

Community Health Services Provision: Best Practices

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Community Health Services

What services can be provided by community organizations?

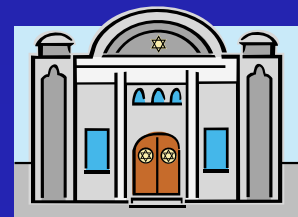
- ✓ Free or low-cost clinics
 - Often managed by faith-based organizations
 - Often staffed primarily by volunteers
- ✓ Faith Community Nursing programs
- ✓ Help in coordinating care and accessing programs (e.g. Rx assistance programs).



Faith Community Nursing

History

- Late 1970s: U.S. movement began.
- Developed out of a long Judeo-Christian tradition of caring for the sick.
- 1989: American Nurses Association and the Health Ministries Association published *Scope and Standards of Parish Nursing Practice*.
- 2005: The guide was revised and renamed *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*.



Faith Community Nursing

Definition

- The “intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness”¹

Principles¹

- Effective healthcare requires more than medical treatment of disease or illness.
- Promotion of health and healing are part of the mission and service of a faith community to its members.
- Wellness and wholeness can only fully be achieved when we acknowledge the close connection between body, mind and spirit.

¹American Nurses Association (2005). *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*. ANA: Silver Springs, MD

Faith Community Nursing

Requirements

- Spiritual commitment and participation in community
- RN (active license)
- Completion of recognized 'basic preparation' PN/FCN course
- Certification process being developed

Logistics

- Paid status vs. volunteer status
- FCNs are often retired.
- Coordination with clergy and pastoral care personnel
- FCNs may be part of "health ministry" team (e.g. social workers, health educators, physicians, clergy).

Faith Community Nursing

Sample Activities/Programs

- Mobile medical clinics
- Blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, BMI checks
- Asthma and diabetes management assistance
- Neonatal checks and support
- Health education
- Support for the ill and their families
- Grief counseling & domestic violence intervention
- Health fairs
- Advocating for health care policy changes
- Planning for emergencies (e.g. wide-scale nursing during an influenza pandemic)



Faith Community Nursing

Selected Resources

American Nurses Association (2005). *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*. ANA: Silver Springs, MD

Health Ministry Association <http://www.hmassoc.org/>

Interfaith Health and Wellness Association (IHWA) (*curriculum, needs assessment, networking and mentoring*: <http://www.ihwassoc.org>)

June 1-5, 2009: Faith Community Nurse Basic Preparation Curriculum Retreat

International Parish Nurse Resource Center (*toolbox on creating a FCN program, best practices library*: <http://www.parishnurses.org/>)

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) Gerontology Center and the Retirement Research Foundation (*on-line trainings*: <http://www.hmassoc.org/index.asp?mid=64&mid2=159>)

White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (*being revamped by President Obama*)



Prescription Assistance Programs

- Staff member assists patient to fill out paperwork
- Coordinates documentation from provider
- Staff, patient and provider work with pharma company and pharmacy to dispense prescription at no charge.
- Can be further explored to increase access

