The Daddy of 'em all

Sunday, May 22, 2011
CHAPLAIN CODE OF ETHICS

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OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this workshop participants will:

- Understand the need for a professional code of ethics.
- Have a knowledge of the Ethical Standards required of chaplains.
- Have a basic understanding of the procedures for filing and answering complaints regarding chaplains and ethics.
WHY DO OTHER PROFESSIONS HAVE ETHICAL

- To define accepted / acceptable behaviors
- To promote high standards of practice
- To provide a benchmark for members to use for self evaluation
- To establish a framework for professional behavior and responsibilities
- As a vehicle for occupational identity
- As a mark of occupational maturity
WHY DO CHAPLAINS NEED A CODE OF ETHICS?

- Clergy, Religious, Dedicated Laity
- Complaints Filed
- Mark of a Profession
MARK OF A PROFESSIONAL

- The Code of Ethics for Spiritual Care Professionals:
  - gives expression to the basic values and standards of the profession;
  - guides decision-making and professional behavior;
  - provides a mechanism for professional accountability
  - informs the public as to what they should expect from Spiritual Care Professionals.
WHAT ARE THE BASIC VALUES AND STANDARDS OF OUR PROFESSION?

- One of our values is to be grounded in our community of faith.
- One of the values is to remain proficient in our profession.
- One of our values is to promote ethical and moral values by following the ERDs.
- Another value is to respect the primacy of conscience in ourselves and in those we serve.
OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OURSELVES

- Chaplains are called to care for themselves
  - Mind
  - Spirit
  - Body
- We are responsible for both our personal and our professional conduct.
- We should respect all living beings and the environment.
RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Genesis 1:27 “God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.”
- Respect for individuals
- Respect for all faith groups
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Advocates for the profession
- Respects other professionals
- Works to eliminate discrimination
WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

- Counselees
- Patients
- Families of patients
- CPE students
- Staff
HOW DO WE MINISTER?

- With respect for the individual.
- Promoting the best interest of the client.
- Setting aside our personal convictions to support the client.
- Understanding the imbalance of power in the relationship.
- Maintaining a professional relationship.
- Being aware of conflicts of interest or their appearance.
- Avoiding sexual misconduct or the appearance of misconduct.
CONFIDENTIALITY

- Seal of the confessional.
- Clergy confidentiality.
- HIPAA confidentiality.
Abide by the professional practice and/or teaching standards or the state/province, the community, and the institution in which they are employed.

If not free to practice or teach according to conscience, notify the employer, the professional organization, and faith group as appropriate.

Only claim actual professional qualifications.
WHAT IF SOMEONE DOESN’T ADHERE?

- Procedures for filing a complaint.
- How a complaint is handled at NACC.
- Possible consequences if complaint is validated.
WHAT ABOUT THE RENEWAL CERTIFICATE?

- If you cannot sign.
- If you aren’t sure you should sign.
CO-WORKER CLAIMED DISCRIMINATION

- Complaint filed with employer and found groundless
- Complaint filed with state and found groundless
- Complaint filed with federal government and found groundless
- We dismissed the complaint
MEMBER CLAIMED BCC

- Employer would pay membership fee if he was certified.
- Membership cancelled
- Diocese notified of ethics complaint
- Letter to member
MEMBER PROVIDED FALSE DOCUMENTATION FOR CERTIFICATION

- Member included documentation of endorsement from religious superior with application
- National office sent thank you note to religious superior
- Religious superior called national office, sent emails to national office, sent signed letter to national office all stating NACC member not a member of the order
- Certification committee meeting cancelled pending resolution.
- cont.
Chair of Certification Commission Filed complaint

Team reviewed and determined to conduct an inquiry

Letters sent

Replies received

Team consultation by phone

Decision made
Member will be notified of actions to be taken pending appeal.

Chair of Ethics Commission, Chair of Certification Commission and Executive Director will determine who should be notified of our final decision.

Possible notifications
- Religious order, Episcopal liaison, Local diocese
- Case is now pending
WHAT HAVE WE COVERED?

You should now:

- Understand the need for a professional code of ethics.
- Have a knowledge of the Ethical Standards required of chaplains.
- Have a basic understanding of the procedures for filing and answering complaints regarding chaplains and ethics.
QUESTIONS

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WANT TO JOIN THE ETHICS COMMISSION?

Give me your card
Contact Cindy at the association offices
email Pat.Bradley@crmcwy.org
Put Ethics Commission in the subject
THANK YOU

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