



SPIRITUAL
CARE

ASSOCIATION

MAKING SPIRITUAL CARE A **PRIORITY**

Introducing the **Spiritual Care Association**



HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) has been an organization in the spiritual care and chaplaincy field since 1961. Throughout our history, we have been committed to excellence in spiritual care through our direct clinical care, our clinical pastoral education (CPE) and continuing education programs, and our extensive research and consensus statements. We have been an ongoing financial and resource provider to other organizations over the years, enabling them to carry out myriad projects. There is no doubt HCCN is a part of the fabric of spiritual care in America.

My arrival as HCCN's chief executive officer in 2013 brought me face to face with many like you. The staff at HCCN educated me on our history. Thought leaders, chaplains, and other health care professionals challenged me to better integrate spiritual care into health care, to address the gaps, and to look to the future. HCCN's dedicated board sought action to contribute significantly to the field.

That's why the Spiritual Care Association (SCA), an affiliate of HCCN, has been born. SCA, with its vast resources and services, is the product of years of research and discussion. It is the culmination of HCCN's experience, and the thought and insights of respected leaders as well as the daily providers and interested parties in spiritual care and chaplaincy. It engages chaplains and other health care professionals from multiple disciplines, community clergy and religious leaders, and organizations and institutions in common purpose. It looks at the real needs of providers, patients and their families, and the important role of chaplaincy. It standardizes a fragmented profession, and makes education and preparedness a fundamental necessity. And it commits to raising a loud voice for the spiritual care agenda by providing the opportunity in the U.S. and across the globe to speak up and lead to change and transformation.

A passionate vision, isn't it? Some may say it is impossible. Others may say we have never done it like this before, and so may deride the prospect. Still others may express concern, fearing that which is new. But what about *you*? What do you think? Isn't it time for spiritual care to be better accepted, respected and valued? Isn't it time to ensure that the whole person – body, mind *and* spirit – is cared for? Isn't it time to do everything we can to reduce the pain and suffering of those we serve? Isn't it time for more to be done, for more support and better guidance to be provided? This is an opportunity to get involved, an opportunity to make a difference. No, it's not just a passionate vision: it is the vision of our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "H".

Rev. Eric J. Hall
President & CEO
Spiritual Care Association



The Spiritual Care Association (SCA) is the first multidisciplinary, international professional membership association for spiritual care providers that establishes evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, and a knowledge base for spiritual care in health care.

As health care providers emphasize the delivery of positive patient experience, SCA is leading the way to educate, certify, credential and advocate so that more people in need, regardless of religion, beliefs or cultural identification, receive effective spiritual care in all types of institutional and community settings in the U.S. and internationally. SCA is committed to serving its multidisciplinary membership and growing the chaplaincy profession.

The nonprofit SCA is an affiliate of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ (HCCN), a health care nonprofit organization founded in 1961 that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online.

As a lead-up to the establishment of SCA and to transform the field, HCCN released in 2016 evidence-based quality indicators and evidence-based scope of practice.

WHAT SCA OFFERS MEMBERS:

- **Engages and unites multiple interest groups so more people in need receive effective spiritual care**
- **Opens access to new evidence-based knowledge base: Online Learning Center**
- **Offers new paths for chaplaincy credentialing, board certification, and clinical pastoral education**
- **Provides valuable resources to contribute significantly to career development**
- **Creates a powerful voice for spiritual care**

Spiritual Care Association Membership

“ When we touch on the essence of humanity at our core – the very spirit that accompanies the body in each care encounter, we reveal boundless opportunities to positively impact the overall health of each individual and the communities we serve. ”

— Jason A. Wolf, Ph.D.,
President, The Beryl Institute

Source: “The Critical Role of Spirituality in Patient Experience,” The Beryl Institute and HealthCare Chaplaincy Network, 2015

Spiritual Care Association membership is open to:

All individuals and organizations committed to the delivery of optimal spiritual care, as a vital component of whole person care and the overall patient experience. We offer three categories of membership:

- Health Care Professionals, including but not limited to:
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Social Workers
 - Chaplains
 - Patient Advocates
 - Administrators
 - Volunteers
- Community Clergy and Religious Leaders
- Organizations and Institutions



SCA Addresses Crucial Needs Raised by Thought Leaders

› The Demand for Outcomes

- “Health care in industrialized countries is increasingly focused on outcomes (Department of Health, 2013)...Whereas chaplains have generally been exempt from this economic focus, increasingly the value of chaplaincy care is being evaluated on these criteria.”

Source: George F. Handzo, Mark Cobb, Cheryl Holmes, Ewan Kelly & Shane Sinclair (2014) Outcomes for Professional Health Care Chaplaincy: An International Call to Action, *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy*, 20:2, 43-53, DOI: 10.1080/08854726.2014.902713

› The Demand for New Methods for Professional Education and Certification

- “Greater engagement with chaplaincy certification competencies is one of several approaches to improvements in chaplaincy education that should be considered to ensure that chaplains have the training needed to function effectively in a complex and changing healthcare environment...”

