

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

800 W. Central Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-2392

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Center: General Hospital

Former name of Center and date of name change:

Name/date

Was satellite of Elmhurst Memorial Hospital 1992-1995

General location: Suburban

Original CPE affiliation: ACPE

PROGRAM HISTORY

Year of first program: 1992 Full accreditation: 1996

Number or estimate of students who have been enrolled in the program: 19

Number or estimate of total units of CPE completed: 29

Present Supervisor(s): Rev. Ellen M. Swinford

Previous Supervisors:

Names/dates

Rev. Al Merwald 1993-1999

Levels of CPE offered: Level I and Level II (Standards 2000)

Persons instrumental in establishing CPE program:

Names, title/position, agency

Rev. B. Dean Hokel – Director of Pastoral Services

Ms. Kathy Reno – Vice-President of Clinical Services and Chief Nurse Executive

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT STATICS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Lay students: 3

Female students: 12

Minority students: 2

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CPE AT NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE: Northwest Community Healthcare had its beginnings in the commitment of the northwest suburban communities of Chicago, which recognized their need for a hospital and healthcare services in the 1950's and worked to establish a hospital to meet their needs. Northwest Community Hospital, a not-for-profit, non-affiliated hospital, opened its door to serve the needs of the communities that had created it on December 2, 1959. In 1995, Central Healthcare Services, the parent corporation of Northwest Community Hospital, changed its name to Northwest Community Healthcare to reflect the scope of service that is now provided at a variety of treatment centers, of which Northwest Community Hospital is the flagship and site of ACPE accredited Clinical Pastoral Education programs.

The religious community of the northwest suburbs was a significant part of the effort to bring about the establishment of Northwest Community Hospital. Thanks to this community's on-going commitment to establishing a full range of services, the Department of Pastoral Services was created within the hospital in 1975. During the first 17 years of its existence, the Department established methods and structures for providing basic pastoral services for those who desired it. As the services of the chaplains, clergy volunteers and Catholics became more integrated into the overall services of the hospital, the demand increased. In 1991, the Rev. Dean Hokel became Director of Pastoral Services. One of his goals was to address quality of service and the development of pastoral services as a discipline. Thus, he established a contractual, paid on-call program to replace the work of volunteers. He also spearheaded a drive to develop a Clinical Pastoral Education program, with the full support and interest of hospital Administration, particularly on the part of Ms. Kathy Reno, Vice-President of Clinical Services and Chief Nurse Executive. In the institution's feasibility study and summary document, presented to the Accreditation Commission of the ACPE, the Professional Consultation Committee of Northwest Community Healthcare stated, "Preeminent partnering for clinical service, training and development, and community involvement, are the very core of who we are as an institution, and CPE is an additional expression of this continuing drive toward excellence in healthcare delivery."

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN IT'S DEVELOPMENT: Northwest Community Healthcare began its history as a CPE center in 1992, when it became a satellite center to Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, under the supervision of Rev. Al Merwald. In 1992 and 1993, Northwest Community Healthcare was the site of two extended units and two summer intensive units. In 1993 and 1994, Northwest Community Healthcare developed and offered year-long CPE residencies. In 1994, Northwest Community Healthcare committed to becoming an ACPE accredited center in its own right – a goal it achieved in 1995. The Rev. Al Merwald continued to provide supervisory services to both the Elmhurst and Northwest Community CPE centers as a part-time employee of each institution until 1999. At that time, Northwest Community Healthcare expanded the CPE supervisory position to full-time and Rev. Ellen M. Swinford was hired.

PROGRAM FUNDING – PRESENT, PAST, SOURCES: Our CPE faculty salaries and student stipends are funded through the Department salary budget. Student tuition covers the costs of the program resources such as books and supplies.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CENTER’S CPE PROGRAM: Our CPE program is unique in that the Institution is a not-for-profit and not religiously affiliated. Northwest Community Healthcare continues to have a strong community connection arising out of its genesis. Our CPE program is also unique in that the student group largely comprises the chaplaincy staff of the Institution. Aside from the full-time Department head and the full-time Supervisor, there is no regular daily chaplaincy presence other than the student group. Students thus have significant responsibility and are quickly recognized as professional resources for pastoral care by the hospital staff. Each student has the opportunity, through this level of professional responsibility and freedom, to forge her or his pastoral identity and practice in an interdisciplinary context.