Description of Cultural Immersion CPE Program

The increasing diversity in our community demands new approaches to serving patients and their families. At Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH) - North Texas, the Department of Pastoral Education intends to develop cultural competence by offering Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) that will provide intercultural immersion for students with theology or divinity training who have chosen a career path to become health care chaplains by pursuing a CPE. BSWH is one of 300 clinical pastoral education centers nationwide who are accredited by The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education to provide CPE programming.

The proposed training for CPE students seeks to: 1) enhance students’ experiential understanding of the life and challenges minorities encounter as they navigate the U.S. health care system, 2) develop greater empathy with patients and co-workers who are culturally different, and 3) cultivate effective communication that fosters better understanding of health care in the U.S. and also fosters better treatment planning and collaboration between health care workers and among patients of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

This program will place each CPE student into an ethnic faith community for 20 hours during an extended, 20-week CPE course and pair them with a host family. This will enable students to develop relationships and understand /document the host family’s experiences, concerns, and questions about obtaining health care in the United States. Students will explore effective ways to offer health care information in a culturally sensitive and helpful manner. The CPE Supervisor, in partnership with community leaders, will examine the best ways to: collaborate as equals in health promotion, educate future health care practitioners, and develop communication strategies for effective diagnosis (e.g., more complete patient history) and treatment (e.g., greater medication adherence) of community members.

We are confident we can prepare these CPE students to meet the challenges ahead, and stand ready to partner with you in delivering effective patient-centered care. Please let me know if you need any other information to evaluate our request for assistance.

Sincerely,

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