

Elder Care Ministries Chaplaincy Job Description

The Elder Care Ministries Chaplaincy Program is an organized ministry to long-term care facilities providing professional spiritual care to residents, families and staff. The program is based on the holistic health model of care and is tied into the culture change movement in long-term care. Qualified chaplains have training and experience in meeting the spiritual needs of elders, as well as a familiarity with long-term care facilities. ECM chaplains also have an affinity and respect for elders including an appreciation for their experience, life stories and wisdom. A minimum of two units of clinical pastoral education is required.

Skills and strengths needed for this position include

- a pastoral presence and sensitivity, providing spiritual care to the residents, staff and families of the facility
- an interfaith perspective on spirituality and religious practice
- the ability to work cooperatively with staff toward holistic care in the clinical setting
- excellent communication skills
- professionalism including a sense of pastoral identity as well as the ability to clarify and articulate the role of chaplaincy in long term care

The chaplain's responsibilities may include:

- providing regular visitation and pastoral care for residents
- coordinating weekly worship services for all residents
- scheduling and providing memorial services
- being a spiritual resource and support to residents and staff
- making referrals for families to appropriate support systems in times of need
- developing appropriate rituals and support services to all members of the facility at time of death
- providing continuity of care through hospital visitation
- coordinating opportunities for residents to express their spirituality and religious beliefs
- providing educational in-services to staff relating to spirituality & spiritual needs
- identifying and coordinating community resources, including volunteers, to enhance resident care and quality of life

Specific duties, goals and outcomes are discussed and determined cooperatively with the facility's administration, the chaplain and the Director of Elder Care Ministries with evaluations of the program scheduled on a regular basis. Communication between the administration and the chaplain is a priority and is facilitated as needed by the Director of Elder Care Ministries. Chaplains provide service to the facility 20 hours per week for 50 weeks of the year with 2 weeks paid vacation.

Elder Care Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
(401)294-6218, ext. 102
PO Box 330, Exeter, RI 02822