



SaskEthics

An Ethics Newsletter for Catholic Healthcare Organizations in Saskatchewan

Excellence needed to provide ethical care

Dear *SaskEthics* Readers,



I have found myself in a few very challenging situations over the past few months that have reminded me of the importance of striving for excellent care. The situations have largely concerned patients who needed help, but some bureaucratic or legal obstacle prevented them from receiving care. The obstacles were diverse, and included migration, lack of an assigned proxy, and, in some heart wrenching cases, family who did not have the best interests of the patient at heart.

What I noticed in these situations is that the outcome we achieved was directly tied

to the lens through which we viewed the situation. For example, when our care team approached a concern by first asking, “What do we need to do to avoid getting sued?” we often arrived at a very sterile answer that left us unsatisfied. When we expanded our search to ask, “What does the healthcare system say we owe this patient?” we got a little further into providing the type of care that we could be proud of, but it still felt lacking.

It’s not until we started asking ourselves bigger questions, such as, “what needs to change in the system for us to provide excellent care?” that we really got to where we needed to be. Providing ethical care demands that we go beyond what is required or expected of us, and strive for something excellent.

You’ll see a beautiful example of striving

Welcome Dr. Melody Isinger!

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has announced the appointment of a new Director of Ethics. Melody comes to the SHA from Ontario where she was most recently working as a Clinical and Organizational Ethics Consultant. Previous to this role, Melody worked for more than a decade as an ethicist at the Canadian Medical Association in the Health Policy & Research Division. Dr. Isinger received her Doctor of Health Care Ethics (DHCE) from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh), where she also completed advanced training in conflict resolution and peace studies. Melody is excited to return to her home province of Saskatchewan and will be based out of Saskatoon. She will start her position as Director of Ethics on February 5th, 2019.



for excellence in the poster below. After years of anticipation, the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation has launched its fundraising campaign for the first residential hospice in Saskatchewan. This campaign is not the fruit of a legal requirement or a policy expectation; it is a labour of love created by a community that is striving to provide excellent care for all families.

I know there are many other examples of excellent care around our province. How does your team move beyond what is required or expected, to strive for the best possible care in your communities?

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"Hospice is not just for the person who is sick, it's also for the family. Because everyone wants the best for their family."
- Gord Engel, Husband and Father, Living with Cancer

Watch Gord's story and help us build Saskatoon's first hospice.
Give Generously.
closetohome.fund

Close to Home
Campaign for Hospice & End-of-life Care

