

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MIDWEST, INC.
231 S. Phillips Avenue, Suite 350
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6326

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: Community Organization Center

Former name of Center and date of name change:

Name/date

The Center for Community Organization and Area Development 1983
Shalom 1998

General location: Rural

Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1973 Full accreditation: 1978

Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 260

Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 38

Present Supervisor(s): Dean Meeter, Larry J. Murtagh

Previous Supervisors:

Names/dates

G.W. Ekeberg 1976-1977

Levels of CPE offered: CPE Supervisory

Extended units: 27 Pre-CPE: 33

Persons instrumental in establishing CPE program:

Names, title/position, agency

Dr. E.W. Mueller – Director of Cenoad at Augustana College

Dr. Jerry Folk – Director of Shalom Center at Augustana College

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Lay students: 5

Female students: 10

Minority students: None

International students: None

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MIDWEST, INC.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT BETHESDA CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MIDWEST, INC.: The Reformed Church of America, as a denomination, decided to found two CPE programs in the U.S. We have had a solid record going back to 1973 and have had RCA students regularly in the program. There are a number of RCA parishes also in the area. Shalom Board decided that they did not wish to sponsor any more.

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: In place in Sioux Falls are several RCA churches. The Bethesda Center had its origin in the Reformed Church and continues to respect its roots in that tradition. In this, our current home, we have found a welcoming presence.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: The principal funding source is the Reformed Church of America. One of the supervisors has a private contract with the Good Samaritan Society where he is doing research to produce a model of education for pastors and laity in rural towns. The Good Samaritan Society has many nursing homes in rural towns across the U.S. and depends on local pastors for care of the residents in their nursing homes. The Good Samaritan CPE Center provides mileage for the model program and some funds for office expenses for their CPE program in the rural setting. There are some funding sources for impoverished students that come from the central offices of the Good Samaritan Society.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CENTER'S CPE PROGRAM: This 25-year-old program took the hospital model and adapted it to the rural scene. The students call totally on “stand-up” people in leadership positions in the civic community: The mayor, a loan officer at the rural town bank, the Superintendent of schools. The model arose also out of the mission of its origins at Cenoad in the rural towns of East River, South Dakota. Cenoad was a source for these towns before the CPE Center was founded. To my knowledge, this program is still unique in the United States. It is free-standing in the sense that it is not directly related to the health system or to the authority of a hospital administration.