

Western Health Authority Regional Directive:

To Provide Excellent Pastoral Care Services in Health

Pastoral Care in Western Health Authority has the strength of committed clergy across the region representing different denominations along with committed lay people. The Administration of Western has a history of traditionally valuing Pastoral Care. The accreditation process that Western has gone through has increased that commitment to value and support Pastoral Care. Most sites have designated chapels, sacred spaces, Pastoral Care offices, good infrastructure, and good working relationships with health care staff.

Regional Goals to provide excellent Pastoral Care:

- Create a Regional Pastoral Care Advisory Committee
 - The Committee membership would include the Pastoral Care chairpersons of all sites in Western as well as management representation from all the sites and health and community services representation.
 - Ensure that Pastoral Care Committees participate in regional pastoral care events in the future.
 - The committee will coordinate training events; create new programs, tackle issues, education, standards, certification and procedures that would apply across the region.
 - Training and educational events will be conducted in a central regional training centre or conducted at all sites to include:
 - Orientation for new clergy- facility and procedures
 - Patient approach to care
 - Lay Pastoral Visitor training
 - Upgrading of skills for clergy
 - Refresher courses on 'How to give Pastoral Care'
 - Communication skills
 - Confidentiality
 - Procedures for discharge planning
 - How and when to give advice
 - Spiritual support verses spiritual counselling
 - Ethical Issues
 - How to do a spiritual assessment
 - Charting and documentation in the progress report
 - Workload Measurements
- Develop an After Care/Follow-up Program
 - In order to provide Excellent Pastoral Care in the health and community services, in the institution and long term care sites ensure there is a follow up procedure when there is a transfer from the institution to long term care or health and community services.

Pastoral Care Allied Health Group

- A goal is to have Pastoral Care Chairpersons at Long Term Care Sites alerted to admissions, deaths and transfers.
- Create an aftercare program for mental health clients and addictions clients
- A full time Regional Coordinator of Pastoral Care
 - Develop and oversee the after care program
 - Provide training and coordinate regional Pastoral Care Events
 - Create a Regional Pastoral Care Committee
 - Improve communication between local pastoral care committee
 - Make referrals for Pastoral Care and grief work,
 - Train Pastoral Care workers so that at each site Pastoral Care workers can respond to emergency situations.
 - Ensure Pastoral Care is represented on Ethics Committees and Organ Procurement Committees.
 - Coordinate Information and set standards for Pastoral Care Committees and workers.
 - Give oversight and support for the implementation of workload measurements.
 - Aid in defining Spiritual/ Pastoral care for health care professionals
 - Communicate Provincial Pastoral Care Allied Health Group events and conferences and ensure that Western has Pastoral Care Allied Health Group Regional Representatives.
- Raising the profile and awareness of Pastoral Care in Western Health Authority
 - Senior administrative support for Pastoral Care is vital
 - Building an interdisciplinary team with Pastoral Care, staff, nurses, social workers, doctors, Health and Community services staff, administration, and all health care professions.
 - Involving Pastoral Care at the sites in interdisciplinary teams.
 - Defining and communicating the importance of a holistic approach to health care. Physical, emotional, psychosocial, relational, and spiritual
 - Defining and communicating Pastoral Care for Health Care Professionals
 - Develop an excellent partnership between Pastoral Care and Health Care Professionals