

Our Vision and Covenant for Catholic Health Ministry

2013 - 2014



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

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Preamble: the origin of this document comes from our desire as a Board of Directors to lay a strong foundation regarding the role and work of our Association. It becomes the 'road map', if you will, to communicate to our membership and communities what we value, and our pledge to invest our human and financial resources in a specific direction. We entrust this document to the reader as our goodwill, setting a tone with language from our spirit and heart - the place from which vision and covenant is truly born.

Formed in 1943 to be a voice for Catholic hospitals and long-term care facilities, with the aim to preserve and promote Catholic health care in the province, and understanding that the healing ministry of Christ is an activity of the whole Church, we, the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, as represented by our Board of Directors and staff, pledge to advance Catholic health by:

SERVING OUR MEMBERSHIP

Acknowledging that our organization is membership-based, and volunteer-driven, we affirm that there is a responsibility to proclaim and promote the mission, vision and values of Catholic health within our member facilities, like-minded organizations and faith communities (CWLs, K of Cs, parishes, other Christian faith-based groups) and individuals who seek to live out their baptismal call.

We pledge to:

- **commit human and financial resources for Catholic ethics services to our member facilities**
Completed 2012-13 Activities/Initiatives
- collaborate with our Sponsor groups and national ethicists to roll-out the newly revised Health Ethics Guide to our institutional members
- continued work with the Ethics Working Group, struck to consider long-range planning for ethics services
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- continued contract for Bioethicist services, currently provided by Joy Mendel; continued coordination of her educational sessions and site visits to member facilities
- publishing monthly newsletter, SaskEthics, an ethics newsletter for Catholic health providers in Saskatchewan
- create an on-line ethics resource ('ethics tab') hosted on the CHAS website
- Quarterly Stakeholders Meetings - collaboration and networking with CHAS, CHMS & SPH staff regarding ethics and missions initiatives (evolved from Ethics Working Group)
- development of an Ethics Mentorship/Fellowship, a short-term clinical and organizational opportunity for individuals interested in pursuing a career in Catholic bioethics
- strike a Project Charter team to review and potentially update (content or format) the printed Advance Care Directive booklets developed in 1997 by Fr. Mark Miller and St. Paul's Hospital
- **provide leadership, training and resources to promote mission and spiritual care**
Completed 2012-13 Activities/Initiatives
- completed work of the Mission Formation Project team, a two-year initiative that began exploring needs for leadership development and moved to identify mission formation. Completed elements of the experiential program include: description, foundational elements, key outcomes and core content.
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- development and delivery of a forum-style educational session - Critical Conversations - that deals with relevant topics pertaining to health issues that intersect with a faith perspective (held regionally and annually every Spring)
- Leader's Library (2 new books gifted to each facility leader per year in June and December)
- continued development of Mission Formation Experiential Program (approaches, sustainability, piloting and evaluation)
- engaging in facilitator training with the national Values Integration Appraisal Program; coordinate to interested institutional members
- **provide networking opportunities to create a supportive and collegial family of Catholic health care providers**
2012-13 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):

KEY: green text represents completed activities and initiatives, black text represents on-going work, gold text represents new work for the year.

- quarterly newsletter (containing informative articles and newsworthy provincial happenings)
- access to relationship and resources of CHAS Mission Education Coordinator
- annual provincial convention (every third week of October); marking 2013 as the 70th Anniversary
- planning of second joint conference with Catholic health and Catholic education for Fall 2014
- strike a Project Charter team of key palliative care voices, inviting them to envision strategies to network communities in faith-based health care and palliative care; highlight palliative care educational opportunities that could be promoted and Moola Freer Scholarship funds that could be utilized
- **provide opportunity for recognition and celebration for those who are champions in Catholic health**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
 - annual Mission Award
 - Moola Freer Palliative Care award and scholarship
 - Honorary Membership to the Association
 - inform membership of award nomination deadline moving forward to June 30 (from September 30)
- **foster dialogue, create opportunity, encourage and educate organizations and individuals to move towards a culture of vocational calling**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
 - board and staff to visit the facilities regularly (4-year cycle with hosted quarterly Board meetings) to bring education, build relationship (share a meal), and provide encouragement to facility leaders

SERVING OUR BISHOPS

Acknowledging that our structural accountability is to our membership, we affirm that the Bishops of Saskatchewan are valued as Honorary Members of our Association, and, as leaders and shepherds of the Church, we seek their wisdom and guidance on all theological and pastoral aspects of Catholic health ministry.

