

A SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM FOR EVERGREEN LIFE SERVICES

Supporting a person's spiritual life should be a primary focus of the services offered at Evergreen. Spirituality is a very individual thing and discovering the level of spirituality people supported desire begins with the Spirituality Assessment. The Spirituality Assessment should be administered to people upon admission to Evergreen's services and at least annually thereafter in conjunction with the development of the plan of care/individual program plan/person centered plan/individual plan, etc. The information derived from the Spirituality Assessment should be reviewed during the Interdisciplinary Team Meeting/Circle of Support and individual supports should be developed to help the person have the level of spirituality they desire. While the primary role of ensuring people have the level of spirituality they desire lies with the Interdisciplinary Team/Circle of Support, the ultimate responsibility lies with Divisional Executive Directors. The Spirituality Assessment and Evergreen's Policy on Spiritual Care and Religious Activity are integral parts of Evergreen's Spiritual Life Program.

Some basic things to ensure include the following: 1) Adequate transportation, 2) Appropriate clothing, and 3) Adequate Staffing, 4) That we don't overload any one place of worship with huge numbers of people supported and expect success.

There should be at least five employees or interested community members per division who can serve as liaisons with the various places of worship people attend. Liaisons would help to identify places of worship for people to attend if they don't have one. Liaisons would assess and work with the place of worship to build their capacity to welcome and include the person supported through training and education. Part of that assessment would be for the liaison to identify a mentor for the person. The mentor should be a person who is a member of the place of worship and is willing to serve in a "natural support" capacity to ensure that the person benefits from and contributes to the worship experience. Liaisons should also maintain regular contact with mentors to ensure the success of the relationship.

Other aspects of spirituality to pay attention to other than attending worship include ensuring that people have opportunities for Bible Study and Prayer if they desire it as well as opportunities to engage in service to others as this is also an important aspect of spirituality. We should ensure that easy to read materials, Bibles on audio, spiritual music/hymns, etc. are available in places where people live.