MEETING RESIDENTS’ RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Improvement Recommendations

1. Ensure that all staff exemplifies the organizational value of respect for residents’ and families’ religious and spiritual needs.
   • Train all staff about the provision of spiritual and religious care to residents.

2. Make staff aware of and educated to the rituals and practices of the religions reflected in the residents living in the home.
   • Recognize and honor religious holidays celebrated by the residents.
   • Communicate with families and residents regarding treatment options that respect their religious and spiritual preferences.
   • Accommodate dietary preferences required in certain religions.
     o An alternative to pork/shellfish for residents who practice Judaism or Islam
     o An alternative to meat for Catholics during some days of Lent.
     o Allow residents to either select or bring in preferred food items.
   • Offer residents choices and honor their decisions relative to strongly held religious beliefs.
     o Respect resident choice when possible, particularly if related to strongly held beliefs or religions.
     o Individualize ADL/rehab activities to align with their spiritual/religious practices.

3. Residents who are experiencing spiritual pain are provided assistance in its resolution.
   • The services of a chaplain are provided to support the resident.
   • A social worker or other member of the staff, with whom the resident is able to confide; provide necessary support.
   • Online resources are made available if possible and appropriate.
   • The Bible, prayer books, spiritual reading is provided if desired.

4. Provide access to religious services or resources.
   • Provide residents with access to a minister, rabbi, priest etc. of their choice.
   • Provide opportunities for residents to participate in religious activities/services.
     o Provide appropriate space for religious services to be held.
     o Give residents the opportunity and assistance to attend religious services outside of the facility.
     o Provide the opportunity for residents to share their personal religion and beliefs.
     o Provide residents with the opportunity to practice religious beliefs in an appropriate setting within the home.

5. Make resources and support available to staff for challenging resident/family situations in which values conflict. (e.g., resident representative, Ombudsman, ethics counselor).

6. Recognize and celebrate spiritual and religious passages in the facility.
   ▪ Create practices which ensure each resident and their family experience a peaceful passing.
   ▪ Create meaningful and respectful practices around the care of the body after the person passes.
   ▪ Conduct services which memorialize each resident who has passed, including staff, residents, friends and family.