The PCI desires to enhance the spiritual care of children and families in health care by offering continuing education to improve the quality of professional development in pediatric chaplaincy.

In Partnership with:

About the Pediatric Chaplains Institute

The Pediatric Chaplains Institute (PCI) offered its first week-long intensive training in 2007. Since then, 194 chaplains from more than 70 institutions, 31 states, the District of Columbia, and 1 Canadian province and Germany have attended the PCI!

Originally hosted by Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the training moves to Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC beginning with the 2014 session, and to Birmingham, AL in 2018.

Prior to 2007, members of the PCN began a relationship with the Wilbert Foundation which included sponsorship of the curriculum development team and support of this exciting new endeavor. Wilbert recognized that chaplaincy in the pediatric realm is complex, and wanted to participate in the work of preparing new chaplains in pediatric settings. Their generous donations over the years continue to provide both development opportunities and scholarships for attendees.

The Pediatric Chaplains Network has consistently supported and encouraged the work of the PCI. In partnership, PCN and PCI are wholly committed to providing excellent education and mentoring to all pediatric chaplains.
The Training

PCI training includes information essential for working with children and their families in pediatric health care settings. The Training Sessions are primarily interactive and multi-focal: presentation, small group, individual. Creative use of audio/visual materials emphasizes the learning objectives. Objectives center around not only developing knowledge and skill, but competency in application. Students are encouraged to share/teach from their experiences.

Learning modules are both preliminary (elearning/ZOOM) and on-site. Topics include:

Learning to Identify Spiritual Needs and Spiritual Distress, Developing an Understanding of, and Skills Related to, Spiritual/Religious Assessment, Age Specific Competencies: Physical, Emotional, Spiritual Development and Related Spiritual Needs/Assessment. (Infancy, Toddlers, School-Age, Adolescence), Medical Ethics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Death/Dying/Grief, Pediatric Chaplaincy During Crisis, Professional Boundaries, Staff Care and Self-Care, Practical Application Through Simulations with Professional Actors.

You are Eligible to Participate:

◊ When you are currently employed as a chaplain in a pediatric health care setting;

◊ When you have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher;

◊ When you have had one year of clinical experience (either CPE or on-the-job)

◊ When you provide a letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor;

◊ When you are willing to commit to the full process of training.

Participants are required to do the preliminary on-line modules and attend all sessions. A Certificate of Completion will be presented when all course requirements have been fulfilled. Please note: this is not a certification program.

Faculty for the 2021 Institute:

Joanna Bailey, Mercy Health, Grand Rapids, MI.

Mark Bartel, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Orlando, FL

Paul Byrd, Children’s of Alabama, Birmingham, Al.

Kathleen Ennis-Durstine, Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, DC

Bob Flory, Colorado Children’s, Retired

Patrick Jinks, Greenville Health System—Children’s Hospital, Greenville, SC

Eliza Leatherberry, Advocate Children’s Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL

Jamez Terry, Providence Health and Services, Anchorage, Alaska