The Unique Role of a TWC Health Chaplain

Behavioral and Spiritual Health Chaplaincy

Those who care about professional truck drivers increasingly understand that driver’s needs are complex and interconnected. Often a physical complaint is connected to a behavioral habit which most likely has been fueled by certain (mis)beliefs. While medical providers may understand the potential links between illness and emotional/spiritual issues they may have neither the time nor the training to address the relationship properly. TWC chaplains provide professional behavioral health care and spiritual care for truck drivers that complement the services offered by medical professionals at the Trucker Wellness Centers (TWC) in an interdisciplinary approach. The TWC Health Chaplaincy role is that of an "ambassador of good will" focused on integrating effectively the care for an individual professional truck driver while providing a framework for his or her engagement in a healthy support community.

TWC Health Chaplaincy Approach

TWC chaplaincy is pluralistic and inclusive. Each TWC chaplain is available to serve drivers from any ethnic and religious perspective. Chaplains have training in major world faiths (including secular humanism) and respect a driver’s faith (or lack of faith) as they provide emotional and spiritual services. All this is done while holding a firm commitment to a Christian foundation.

Trucker’s Wellness Centers are committed to making the highest level of co-located, occupationally relevant integrated care immediately accessible to professional truck drivers. This demands knowledgeable and relationally skillful Healthcare Chaplains at each center. The TWC chaplaincy selection, training, and reporting processes insure professional and effective care while also providing the professional truck drivers a framework for engaging in and being part of a healthy support community.
**Chaplaincy Selection**

In providing the highest level of spiritual and behavioral health care, TWC chaplains possess strong credentials in training and clinical experience. Applicants must hold the minimum credential of a Masters Licensed Practical Counselor (MA.LPC). The TWC application process explores and assesses a potential chaplain’s counseling methodology, effectiveness of past work, theological articulation, self-awareness, and ability to work in an interdisciplinary environment that includes medical care.

The successful candidate joins the TWC team and enters into the orientation phase. During this six- to nine-month period, the chaplain works under the supervision of an experienced chaplain to learn the unique systems and procedures for TWC chaplaincy. To pay it forward, TWC chaplains are expected to supervise a steady stream of incoming chaplains.

**Military Chaplaincy – A unique Work Re-entry Program**

TWC chaplains come from a variety of backgrounds including professional trucking, pastoral ministry, and military chaplaincy. Military chaplains are a key source of TWC chaplains because of experience in a pluralistic and inclusive environment and extensive training they have received during their military tenure.

**Lifelong Learning**

Because TWC is committed to making the highest level of co-located, occupationally relevant integrated care immediately accessible to professional truck drivers, knowledgeable and relationally skillful Healthcare Chaplains at each center are required. The TWC chaplaincy selection, training, and reporting processes are rigorous to insure professional and effective care integration while also providing the professional truck drivers a framework for engaging in and being part of a healthy support community. To accomplish this on a sustainable basis requires an organizational commitment to lifelong learning.

TWC in partnership with its sister organization Transport for Christ has developed a network of educational opportunities for the Chaplains along with a rigorous annual recertification process. Discovery of best practices emerge continuously and TWC chaplains are and must be aware of these developments requiring a love for life-long learning. A chaplain’s entire tenure will demand continuous education by participating in TWC Chaplains Institute, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offered by a certified chaplaincy association, or other approved relevant instructional courses.

Lifelong learning also reaches inside the chaplain to draw out personal experience of the caring process. Maintaining cutting edge behavioral and spiritual care requires training in new methods but it also requires reflection. The chaplain is an integral player in the care process. Engaging in the reflective evaluation opens the doors to greater insights for personal development and improved chaplaincy care.

*Building a Supportive Health Community For The Invisible Workforce*