



HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY NETWORK HOSTS INAUGURAL SPIRITUAL CARE BRIEFING ON CAPITOL HILL

The organization continues to push legislators to integrate spiritual care in patient care plans

New York, N.Y. (Oct. 23, 2017) – HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) and its affiliate, Spiritual Care Association (SCA), hosted a spiritual care briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Oct. 23, 2017. This meeting, entitled “Spiritual Care: What It Means, Why It Matters in Health Care” was the first of its kind presented to United States legislators and their staff.

This one-hour affair was a lunch meeting. Panelists – which included Rev. Eric J. Hall, President and CEO, HealthCare Chaplaincy Network and Spiritual Care Association and Todd Tuten, J.D., Senior Policy Advisor – discussed the evolution of professional health care chaplaincy: meeting the needs of whole person care – which encompasses spiritual care – while recognizing objective standards for quality care and scope of practice, similar to other health care disciplines. Topics for discussion included:

- What is Spiritual Care?
- The Role of Board Certified Chaplains
- The Value and Bottom-Line Impact of Quality Spiritual Care
- Proposed Legislation to Strengthen Spiritual Care
- Opportunities for Collaboration to Expand Access to Spiritual Care

“This briefing on Capitol Hill is very important,” explains Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN/SCA’s President and CEO. “Health care remains a relevant topic in Washington, D.C. and it only makes sense for us to continue the conversation about spiritual care alongside it.”

The New York-based nonprofit organization has established a presence in Washington, D.C. as it continues to advance the inclusion of spiritual care into health care by reaching legislators in a variety of ways. It has also been active with its publications. In 2016, HCCN introduced the following: the [Scope of Practice](#), a document developing an internationally-recognized list of competencies for chaplains, that was released along with [Quality Indicators](#), an evidence-based chart for spiritual care and suggested metrics and measures for each; the formulation of the [Spiritual Care Association](#), the multidisciplinary, international professional membership association for spiritual care providers that establishes a knowledge base for spiritual care in health care.

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network also published two white papers, *Spiritual Care: What It Means, Why It Matters in HealthCare* (October 2016) and *Spiritual Care and Nursing: A Nurse's Contribution and Practice* (March 2017). The newest white paper entitled, *Spiritual Care and Physicians: Understanding Spirituality in Medical Practice* will be released at end of October 2017.

The briefing was by invitation only. For constituents who would like to advocate for spiritual care to be included as a compulsory measure in health care, [please contact your representative](#).

###

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is a global healthcare nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals other health care settings and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning – whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org or call 212-644-1111.

About Spiritual Care Association

HCCN's affiliate, the Spiritual Care Association, is the first multidisciplinary, international professional membership association for providers of spiritual care in health care that establishes evidence-based quality indicators, scope of practice, knowledge base, and testing to become a Board Certified or Credentialed Chaplain. Membership is open to chaplains and other health care professionals, clergy and organizations. For more information, visit www.spiritualcareassociation.org or call 212-644-1111.

Media contact

Charysse Harper

charper@healthcarechaplaincy.org

212-644-111, ext.107