

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

4801 8th Street North
St. Cloud, MN 56303

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: Veterans Hospital

General location: City

Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1986 Full accreditation: 1990 (?)

Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 72

Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 17

Present Supervisor(s): Rev. Linda S. Campbell

Previous Supervisors:

Names/dates

Rev. Arthur J. Ree 1984-1998

Levels of CPE offered: Basic

Extended units: 1986-1988, 1991-1995

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Female students: 15

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER: CPE at this VA Medical Center began in 1979 when an arrangement was made with the School of Theology at St. John's University, Collegetown, Minnesota, to take in small groups of their theology students to do some clinical work in connection with a pastoral theology course. They were assigned to clinical care units, visited patients, did initial visits and follow-up calls, wrote verbatims, participated in group process, received feedback from peers and supervisor in the form of written evaluations, and in general functioned as though they were CPE students in an accredited program, but without accreditation. That was the start of informal CPE, with the program being supervised by Chaplain Gary E. Berg. Chaplain Berg continued to supervise this program until Chaplain Ree was hired in July 1984.

Chaplain Ree was offered the position to fill a vacancy in the chaplain service, but also in order to begin work toward an accredited CPE program at the VA Medical Center. At the time of his hiring, he was a Certified Supervisor on the Inactive List, but carried on the work with the St. John's students that Berg had begun. Meanwhile, he began work with the North Central Region Certification Committee, Chairman Rock Stack, to have his supervisory status reactivated. After submitting the required materials and documentation that he had been keeping abreast of developments in the CPE movement, he met with the Certification Committee at Madison, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1985, and was granted his request for return to Full Supervisor status.

This status then enabled him to begin work on accreditation of the VA Medical Center for Candidacy Status. The Feasibility/Self-Study was completed on December 1, 1985, and submitted to the North Central Region Accreditation Committee Chairman, Dick Sellers, and through him to the Coordinator of the Minnesota area, Dick Gerber, who then arranged for a Site Visit Team. That team consisted of Lyle Greiner, Chairman, VAMC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Russ Comnick, Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, Minnesota; Jim Tonneson, Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; and Rock Stack, Hazelden Foundation, Center City, Minnesota, and Chair of the North Central Region Certification Committee. (1990 Accreditation Review Self-Study).

A May 1986 letter from the National Accreditation Commission confirms the granting of Candidacy Status for Basic CPE by the North Central Region Accreditation Committee.

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: See above.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: The program is presently funded through the employment of an ACPE Supervisor at the St. Cloud VAMC and tuition paid by students. Tuition provides for Regional and National fees, fees for didactic speakers, and supervisor's attendance at Regional and National meetings.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CENTER'S CPE PROGRAM: The CPE program at the St. Cloud VAMC is one of 28 accredited programs at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities. It is the only accredited program in the Veterans Midwest Healthcare Integrated Service Network (VISN 13), which includes Veterans Affairs facilities in Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Fargo, Sioux Falls, and the Black Hills.