Source: George Fitchett, Alexander Tartaglia, Kevin Massey, Beth Jackson-Jordon & Paul E. Derrickson (2015) Education for Professional Chaplains: Should Certification Competencies Shape Curriculum?, *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy*, 21:4, 151-164, DOI: 10.1080/08854726.2015.1075343

› The Demand for a New Professional Spiritual Care Membership Organization

- “The current system in professional chaplaincy is not sustainable, and we must develop and embrace a different mode...Without an empirical base that validates the outcomes of their professional work, chaplaincy as a profession will remain on the margin of health care, and not be able to justify further investment of limited health care dollars to support its professional endeavors...Chaplaincy still lacks an organized, strong, unified, proactive and representative national voice.”

Source: The Rev. Walter J. Smith, S.J., Ph.D., from his 2012 COMISS Network (The Network on Ministry in Specialized Settings) Forum Address upon receipt of the COMISS Medal, its highest recognition. At that time Father Smith was HCC President and CEO, a position he held from 1991 to 2013.

For Health Care Professionals

SCA is a Vital Resource

- While professional chaplains are the spiritual care specialists on the interdisciplinary health care team, there is growing recognition that delivery of spiritual care requires the **participation of all members of the team.**

- “**In the medical field we’ve got to teach people from all types of disciplines** how to listen and engage people comfortably and care for them spiritually and emotionally.”

Source: Malcolm Marler, D.Min., BCC, Director of Pastoral Care, UAB Medicine in “The Critical Role of Spirituality in Patient Experience,” *The Beryl Institute and HealthCare Chaplaincy Network*, 2015

- SCA delivers **for health care professionals a unique and comprehensive combination of benefits:** evidence-based education in the Online Learning Center, Spiritual Care Grand Rounds webinars, the online resource and community of The Chaplain Connection, publications and updates, and more.

For Community Clergy and Religious Leaders

SCA is a Vital Resource

Community clergy and religious leaders are often unprepared to provide spiritual care to individuals with chronic disease and/or nearing the end of life because this training is largely missing from seminary education.

There are more than 350,000 spiritual leaders and community clergy in the U.S. The time is now to enlist their full participation in providing spiritual care.

RESEARCH EVIDENCE:

From Clergy

- Although **94 percent** of clergy report making visits to people at the end of life, only **60 percent** are very comfortable making these visits.
(Source: "Questions and Answers about Americans' Religion," Gallup 2007)
- **Two out of three** clergy indicate a desire to receive and provide education to tend to the seriously ill or dying.
(Source: Duke Institute on Care at the End-of-Life survey, 2007)

From Patients They Serve

- **83 percent** of survey respondents indicated that their faith would be most important to them in facing long-term illness and end of life.
(Source: Faith & Health Care, Transforming Lives and Communities through Health and Wellness—One Person at a Time, Henry Ford Health System, 2012)
- **Almost 70** percent of patients felt their spiritual leaders were not prepared at all or very little to help them face the practical issues surrounding death.
(Source: Ibid)
- **42 percent** of those facing life terminating illness report little or no support of spiritual needs from their religious community.
(Source: Balboni TA 2007, 25.555ff).

For Organizations and Institutions

SCA is a Vital Resource

- Complements or supports **your mission and objectives**
- Gives you **access to high-value resources and benefits**, including:
 - \$200 discount on each online professional education courses – applicable to all W-2 employees (\$295 fee per course for members vs. \$495 for non-members)
 - No charge for one exhibit booth at the annual Caring for the Human Spirit® Conference (\$500-\$750 value)
- Offers **communications opportunities about your programs** to SCA's diverse membership
- Provides a venue to become part of the grassroots, national and global, **multidisciplinary advocacy effort** to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care

“Alliances are bound to become an increasingly important organizational strategy for nonprofits. The potential for inter-institutional cooperation to create joint gains and greater social value is enormous.”

Source: James Austin, "Strategic Alliances," Stanford Social Innovation Review (Summer 2003)



Types of Membership



Health Care Professionals:

Low \$95 annual membership fee offers an annual value of more than \$500



Community Clergy and Religious Leaders:

Low \$50 annual membership fee offers an annual value of more than \$280



Organizations and Institutions:

Low \$500 annual membership fee offers an annual value that can be unlimited with the discounted member pricing on online professional education courses for all W-2 employees

