Providence Faith Community Health Partnership

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center

Connie Cruz, RN, BSN
Providence Health and Services, California
What is a Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse?

- Parish Nurse PN -1985
- Faith Community Nurse FCN
  2005 ANA Scope and Standards changed title to FCN
- Registered Nurse, experienced
- Spiritual Maturity
- Training Course for Parish Nurses
Parish Nursing

- A recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. Parish Nursing emphasizes health and healing within a faith community. The philosophy of parish nursing embraces four major concepts:
  - spiritual formation – the intentional care of the spirit
  - professionalism
  - shalom as health and wholeness
  - community incorporating culture and diversity
Parish Nursing...

- focuses on the faith community.
- participates in the ongoing transformation of the faith community into sources of health and healing in collaboration with the pastoral staff and congregants.
- fosters new and creative responses to health and wellness concerns through partnership with other community health resources.
Parish Nurse...

- Serves the faith community
- Creates safe and sacred places for healing
- Advocates with compassion, mercy and dignity
- Promotes health and healing of the whole person: body, mind and spirit
Church History

- Early faith practice embraced healing as they continued God’s ministry.
- Eroded over time as belief & practices changed—medicine as a profession emerged.
- Eventually caring for sick and dying rather than cure became the emphasis of the church’s healing ministry.
Health and Church History

- 19th & 20th century – creation of church affiliated hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, and hospices
- Gradual decline over past century in religiously sponsored hospitals; care for sick turned over to the medical profession
Health and Church History

- Growth of medical missions seen as a response to the needs of people around the world as well as to spread the gospel.

- Contemporary health ministries is influenced by this work as the importance of working with local cultures is identified.
Deaconess role of women-- trained to care for poor and sick since biblical times

Role of “church nurse” in many African American congregations...providing first aid and care to members during services
Wholistic Health Movement
1970’s

- Rev. Granger Westberg
  - (wrote *Good Grief* book)
  - Lutheran clergyman
  - Hospital Chaplain
  - Educator – medicine & theology

- Began Parish Nurse Movement
Rev. Granger Westberg & Parish Nursing

- Lutheran General Hospital Project
- Began in 1984
- Six nurses in six ecumenical congregations
- Growth in late 1980’s and early 1990’s in Midwestern states
- 1990’s spread to almost all states
Models of Parish Nursing

- First models:
  - Hospital
  - Granger’s paid model
  - Accountability to hospital

- Congregational Model
  - Congregational based volunteer model
  - Congregational-based salaried model
  - Accountability to congregation

- Hospital or Agency
  - Hospital or agency sponsored salaried model
  - Hospital or agency-sponsored volunteer model
Movement Progresses

- National Resource Center – 1986
- Health Ministries Association – 1989
- International PNRC – 1996
- First Westberg Symposium – 1987
- International: Korea, Canada, Australia, England, Africa, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Bahamas
Scope and Standards of Faith Community Nursing Practice

- Designated a specialty practice by the American Nurses Association in 1997
- Joint publication of the Scope and Standards in 1998
Professional Organizations

- Health Ministry Association is recognized by ANA as FCN being a specialty
- International Parish Nurse Resource Center
  - not interfaith
  - provides parish nurse training across country-1996
  - does research
Faith Community Nursing is a unique, specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the promotion of health within the context of the values, beliefs, and practices of a faith community, such as a church, synagogue, or mosque, and its mission and ministry to its member (family and individual,) and the community it serves.
Faith Community Nursing

- Health is a dynamic process, a dynamic process that embodies the spiritual, psychological, physical and social dimension of the person.
- Spiritual health is central to well-being.
- Well-being exists in the presence of disease.
- Healing exists in the absence of a cure.
Roles of Faith Community Nurse

- Integrator of faith and health
- Personal health counselor
- Health educator
- Advocate
- Referral agent
- Coordinator of volunteers
- Developer of support groups
Advantages of FCN in Pre and Post Partum Home Care

- Connects new mom and mothers to their faith
- Direct link to their church community, church leaders, pastors, clergy, etc.
- Opportunity for development of family support group
- May support in post partum depression
Baby Marie with papa. Marie expressing why she lasted with BF.

“Having a PN support me and sit with me long hours made a big difference”
Baby Priscilla

- Baby and mommy after 2 years.
  - “Having the parish nurse (Connie & Lorena) from my church come to support me with my baby has been the best support for me and my daughter…”
Potential Role of the hospital model PN/FCN

- Responsible for working with a congregation to promote health
- Has experience in health and wellness
- Position develops as needs of the congregation are determined
Benefits of Breastfeeding Support in Places of Worship using FCN Model

- Support by a trusted resource, skilled RN – trained in breastfeeding support
- Encourages the intentional reaching out to others by a church (faith) that promotes health
- Health is understood as harmony with self, others, the environment, and God – family is the center that drives the harmony
- Motivation that comes from a shared understanding of the call to wholeness as illuminated in faith traditions
Questions, Comments, Concerns?!

... Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalm 127:3
Bibliography