

Faith Community Nursing Networking Calls

PROGRAM & PARTNERSHIP MODELS

November 5, 2024

Question:

Learn how Hospitals/Health Systems are partnering with their faith communities to:

- Provide faith community nursing programs, and;
- Support faith community nursing and/or health ministry programs within their communities.

22 responses

Health Systems & Faith Communities Represented:

- ❖ Ascension (6)
 - Ascension (3)
 - Ascension Health
 - St. Vincent Evansville
 - Wisconsin
- ❖ BayCare (2)
 - Winter Haven Hospitals
 - Bartow Regional Medical Center
- ❖ CommonSpirit (6)
 - CommonSpirit
 - CommonSpirit Colorado Springs
 - CommonSpirit Health - system
 - CommonSpirit Penrose/St. Francis
 - Dignity Health/CommonSpirit
 - Virginia Mason Franciscan Health
- ❖ Trinity
 - Saint Alphonsus Health System
 - UnityPoint Health – Trinity Parish Nursing Program
- ❖ Churches
 - ❖ Chapel of Divine Word Catholic Church
 - ❖ Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
 - ❖ St. Patrick's Catholic Health Ministry
 - ❖ Sts. Peter and Paul Church
- ❖ FC nurses (2)
- ❖ RN/DNP student

Hospital FCN programs

Providing Services

- Community-based neighborhood nurse
- Volunteer nurses supporting their communities

Supporting health ministries

- Employed nurse who supports churches
- FCN course offering and monthly meetings for area FCNs – provide resources
- Congregational Health Ministries Network

New models/ideas interested in:

- **Congregational Volunteer Model** Extending the program to other denominations other than Catholic partners
- **Connecting Catholics with hospital spiritual care departments-** training Ministers to the Sick to volunteer with local hospital.
- We had a small **FCN group of nurses** from various faith communities that **met bi-monthly at the hospital**. That stopped during COVID. Would like to see that started back up.
- We would love to see **faith community nurse ministries expand** across health systems.
 - We created a recent **Playbook for FCN Ministry** to give hospitals/health systems the tools they need to start a FCN or Faith and Health Partnership program & seek to **partner with our Community Health and Population Health colleagues** to train our interested FCNs/HMs (and possibly CHWs) to lead/facilitate chronic disease management programs & provide advance care planning educational tools.
- **Reimbursement for nurses** from CMS.
- Hire and **embed faith community nurses** (as employees) **to directly partner with and support local faith communities and/or other community based-organizations** in need, particularly those that are traditionally underserved, marginalized and vulnerable.

Suggestions for CHA:

- **Continue the networking calls and to offer national meetings.**
- **Advocacy for all Catholic healthcare systems to create health ministry/faith-health partnership programs in all regions/markets.**
 - **partner with USCCB to highlight FCN-** share what FCN is all about and encourage parishes to embrace and partner with FCN.
 - **raise awareness about the wonderful FCN programs in many Catholic health systems** that are improving the whole-person health of those they serve.
- **Care Coordination – Resources**
 - Coping with difficult situations where families are tapped out of funds for family members who are mentally ill, disabled or elderly. - volunteers do not always stay & its confusing trying to get people connected with resources **There is a need for volunteers to help people navigate government funds, Medicare and Medicaid resources.**
 - **How to coordinate follow-up care** post-hospital, long-term mental health care, communication with discharge planners and ER staff with community resources. Respite care for People experiencing homelessness. Helping care providers understand digital access is a social determinant of health and a barrier to care.

Request:

CHA would like to highlight your programs and share best practices

Please:

- Send online and contact information for your FCN program to Nancy nlim@chausa.org

Faith Community Nursing Network

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) is pleased to host networking calls among parish/congregational nurses working with Catholic parishes, Catholic hospitals or other Catholic health care organizations and non-profit hospital programs.

For more information, contact Nancy Zuech Lim, MPH, BSN, Director of Community Health Improvement at nlim@chausa.org

Webpage: <https://www.chausa.org/nursing/faith-community-nursing>

