

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE/WAUSAU HOSPITAL

333 Pine Ridge Blvd.
Wausau, WI 54401

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: General Hospital

Former name of Center and date of name change:

Name/date

Wausau Hospital Center

Wausau Hospital

General location: City

Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1977 Full accreditation: 1982

Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 140

Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 50

Present Supervisor(s): Don Dinsmore

Previous Supervisors:

Names/dates

Phil Williams 1973-1983

Levels of CPE offered: Residency

Extended units: Yes

Persons instrumental in establishing CPE program:

Names, title/position, agency

Rev. Dale Hanson – Pastor, Zion Lutheran

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Lay students: 16

Female students: 23

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE/WAUSAU HOSPITAL **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE/WAUSAU HOSPITAL AND SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: In 1970, St. Mary's Hospital and Memorial Hospital merged to become a new corporation, Wausau Hospitals, Inc. Concurrent with that merger, a group of physicians and clergy spearheaded by Roy Larson, M.D. and Reverend Dale Hanson, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, began advocating for a clinically trained hospital chaplain to establish a Department of Pastoral Care. An ecumenical Chaplain Committee was selected and charged with the responsibility of formulating a job description, departmental objectives and screening and recommending a candidate for the position. Seed money to initially fund the position was solicited from area churches and congregations and the development of chaplaincy service became a truly ecumenical enterprise. Since the Lutherans and Roman Catholics provided the largest percentage of funds, it was decided that the first chaplain hired would be Lutheran. If a second position was added, it was to be filled by a Roman Catholic. After that, it was intended that denominational affiliation would not be a factor in hiring. The seed money was to be a demonstration of good faith, and the position was to be fully funded by the hospital after two years. Marathon County Health Care Center agreed to provide some financial support in return for chaplaincy services contracted on an hourly basis. Interestingly enough, the Chaplaincy Committee included Reverend Donald K. Dinsmore, who was then Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church, and is now the Department of Pastoral Services' second Director and Chaplain Supervisor.

The Chaplaincy Committee had the vision to recommend that Wausau Hospitals, Inc. become a Center for Clinical Pastoral Education and that an ACPE certified supervisor be hired. Thus, the Department of Pastoral Services was formed in 1971 and Reverend Philip Williams was hired. Phil agreed to pursue supervisory training and certification after receiving assurance by the Committee and the hospital of their support.

The Committee's vision became a reality in 1977 when WHC was granted "initial accreditation" status, now named "candidacy" status. Five years later (1982), WHC became fully accredited and authorized to conduct programs of Basic CPE. During the five year period, Phil Williams conducted nine units of CPE involving 46 students. Between 1975 and 1982, WHC supported Phil during his pilgrimage through supervisory training, acting supervisory status, and finally full supervisory status.

In 1983, Phil decided to leave WHC after 12 years of service. The Search Committee, in consultation with hospital Administration, recommended that the new Director be a Certified Supervisor and that WHC continue to offer a CPE program. Through a series of circumstances involving a local physician and friends, Chaplain Don Dinsmore applied for the position and was hired May 15, 1984. Chaplain Dinsmore conducted his first unit of CPE at WHC for four students during the summer of 1985. The seven year Accreditation Review and Site Visit occurred in 1989. It was, in the moment and in retrospect, a most positive and affirming learning experience for the Supervisor, Center and Professional Consultation Committee

The decade between 1989 and 1999 have been years of struggle and growth, turmoil and celebration, for Pastoral Services, CPE and Wausau Hospital. Change has been the one constant.

In 1994, the hospital instituted a major organizational change as nursing units and other service centers were grouped into "Service Lines." Pastoral Services became affiliated with Social Services, the Behavior Health Unit, and Worker Wellness. Don Dinsmore ceased to be a Department Director and was reclassified as a Chaplain Specialist. His duties and responsibilities remained essentially the same. As part of the re-engineering process, Pastoral Services was realigned with Human Resources, Education Services and Employee Health. Further, the position of Department Secretary was eliminated and secretarial and receptionist resources were obtained from a pool. That situation continued through most of 1997.

Throughout these years of change since our previous Accreditation Site Visit, CPE has continued to flourish at Wausau Hospital. From 1989 to June 1999, Don Dinsmore has conducted 17 units and provided supervision for 70 students. Our reputation grew and former students became our primary source of referral for new students.

In 1996, a number of factors converged to make what was once considered impossible, not only possible, but desirable and achievable. We began to explore a year-long Residency Program. The availability of Medicare Pass Through Dollars, and our awareness of it; the recommendation of the JCAHO site visits that chaplains be more available and involved at the "point of service" with multidisciplinary teams to develop a comprehensive plan of care and provide for discharge planning; the support and energy of the Professional Consultation Committee; and the practical administrative support of Diane Postler-Slattery, all contributed to the development and subsequent implementation of the Residency Program. We began a 12-month program with four students on July 1, 1998 and began a 9-month program on August 30, 1999. The reviews of students and staff have been quite positive.

In many ways, we have come full circle since 1989. Kathy Stella was hired as a majority time Department Secretary in the summer of 1998. Don Dinsmore was appointed Manager of Pastoral Services effective July 1, 1999.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: Hospital funds and Medicare.