Benefits

Benefits	Health Care Professionals	Community Clergy and Religious Leaders	Organizations and Institutions
The Chaplain Connection – Online Resource Center & Community	●		
\$200 Discount for Each Online Professional Education Course	●	●	●
Free Spiritual Care Grand Rounds Webinars	3	2	
Discounted Registration for Annual Caring for the Human Spirit® Conference	●		
One Exhibit Booth at the Annual Caring for the Human Spirit® Conference			●
Electronic Subscription to Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy	●		
Subscription to Caring for the Human Spirit® Magazine	●	●	●
Monthly Spiritual Care Updates	●	●	●
Membership Directory	●	●	●
Networking Opportunities	●	●	●
Online Membership Dashboard	●	●	●

Gain a Powerful Voice for **ADVOCACY**

The Spiritual Care Association is leading the grassroots, national and global, multidisciplinary advocacy effort that:

- › **Is uniting the voices of individual and organizational members** to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care so that more people receive the help they need
- › **Empowers** chaplains
- › Gives chaplains a **seat “at the table”** when major decisions are made about policy and reimbursement for inpatient, outpatient and home care
- › **Thanks Chaplains** and other involved members of the interdisciplinary health care team for their extraordinary work by creating and publicizing the new annual Spiritual Care Day (May 10).



Grow With the Online Learning Center for Professional Continuing Education

- The curriculum is based on new, standardized evidence-based scope of practice and evidence-based quality indicators developed by two interdisciplinary panels of experts, convened by HCCN, from the fields of chaplaincy, medicine, nursing, psychotherapy, palliative care, social work, research and policy in the U.S. and overseas.
- The center uses a state-of-the-art learning management system.
- Each course was written by a subject matter expert.
- You can take each course at your own pace.
- Earn a certificate of completion and continuing education hours for each course completed.
- Individual course price for SCA members is \$295 and \$495 for non-members.

Partial Course List

› WHAT WE HEAR AND SAY: SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

Brent Peery, BCC, Chaplain Director, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System

Spiritual assessment and documentation are central to the work of health care professionals. This course focuses on understanding the rationale, goals and process of assessment and documentation in order to contribute effectively by identifying and incorporating patient and family beliefs, values, needs and practices into the interdisciplinary approach to care.

› THE CHALLENGES OF MEMORY: ALZHEIMER'S AND OTHER DEMENTIAS

Doug McNair, M.D., Ph.D., President, Cerner Math

This course will assist learners in understanding and applying concepts about dementia to their care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other conditions in which cognition, memory and expression are impaired. It will provide information on how health care professionals can mentor and support patients and work collaboratively with families and other members of the health care team.

› CARING FOR THE SMALLEST: PEDIATRICS

David Pascoe, M.A., BCC, Manager of Palliative Care, Spiritual Care and Bereavement Services, Primary Children's Hospital

Working with pediatric patients requires unique skills in understanding children's emotional and spiritual development, reaction to illness and injury, and the child's experience of the health care setting and treatment. This module provides information on providing age-appropriate care around these topics, providing support and care to parents, and the unique challenges of end of life care for pediatric patients.

› **LIVING WITH HEARTBREAK: WORKING WITH GRIEF**

Ken Doka, Ph.D., Professor of Gerontology, Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle

This module describes the process of grief, offers current theories that have relevance to assisting grieving individuals, and identifies sensitivities, skills and tools to assist health care professionals in particular factors in various types of loss. Also explored will be the concept of disenfranchised grief, which is a reminder that the experience of grief encompasses far more than the death of a family member or loved one.

› **WALKING THROUGH THE MAZE: PAIN MANAGEMENT**

Richard Payne, M.D., Esther T. Colliflower Professor of Medicine and Divinity, Duke University

The Institutes of Medicine (IOM) reports that acute and chronic pain affects millions of adults in the U.S., making it a significant public health problem. The IOM has called on all health care professionals to be educated on how pain is understood, assessed, treated and prevented. In this course, health care professionals will learn the physical, psychological, cognitive, emotional and spiritual components of pain and ways to contribute to the care of those who suffer.

› **FAR TOO SOON: THE ANGUISH OF PERINATAL LOSS**

Joanne Cacciatore, Ph.D., Founder & Chairman, MISS Foundation

Perinatal death is one of the most profound emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual and physiological losses a mother, father and family can suffer. This module provides an overview of the epidemiology of perinatal death, the trauma of the experience, spiritual and psychological issues, and ways to assist the family in their grief through ritual and other interventions.

› **WHAT TO DO WITH INFORMATION: HIPAA AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Lerrill White, BCC, Manager of Clinical Pastoral Education, Vidant Medical Center

One of the most asked about and misunderstood issues in health care and spiritual care is that of confidentiality and the HIPAA law, and what information can be shared through documentation and meetings with other members of the interdisciplinary team. This course will explain both confidentiality and the HIPAA law as well as best practices regarding confidentiality and documentation.

See the full course list and register at
www.SpiritualCareAssociation.org.

