



Providence Faith Community Health Partnership

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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.



Health and Church History

- 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
- Revised 2010: FCN: Scope & Standards of practice (title change in 2005)



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

● FCN – Role Definition (ANA)

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
 - embodies the spiritual, psychological, physical and social dimension of the person
- Spiritual health
 - 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

The Robles Family...

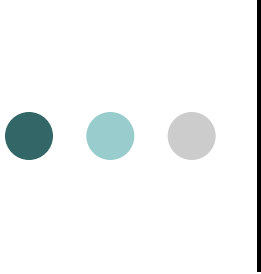


- Baby Marie with papa. Marie expressing why she lasted with BF.
 - “Having a PN support me and sit with me long hours made a big difference”

Baby Priscilla

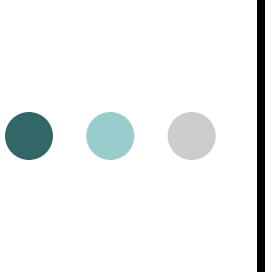


- Baby and mommy after 2 years.
 - “Having the parish nurse (Connie & Lorena) from my church come to support me with my baby has been the best support for me and my daughter...”



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