

NEIL D. BERESIN, M.Ed.

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Professional Experience

Counselor • Interfaith Chaplain (6/2020–current)

Grief and Loss Support Services (private practice) – Philadelphia, PA

Provides emotional and spiritual support to adults navigating grief and loss. Clients include those experiencing separation or divorce, the death of someone dear, or, from some other life-altering struggle. Facilitates online support groups for individuals experiencing loss.

Chaplain/Spiritual Care Coordinator (8/2019–6/2020)

Heartland Hospice – Blue Bell, PA

Cared for the spiritual, emotional, and religious needs of hospice patients, families, and staff in home and institutional settings. Assisted patients and families with identifying religious and cultural resources, and interfaced with medical, nursing and support services. Lead memorial and graveside services for families.

Chaplain Resident (8/2018–8/2019)

Christiana Care Health System – Newark, DE

Responsible for the spiritual, emotional, theological, and interfaith needs of patients, families, and staff in a 1200 bed hospital system, full-time. Served Heart and Vascular Unit patients, emergency room and trauma care, and system-wide on-call days and overnights. Interfaced with inter-professional medical, palliative care, and ethics teams, and led chapel worship services. Recipient of several *Diamond Service Awards*.

Chaplain Intern (10/2017–6/2018)

Einstein Medical Center – Philadelphia, PA

Supported the spiritual, emotional theological, and interfaith needs of patients, families and staff in the general hospital and trauma care. Interfaced with inter-professional medical, palliative care, and ethics teams. Developed the use of poetry as a source for engagement and spiritual support.

Project Consultant (5/2017–6/2017)

Vector Group Consulting USA – Philadelphia, PA

Managed a short-term project on distressed physicians in hospital settings that included a literature review and summary of findings.

National Program Manager, Vitalize 360™ (9/2007–4/2017)

Kendal – Kennett Square, PA

Led a national non-profit consortium of over 40 older adult communities using a coaching and evidence-based assessment system to improve health outcomes. Marshaled a subsidized housing demonstration initiative, developed training curriculum, and presented at national, state, and regional conferences.

Regional Director, Pennsylvania Restraint Reduction Initiative (7/1996–8/2007)

Kendal – Kennett Square, PA

Co-created a nursing home reform initiative to change nursing care processes in relation to physical restraint and other patient-centered care practices. Consulted with more than 40 interdisciplinary teams and led over 250 presentations on physical restraint elimination, effective communication, and fall management. Reduced physical restraint use in PA from 28% to less than 5% between 1996 and 2006 as part of a four-person team.

Education/Certification

Spiritual Care Association, HealthCare Chaplaincy Network – Los Angeles, CA
Board Certification in Chaplaincy, 2021

Christiana Care Health System – Newark, DE
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Three Units, 2019

Einstein Medical Center – Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), One Unit, 2018

The Nonprofit Center at La Salle University School of Business – Philadelphia, PA
Certificate in Nonprofit Financial Management & Leadership for Executive Directors, 2013

Widener University School of Business Administration – Chester, PA
Completed 120-hour curriculum for Nursing Home Administrator's License, 2002

Antioch University New England – Keene, NH
M. Ed., Guidance and Counseling, 1985

Completed fourteen counseling courses including: Integrating Personal Approach Towards Counseling; Crisis Intervention: Theory, Process and Practice; Cognitive-Interpersonal Behavioral Theories; Gestalt Therapy; Introduction to Family Therapy; Personality Development and Dynamics; Introduction to Group Theory and Practice; Psychopathology; Seminar in Counseling Psychology I and II.

Lafayette College – Easton, PA

BA., Psychology with a concentration in Religious Studies, 1981

Completed eight Religious Studies courses including: Culture of Religion in Modern America; Introduction to Religion; Modern Jewish Thought; Philosophies of Religion; Religions in World Cultures; Religious Values and Cinema; Religious Ethics.

Publications

"Poetry and Silence: Toward Creating a Healing Place." *Grief Dialogues—Health Care Education*, www.griefdialogues.com/power-of-poetry-in-healing. April 2021

"A Chaplain's Notebook: Poetry as Spiritual Nourishment." *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*. March 2020

"Three Essentials for Successful Fall Management: Communication, Policies and Procedures, and Teamwork." *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. August 2007

Professional Memberships

- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
- Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)
- Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)
- Chaplaincy Innovation Lab
- National Council on Aging (NCOA)
- Spiritual Care Association (SCA)

Interests

- Poetry in spiritual care and bereavement
- Ethics, decision making, and palliative care
- Family and hospital systems