CPE.org

- › Virtual curriculum and didactics online and via video combined with on-site/in-person clinical work overseen by a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisor
- › For anyone interested in CPE but whose work, personal or other responsibilities have prevented them from taking conventional CPE units, including:
 - Those interested in chaplaincy as a first career
 - Those pursuing a second or third career
 - Seminarians
 - Community clergy
 - Volunteers
- › Follows Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. standards
- › CPE.org is offered by HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN), through its affiliate SCA. HCCN is an Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.-accredited CPE center.

CPE.org

HOW IT WORKS FOR CHAPLAINCY TRAINING FOR SEMINARIANS & CLERGY HOW TO APPLY ABOUT US

What is CPE
CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) is a form of chaplaincy internship whereby students are taught to observe, listen, communicate and more effectively respond and attend to patients' spiritual and emotional needs.
Through hands-on practice, clinical supervision and academic study, CPE students learn how to listen and attend to people in crisis more effectively.

[LEARN MORE](#)

What Makes CPE.org Different
CPE.org offers pastoral education for spiritual care education to be accessed online from wherever a student might be.
Working with a clinical setting that is convenient for each student, individuals who wish to take CPE, will not have to put their life on hold in order to accomplish this dream. CPE.org makes it possible.

SCA Offers Chaplain Credentialing

Credentialed Chaplain

Anyone currently working as a chaplain but is not board certified and meets these requirements merits the title of Credentialed Chaplain (CC):

- A Bachelor's degree from a Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)-accredited (or international equivalent) institution in a content area relevant to chaplaincy. Acceptable concentrations include but are not limited to theology, study of sacred texts, medical or professional ethics, psychology, sociology, family systems, counseling, social work, nursing, world religions and belief systems, organizational development, gerontology, communication, and the relationship of spirituality and health
- At least 400 hours of clinical training in spiritual/pastoral care, such as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
- Employer letter verifying current employment
- Proof of working a minimum of 1,000 hours as a chaplain since completion of clinical training
- Three letters of recommendation from 1) health care administrator where employed 2) Board Certified Chaplain (BCC) or director of spiritual care at place of employment, and 3) non-chaplain health care professional colleague
- Demonstration of competency by verbatim or standardized patient encounter
- Accountability for Ethical Conduct
- SCA's online, multiple choice, on-demand test of knowledge/understanding of evidence-based scope of practice

Equivalencies will be offered and are subject to review on an individual case-by-case basis.

The Value of Credentialing

For Chaplains: The title of Credentialed Chaplain (CC) will attest to your level of competence in the profession.

For Institutions: A Credentialed Chaplain (CC) has demonstrated the competencies to perform normal chaplaincy tasks in non-complex or complex settings under the supervision of a BCC.

SCA Offers Two Paths to **Board Certification**

PATH 1

Anyone who holds a current board certification or its equivalent from a recognized U.S. or international professional chaplaincy organization, including:

- American Correctional Chaplains Association
- Association of Professional Chaplains
- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care
- Center for Spiritual Care & Pastoral Formation
- College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy
- National Association of Catholic Chaplains
- National Association of Veterans Affairs Chaplains
- National Conference of Veterans Affairs Catholic Chaplains
- Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains

PATH 2

A chaplain who meets these requirements:

- A Master's degree from a CHEA-accredited (or international equivalent) institution in a content area relevant to chaplaincy. Concentrations include but are not limited to theology, study of sacred texts, medical or professional ethics, psychology, sociology, family systems, counseling, social work, nursing, world religions and belief systems, organizational development, gerontology, communication, and the relationship of spirituality and health
- Within or beyond a Master's degree, one credit in at least three of the following areas: 1) quality improvement 2) research 3) spiritual assessment, care planning, and documentation 4) cultural competency/inclusion 5) end of life 6) grief/bereavement 7) ethics 8) religious faith systems 9) communication, or 10) basic pathophysiology
- At least 800 hours of clinical training in spiritual/pastoral care, such as CPE
- Employer letter verifying current employment
- Proof of working a minimum of 2,000 hours as a chaplain since completion of clinical training
- Three letters of recommendation from 1) health care administrator where you are employed 2) BCC or director of spiritual care at your place of employment, and 3) non-chaplain health care professional colleague
- Demonstration of competency by verbatims or standardized patient encounter
- Accountability for Ethical Conduct
- SCA's online, multiple choice, on-demand test of knowledge/understanding of evidence-based scope of practice

Equivalencies will be offered and are subject to review on an individual case-by-case basis.

The Value of Board Certification for Chaplains and Institutions

A Board Certified Chaplain (BCC) has demonstrated competence to perform all of the normal tasks within the scope of practice of chaplains.

To learn more and apply, visit
www.SpiritualCareAssociation.org

NEW CLASSIFICATION:

Fellow in Palliative Care

- Look for it soon.





To join, sign up for courses,
apply for credentialing or certification,
or to learn more, visit:

www.SpiritualCareAssociation.org



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