Spiritual Care Organizations Release Evidence-Based White Paper For Collaboration Between Social Workers and Chaplains

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network and the Spiritual Care Association have released a white paper on the integration of spiritual care in the medical field for the role of a social worker. The paper notes that strong partnerships between social workers and chaplains are critical to the mutual goal to serve and meet the spiritual needs of patients and families.

NEW YORK (PRWEB) June 14, 2018 -- HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) and its affiliate, the Spiritual Care Association (SCA) have released their newest white paper on the integration of spiritual care for the role of a social worker in the medical field entitled “Spiritual Care and Social Work: Integration into Practice.”

The white paper – an evidence-based literature review – provides social workers guidance in better understanding the importance of spirituality, how to integrate appropriate spiritual care into their clinical practice, and ways in which to work collaboratively with board certified chaplains. It seeks to offer a starting place for continued interprofessional dialogue around spirituality and spiritual care.

“The white paper itself is of significant value to healthcare. First it supports the role of social workers as spiritual care generalists with chaplains being the specialists in this field. It is also an invitation of all interdisciplinary team members, including social workers, to participate in the identification of and care of individuals with spiritual distress,” said Rev. Eric J. Hall, President and CEO of HCCN and SCA. “All healthcare professionals can contribute to the culture of spiritual care provided by their health care facility.”

Among the topics explored in this groundbreaking paper are: interprofessional collaboration; role overlap and role differentiation; social workers as spiritual care generalists; understanding spiritual distress; spiritual care interventions and therapeutic qualities, ethical guidelines in spiritual care; and opportunities for collaboration between social workers and professional chaplains.

The paper notes that strong partnerships between social workers and chaplains are critical to the mutual goal to serve and meet the spiritual needs of patients and families.

This white paper is the fourth produced by HCCN and SCA in an ongoing effort to introduce the value of spiritual care in a health care setting. The inaugural document, “SPIRITUAL CARE: What It Means, Why It Matters in Health Care” was released in October 2016. This was followed by Spiritual Care and Nursing: A Nurse’s Contribution and Practice in March 2017 and "Spiritual Care and Physicians: Understanding Spirituality in Medical Practice" in September 2017. View all white papers online: www.healthcarechaplaincy.org/white-papers.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™, based in New York, is a global healthcare nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals other health care settings and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning – whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more
information, visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org or call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on Twitter and Facebook.

About Spiritual Care Association

HCCN’s affiliate, the Spiritual Care Association, is the first multidisciplinary, international professional membership association for providers of spiritual care in health care that establishes evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, knowledge base, and testing to become a Board Certified or Credentialed Chaplain. Membership is open to chaplains and other health care professionals, clergy and organizations. For more information, visit www.spiritualcareassociation.org or call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on Twitter and Facebook.

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