

About The Center

The Center for Ethics and Advocacy in Healthcare exists to educate individuals so that they may become empowered to make wise healthcare decisions. Empowered individuals can inspire changes within community healthcare systems. In order to implement its goal, The Center offers the following:

1. Ethics Education:

The Center works to educate the community on ethical issues in healthcare. We provide education to the public on various topics, including:

- a. Spirituality and end of life issues,
- b. Conflict resolution within the context of family healthcare problems,
- c. Learning to live with chronic pain and suffering,
- d. Navigating one's way through the healthcare system,
- e. The decision-making process.

Healthcare education is often disease-specific. Healthcare ethics education should be person-specific.

The Center educates on healthcare ethics through:

- a. Programs - Programs have included lecture series and guest speakers on numerous topics.
- b. Internship - The Center offers a summer internship program that educates young people on issues around quality of life so that they might become life long advocates of ethics and justice in healthcare.
- c. Resource Library - The Center offers extensive resources for use in researching various healthcare issues. We use the Bioethics version of the Library of Congress classification system. The resources in community health are rich in quality and quantity.

Individual Counseling:

The Center offers individuals the opportunity to talk through difficult medical decisions. Whether the dilemma is an issue around death and dying, continued treatment, or pain management, the key is to identify and protect a person's values. The Center works to ensure that the patient, together with the family and care-giving community can make the ultimate healthcare decisions.

2. Mediation:

The Center acts as an intermediary between individuals or the community and any established healthcare institution. The Center advocates for the person's rights both in obtaining care and in making decisions.

"The great aim of education is not knowledge but action" – Herbert Spencer

An extension of this work supports the effort to change public policy in our healthcare system.

See our website for more information: www.healthcare-ethics.org

The Center for Ethics and Advocacy in Healthcare

Intake Sheet

Check appropriate box for party involved.

Patient ____ Family ____ Other ____

Date _____

Type Contact:

office ____

phone ____

home ____

Social Issues:

Language barrier

Cultural/cross cultural issues

Cultural norms regarding aging/retirement interfere with management

Inadequate income to become involved with healing process

Family strife due to patient's illness

Grief over new diagnosis hampers attempts to help (on part of others)

Lack of time to investigate alternatives/etc

Body Issues:

Fearful about being public about vulnerability

Unable to integrate body issues with sense of self

Trying to die, unable due to outside circumstances (people/technology)

Patient unable to believe symptoms due to objective tests not confirming

Behavioral response to above inconsistent with life ethic as presently understood

Human Spirit Related Issues:

Religious issues (institutional)

Spiritual issues (name if possible)

Psychological (name if possible)

Developmental issues (name)

Motivational issues (name)

Distress of human spirit, other (try to name)

Personal search (name if possible)

Ego-spirit struggle

Trying to die, unable to personal unrest

Knowledge Base:

Wanted to know how to access information regarding health care options

Did not know how to access information

Did not care about accessing information

Inadequate medical knowledge for patient/family to get cohesive picture of problem

MD social image impairs patient/family vision of possible outcome (e.g. MD knows best)

“Perfect patient” image hampers ability to perceive one’s vulnerable self

“Perfect hospital” image impairs expectations (“I go here to be healed and get well”)

Inability to perceive (and therefore relate to) pain of others because of own pain

Action Plan: