

**Brief Report of the Ideal Intervention Project (IIP) Workshop,
“An Outlandish Idea: Evidence-based Spiritual Care Best Practices,”
at the 2009 Spiritual Care Collaborative Conference, Orlando, FL**

by John Gleason
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The Ideal Intervention Project workshop “An Outlandish Idea: Evidence-based Spiritual Care Best Practices” took place as scheduled on February 2 during the Spiritual Care Collaborative’s Summit ’09 in Orlando, Florida with 86 participants signing in. After a PowerPoint overview of the project, Gleason and Kwong asked them to think of a care situation of their own in which they wished they had done some things differently, and then to write their own IIFs, including central issue identifier, narrative of the actual intervention, and narrative of what could be improved. A number of participants left at that point, but those who remained took the challenge. A lively discussion followed the writing period.

Questions and comments are as follows.

- How many items are needed in the knowledge base before the questionnaire design and statistics would be considered valid?
- Why not get other disciplines to collaborate?
- Why not write up what one does well as well as what one could have done better?
- This doesn’t apply to pastoral counseling. I have one client I’ve been seeing for nine months.
- ‘Best practices’ is not defined.
- What are the ethical ramifications of patient data going to a national database?
- Institutional ethics committees should be involved, even before institutional review boards are approached.
- How is diversity factored in?
- Is letting the patient decide what helps a good idea? Patients fear that giving negative evaluations could impact their care.
- We are using a knowledge-based assessment form on our treatment team. --John Olsen, Abington Hospital, Philadelphia
- We have accumulated a large number of completed forms of similar design. --Will Barnes, barneswill@bellsouth.net
- How can new ‘evidence’ be incorporated as the intervention process continues?
- How do ‘standards of practice,’ ‘evidence,’ and ‘best practices’ interrelate and interface? -- Gleason

There were several comments affirming the project, including one observation that just having a large collection of central issue identifiers would be quite valuable.

At workshop’s end five participants turned in their IIFs. Gleason will transcribe them for forwarding to the knowledge base along with his own IIF, used as an illustration. A number of other participants said they wrote only notes on their IIFs and would take them home to put into narrative form before submitting them. One participant said she had more than one situation that she would write up and submit.