

AVERA HEALTH

911 East 20th Street, Suite 102
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1043

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: Multi-Institution Center

Former name of Center and date of name change:

Name/date

Presentation Health System 1998

General location: Rural

Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1976 Full accreditation: 1981

Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 800

Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 176

Present Supervisor(s): Rev. Peter A. Holland, Rev. Steven P. Corum, Rev. Daniel N. Leininger

Previous Supervisors:

Names/dates

G.W. Ekeberg 1977-1980

Mary C. Gerrior 1984-1986

L.J. Murtagh 1980-1992

Levels of CPE offered: Introductory, Specialized, Supervisory

Extended units: Yes

Persons instrumental in establishing CPE program:

Names, title/position, agency

Larry Murtagh – CPE Supervisor

Jim Ward – Administrator (McKenna)

Sr. Colman Coakley – Chair of Presentation Health System

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Lay students: 79

Female students: 139

Minority students: 12

International students: 5

AVERA HEALTH
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT AVERA HEALTH: Fr. Larry Murtagh had been conducting CPE through the Center for Community Organization and Area Development (CENCOAD) in the middle 1970's. He says that he was having a conversation in the parking lot of the hospital with one of the administrators and started the process of getting CPE into Mckennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. The first units began in 1976. Fr. Larry also had close connections to the Presentation Sisters who sponsored Mckennan Hospital, and so he helped the two groups come together.

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: Our center evolved from a Community Organization that offered CPE. Using that model made accrediting the Presentation Sisters Order to do CPE in their health care institutions more natural. Inspired by Larry's vision that all the hospitals in the health system could be affiliated, just as he conducted CPE in many of the communities where CENCOAD had its influence, we became the first system to be accredited. Larry's authority as a priest, and the fact that many of the younger sisters from the Order that sponsored the hospital had had some CPE training, made it fairly easy sell to the Health System. Larry did not wish to become the first supervisor, as he preferred to work with CENCOAD, so Hank Ekeberg was hired. He saw the center through the candidacy phase of the accreditation process. One of the accreditation problems emerging early concerned having a hospital in Miles City, Montana, in the Pacific Region. As little CPE was conducted in Montana at that time, the Accreditation Committee agreed to let us serve the hospital in Montana, provided the units were registered with the Pacific Region. The first unit completed in Miles City took place in the summer of 1980 and was Hank's last unit before he moved to Madison. He lives in Miles City for the summer. Anxiety about stepping over the regional lines lessened and all unites were registered with the NCR. Larry also contacted The North American Baptist Seminary, which was interested in having their students introduced to CPE. One of our current CPE Supervisors, Steve Corum, when a seminary student, was in the first summer unit conducted in Sioux Falls. The seminary's early contact with the program gave it continuity with us so that now we have a supervisor on their faculty and a supervisor-in-training. Their current degree offerings in Ministry and Family Counseling require two units of CPE.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: The program has always been funded by Central Administrative Services of the Presentation Order, unless we seek to do contracted CPE outside the Health System or receive Medicare Pass-through funds. CAS is funded by contributions from all Health System member institutions.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CENTER'S CPE PROGRAM:

Geographical Distance: We travel between 75 and 200 miles to conduct extended CPE all the time. The winters can be inhospitable and care has to be taken. To accomplish the training in the wider area, Supervisors generally stay overnight each week at a specific location.

Central or System-wide Accreditation: Over the years, as our System has expanded, we have offered CPE in the various institutions. We are able to serve rural clergy in a wide four-state area. Because the Supervisors are not employed by specific institutions, the Supervisors have to stay in close contact with the Pastoral Care staffs to ensure that CPE is conducted properly. We have been fortunate that most of the staff at one time or another have graduated from our programs.

The Sisters' Vision: When the Presentation Sisters, and to some extent the Benedictines, came to Dakota territory over one hundred years ago, they had a mission to teach. When they became involved in hospital work at the turn of the century, they combined the two and CPE has become the beneficiary of a vision that integrates service to the sick with teaching. The sisters have always thought that an educated clergy serving their hospitals was important and CPE has prospered under the wings of that vision.