

Eastern Health Authority Regional Strategic Directive: To Provide Excellent Pastoral Care Services in Health

Pastoral Care in Eastern Health Authority has an excellent working relationship the administration, staff, social workers, nurses, doctors, and all health care professionals. The chaplains, clergy, and other Pastoral Care workers are indeed part of the interdisciplinary approach and there is an open line in communication among the disciplines. Among the Pastoral Care Workers there is camaraderie and good teamwork.

Regional Goals to provide excellent Pastoral Care:

1. The coordination of a seamless Pastoral Care that flows consistently and easily back and forth between the hospital institution, long-term care, and health and community services, and the community.
 - Integrate Pastoral Care within the entire system of the Eastern Health Authority
 - Develop an After Care Program
 - In order to provide Excellent Pastoral Care in the hospital institution, in health and community services, and long term care sites, a follow up procedure for Pastoral Care needs to be created for when there is a transfer from the institution to long term care or health and community services.
 - Develop a community-based program that makes connections with Pastoral Care and health care community based workers.
2. Provide training and professional development for Pastoral Care Workers in the following:
 - Addictions training
 - Mental Health Issues
 - Emergency response and Crisis response
 - Palliative Care
 - Clinical Pastoral Education
 - Workload Measurement
 - Providing Pastoral Care to Health Care Staff
3. Develop a collaborative structure among Pastoral Care Committees/Workers and senior management in the Eastern Health Authority to ensure that all voices are heard as changes in the system take place.
4. Create a referral process between Pastoral Care workers in long-term care, hospital institution, and health and community services and members of the interdisciplinary team.
 - Identify the excellence in pastoral care that already exists.
 - Create a process so that when a Pastoral Care Worker needs information, advice, or training they can access it.

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- Ensure that referrals can be made between Pastoral Care and all other departments.
5. The presence of a chaplain at hospital sites brings forth all the possibilities for Pastoral Care and is effective. A goal would be to evaluate the possibility of a full time or a part time chaplain at hospital sites outside of the St. John's region and within Eastern Health Authority.