vital ways.

Spiritual Care Situation Summary

(Save form as a Word document for multiple uses before entering a specific situation.)

1. The Spiritual Care Situation’s Central Issue (Be concise. Examples are *feeling lonely, facing terminal illness, and loss of faith.*)

2. Narrative Summary of the Situation and Spiritual Care Provided (Enter here a few descriptive paragraphs about the situation, your effort, and the response to that effort. Take confidentiality precautions.)

3. Narrative Summary of What Would Be the Most Effective Spiritual Care (Enter a few descriptive paragraphs about how you would or would not do it differently if given another opportunity in this situation. Write so that another practitioner with a similar situation could benefit from your insights.)

4. Resources that you would recommend to other spiritual care givers regarding this situation (Books, journal articles, pamphlets, etc. Be as specific as possible so that others can find them.)

5. Send completed form as a Word document to mariejohn50@att.net to be edited into the Spiritual Care Knowledge Base at <http://www.acperesearch.net/IIP.html> (click on KNOWLEDGE BASE OF SAMPLES) so other practitioners can benefit from your experience in similar situations. To approve the edited version before entry into the Knowledge Base, provide your name and e-mail address below. All samples are entered anonymously.

(Enter name and e-mail address here if edit approval desired)

Educators. Join SC�PE Today!

Help students consolidate learning. Help them contribute to the free-access, anonymous national SC knowledge base. Add the material below the dotted line to your next student handbook and/or syllabus as a requirement. Confidentiality is assured.

- - - - - Cut Here and Paste into Student Handbook/Syllabus - - - - -

THE SPIRITUAL CARE SITUATION SUMMARY (SCSS)

You will consolidate your learning by selecting a verbatim previously presented to your peer group. Then, prepare Spiritual Care Situation Summary (SCSS) in light of insightful comments and suggestions made by those peers and supervisor. Use the simple five-step Ideal Intervention Form below.

Write the SCSS in such a way that you or another chaplain could make a more effective intervention with patients, families or staff with similar spiritual/pastoral needs. Do not address your learning issues. The SCSS should be prepared as a Word document suitable for forwarding as an e-mail attachment, and should include the following elements. Copy your supervisor with the forwarding cover e-mail message as evidence of your SCSS submission to the national knowledge base editor.

Spiritual Care Situation Summary Form

(For Use by All Spiritual Care Practitioners and CPE Students)

1. Statement of the Spiritual/Pastoral Care Central Issue (Be concise. Examples are *feeling lonely*, *facing terminal illness*, and *loss of faith*.)

2. Narrative Summary of the Actual Spiritual/Pastoral Care Intervention (No more than two paragraphs of narrative description. Take confidentiality precautions.)

3. Narrative Summary of the Ideal Spiritual/Pastoral Care Intervention (No more than two paragraphs of narrative description of how you would do the intervention differently if given another opportunity. Write so that another practitioner with a similar situation could benefit from your insights.)

4. Resources that you would recommend to other spiritual care givers regarding this topic (Books, journal articles, pamphlets, etc.)

5. Forward a copy of this completed form (to Knowledge Base Editor John Gleason at mariejohn50@att.net as a Microsoft Word attachment for inclusion with similar data toward validating evidence based SC best practices.) Confidentiality precautions will be taken. You will be asked to approve the edited version before entry in the SC knowledge base. Thanks for your contribution!

Please go to <http://www.acperesearch.net/IIP.html> and click on KNOWLEDGE BASE OF SAMPLES to view the free-access national SC knowledge base and for further information on the Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence (SCIFE) project.
