

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

MINUTES OF THE SPIRITUAL ADVISORS INTEREST GROUP

Sunday, October 26, 2008 (0900-1030)

Venue: Delta Charlottetown – Valiant Room

Attending: 7 in all – Dan Cooper acting chair for Joseph Chandrakanthan

1. Dan distributed the list-serv sign up sheet.
2. Discussion arose on the topic of HPC services providing informal spiritual care (volunteers, other staff who are non-spiritual care specialists) versus the provision of formal spiritual care (trained and certified chaplains). Cases were discussed in which a volunteer/other staff member would be suitable and those for which a spiritual care specialist would be required. Making this distinction seems important for good client care and the professional development of a cadre of spiritual care professionals knowledgeable and trained in HPC.
3. The matter of the “skill set” (Knowledge, Skills and Attributes) of the HPC Spiritual Care Provider was discussed. Dan agreed to distribute by email copies of the Pallium Project (Phase II) occupational analysis chart which is helpful in identifying this skill set and that was foundational (along with the CHPCA Norms document) in developing the first Canadian Clinical Pastoral Education curricular resource for this type of training. Links to the CHPCA/Marketplace resource for this curriculum will also be provided.
4. The matter of Physician Assisted Suicide/Assisted Dying was briefly discussed. Resources for this discussion were shared – particularly “Moyers on Dying” DVD/VHS series.
5. The meeting wished to bring to the attention of the Board its observation that there were very few presentations at this conference which addressed in any direct way the matter of spiritual care. How can the Board assist the emergence of spiritual care as a more central discipline in keeping with our published Norms? Discussion arose about identifying the numbers, qualifications, remuneration, and continuing professional developments needs of spiritual care providers in HPC in Canada. Dan will take this matter to Sharon Baxter.

The meeting adjourned at 1030 hours.

Minutes submitted by Dan Cooper