

WORKING DOCUMENT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – MANITOBA SPIRITUAL HEALTH

VISION STATEMENT

Spiritual health and well-being for all Manitobans

PURPOSE/MISSION

To advance and to implement spiritual health care as an integral component of holistic health care in Manitoba

GOAL 1: PROMOTION

Spiritual health care is promoted as a vital health care service.

Promoting a bio-psycho-social-spiritual understanding of health ensures that body, mind, relationships and spirit are given equal priority in health care practice and planning.

Objective:

Opportunities to promote the awareness, understanding and practice of spiritual health care are developed.

Actions:

- Enhance the role of the Provincial Spiritual Care Advisory Committee as a religiously, culturally and philosophically-diverse spiritual group that provides leadership in recommending the future direction of spiritual health care.
- Continue to strengthen and support the Provincial Spiritual Health Care Management Network as a means to co-ordinate, promote, educate and exchange knowledge of spiritual health care.
- Work collaboratively with institutional and community-based partners enhancing the integration of spiritual health care into the matrix of their services.
- Promote the inclusion of a spiritual health care perspective at workshops, conferences and within provincial and regional health publications.
- Develop resources for the public that demonstrate the connection between physical health, lifestyle, mental health, culture and spiritual health (ex: diet, exercise, social activity, coping strategies, spiritual practices, religious affiliations).

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Spiritual health is recognized as an essential component of healthy living and wellness.
- Spiritual health, along with the other aspects of health, is understood as an aspect of overall health and not solely identified with aging, dying and death.
- Spiritual health care practitioners are considered as essential staff within health care facilities.
- Religious organizations and faith-based institutions are supported to address the spiritual health care needs within a community context.
- Spiritual health care providers and religious organizations strengthen understanding and collaboration in order to focus on healing and recovery.

GOAL 2: EDUCATION

Knowledge and understanding of spirituality is a core component of health care education.

A basic understanding of spirituality in relation to health is essential for health care practice. Spiritual health care knowledge, content and practice excellence are essential components of health care education.

Objective:

Spiritual health care knowledge is included in source documents, health care curriculums, continuing education programs, workshop planning and learning objective plans.

Actions:

- Identify and work with partners to develop comprehensive inter-professional resources on the core concepts and role of spiritual health care throughout an individual's lifespan.
- Promote spiritual health care knowledge as part of the health care curriculum, both at preparatory levels and in ongoing educational programs.
- Through research study and narrative evaluation, continue to strengthen the evidence base for spiritual health care.
- Develop a communication strategy targeting health care providers that affirms spiritual health care as a complementary discipline to medicine.
- Through research and consultation, explore connections between spiritual and cultural diversity as components of health.
- Use social media as a means to raise awareness and transfer knowledge about spiritual health care.
- Encourage the use of the *Core Competencies for Spiritual Health Care Practitioners* as a tool for recruiting and evaluating spiritual health care practitioners.
- Enhance education on the purpose of *The Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA).

Anticipated Outcomes:

- A shared health care language that includes spiritual terms and concepts is developed and used.
- Health service delivery and structural levels have an increased ability to articulate and understand spiritual health.
- Spiritual health care information based on leading practice is included within the curriculum for health care providers.
- Canadian scientific and narrative-based research in the area of spiritual health care is increased and integrated into educational program development.
- The awareness of the interconnection of spirituality, spiritual expression and culture is enhanced.

GOAL 3: INTEGRATION

Spiritual health care is foundational to Manitoba's health care system.

The ongoing awareness of spirituality and its manifestation in spiritual health care – with its focus on healing – can form the foundation for structural change. An understanding of spiritual health then becomes an integrated part of the general assessment and direction of health care planning.

Objective:

Spiritual health care consciously connects the science of medicine and the wisdom of healing, enabling an integrated understanding of holistic health care.

Actions:

- Encourage the inclusion and application of spiritual health care perspectives at every level of health care planning and practice. This includes appreciating diverse spiritual and religious practices, sexual orientations, cultural sensitivity and gender awareness.
- Build on prior government commitments, existing health care models, strategies and plans to establish an integrated health care system that promotes the availability of spiritual health care services and support.
- Encourage the development of regional spiritual health care strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of their use in the provision of comprehensive care.
- Strengthen and support the RHA spiritual advisory committees to engage community members in a dialogue about spiritual perspectives of health, healing and hope.
- Develop guidelines regarding the use of safe, appropriate and effective spiritual health assessment tools.
- Explore the connections and roles of spiritual health care, mental health care, palliative care, ethics and social work and other disciplines. Use the information to design strategies that have a shared understanding of assessment, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.
- Adequately train and monitor volunteers to assist and support spiritual health care provision in a consistent organized fashion.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Evidence that leading practice-based spiritual health care is included and applied in all realms of health care is demonstrated.
- Awareness of the distinct spiritual health care needs of urban, rural and remote communities and consistent provision of spiritual health care throughout Manitoba is demonstrated.
- A culture of respect and dialogue among diverse spiritual practices and traditions within the health care system is enhanced.
- Increase of spiritual health care services that honour the relationships, traditions, beliefs, values and resources that engender hope.

GOAL 4: ACCESS

Access to spiritual health care is enhanced throughout Manitoba's health care system.

Access to spiritual health care must be included within a person-centered, recovery-focused healing plan.

Objective:

Comprehensive spiritual health care is available to individuals receiving health care services.

Actions:

- Conduct a provincial spiritual health care service inventory.
- Strengthen spiritual health care with a focus on rural, northern and remote spiritual health care provision.
- Include spiritual health care in active treatment assessments and discharge planning.
- Identify opportunities for strengthening the spiritual health care delivery system through collaboration with institutional and community organizations.
- Strengthen spiritual health care access across transition points (ex: hospital to home; hospital to personal care home).
- Ensure PHIA information is easily accessed and understood by family members, community representatives and spiritual supports to enhance access to spiritual health care when needed.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Spiritual health care service needs are identified through the inventory of spiritual health care services in Manitoba.
- Access to quality spiritual health care is available in urban, rural and remote communities.
- Individuals and their families achieve well-being through their identification of and access to spiritual health care resources.
- Family members, community and spiritual supports will have access to clear information that explains PHIA and its intention in protecting patients and their rights.