We pledge to:

- **maintain active dialogue and accountability with our Bishop's Representative who is appointed by the Bishops of Saskatchewan and serves as a voting member on our Board of Directors**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
 - invitation to the Bishop's Representative to attend and participate in quarterly Executive and Board meetings
 - Board & ED to bring forward any concerns or issues in a timely manner
- **provide opportunity for spiritual reflection, direction and celebration**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
 - invite the Bishop's Representative to preside and preach at Mass preceding quarterly Board meetings
 - Invite the Bishops of Saskatchewan to attend our annual gathering and address the membership in whatever manner they choose

SERVING OUR PARTNERS

Acknowledging that our key partner in Catholic health care ministry is the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation), and affirming their role and responsibilities as a public juridic person in Catholic health, we seek to work collaboratively and effectively in an ever-changing landscape of institutional health care service delivery.

We pledge to:

- **build collegial relationships at the board level**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
 - support opportunities to network or share in collective educational sessions that are pertinent to board governance and Catholic leadership
 - maintain the participant/observer role for ED/CEO on respective CHAS and CHMS Boards

- **invite and maintain open lines of communication at the staff level**
Completed 2012-13 Activities/Initiatives
- invite the CHMS staff to our regular monthly CHAS staff meeting to share information regarding activities/initiatives specific to work in the institutions (now fulfilled via Quarterly Stakeholders Meetings)
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
-invite opportunities for Mission staff to work in tandem on initiatives
- **provide clear communication to the CHMS and member facilities regarding our role and efforts as an Association in fulfilling our mandate**
Completed 2012-13 Activities/Initiatives
- engage in a formal evaluation of the joint Ethics Framework
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- update the CHAS logo and communications materials
- **meaningfully contribute to the strategic future direction of Catholic health in Saskatchewan**
2012-13 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- seek opportunities to collaborate with the CHMS on strategic planning as it pertains to the provision of education and resources in mission, spiritual care and ethics in the member facilities.

SERVING OUR PARISHES AND COMMUNITY

Acknowledging that our communities and culture are shifting to more secular, post-modern attitudes, and that the visible presence of the founding congregations of Sisters is lessening, we seek to embrace and build on the legacy of those who once pioneered the healing ministry of Jesus, and continue, as laity, to be a beacon of the Gospel with dialogue and action that is relevant to our time.

We pledge to:

- **provide broad-based education, resources and opportunities to promote and celebrate Catholic health ministry**
Completed 2012-13 Activities/Initiatives
- 2nd season - provision of 7 articles to the Prairie Messenger to promote and highlight the value of Catholic health care (under the banner of Catholic Connections)
2012-13 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- continued promotion and support of Diocesan-led Compassionate Healers Masses which provide a time of celebration and commissioning for those who serve in Catholic health care ministry
- development and delivery of a forum-style educational session - Critical Conversations - that deals with relevant topics pertaining to health issues that intersect with a faith perspective (held regionally and annually every Spring)
- 3rd season - provision of 7 articles to the Prairie Messenger to promote and highlight the value of Catholic health care (under the banner of Catholic Connections)
- **network with and support like-minded organizations/ministries, understanding that our established and resourced Association has a responsibility to provide leadership and expertise in faith-based health ministry**
2013-14 Activities/Initiatives (on-going and new):
- continued relationship-building with the 14 faith-based health care organizations in Saskatchewan
- connecting with Diocesan offices
- connecting with Parish Nursing
- connecting with Catholic Connections (offer joint presentations on Catholic health and education to Clergy and Administration Days to all Saskatchewan Dioceses; engagement with a sub-committee that is struck to investigate the opportunity to develop a Sisters Legacy Celebration)
- connecting with Sask Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHAS ED, Sandra Kary will serve as SHPCA Vice-Chair for next term)
- connecting with Spiritual Care Sask
- connecting with other Provincial Association leadership (meeting twice annually)
- connecting with the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (attending annual conventions)
- connecting with other Catholic ministries and community organizations (i.e. St. Therese Catholic College, Catholic Family Services, SIAST)