

FAMILY COUNCIL Minutes

THURSDAY, October 17, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.

WEINBERG CLASSROOM

Attendance: Lisa Dawson, Charlotte Katzen, Helen Labonte, Kitty Cates, Jock Hobson, Tamara Gunar, Keren Gertsman, Neil Simces, Joy Lin Salzberg, Joan Strauss

Guest: Rob Menes, Chaplain

A. Discussion with Rob Menes

1. Professional Background:

Rob has worked as the Executive Director at the Congregation Beth Shalom, in Pittsburg, PA for the last four years, a Cantor for 15 years at the Temple Beth Shalom in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Congregation Beth Shalom, Overland Park, Kansas.

2. Role as a Chaplain

Currently in practicum at VGH in the cardiac ward for chaplaincy. Rob's mandate as chaplain is to serve all faiths advocating for the universal human need for acceptance, hope, love and faith. His role is to offer support to residents and their family for spiritual needs for what can be a challenging stage of life. Chaplaincy can take many different forms, from individual counselling and guidance, to schmoozing over a cup of coffee, to simply seeing to it that families/residents are able to access the appropriate services at Louis Brier.

3. Role as a Jewish Educator:

Rob is not responsible for Jewish religious services and is not the Jewish authority at LBHH but, he will often attend and even lead services if needed and will act as a recourse based on his experience and knowledge. Rob is a part of the Ritual Committee and is advocating on behalf of residents for compassionate flexibility to be reflected in rituals/services which will benefit the residents, at the same time maintaining the integrity of orthodox practices.

New initiatives spearheaded by Rob:

- Weekly interfaith services
 - Monthly World Spiritual Music
 - Friday morning Q&A regarding religious concerns
- Example: training staff on "the next holiday" coming up so they know what to expect
Discuss extending to companions
- Special Needs Workshops – with topics like Loneliness, Alienation, Powerlessness

4. Role in Committees

Ritual Committee - Rob serves on the ritual committee. Headed by Sid Goldberg, VP of the Board, there is a constant dynamic between guarding the sacred rituals of the Jewish faith and delivering them in such a manner that our physically and mentally challenged LBHH community can benefit from them.

Ethics Committee – Rob is chair of this committee to ensure consideration and education of all persons involved to facilitate resolution of clinical and personal ethical dilemmas.

Social Work –Works with the social worker to reach out to families. Rob will be a is part of the intake meetings with residents and family.

General Outreach – Rob seeks to get to know the needs of all residents and wishes all families to know of his breadth of support. He will create a communication piece to send out to all Family members.

5. Palliative Care and End of Life Care:

Rob recognizes the critical need for improvement and protocol in this area. Rob has met with other faith leaders to learn what other faiths expect from end of life care protocol and will incorporate his findings and recommendations in a comprehensive proposal to Senior Leadership Team -SLT. Families are concerned about:

- resident dying alone
- residents in shared rooms (SLT is working on a separate space with VCH right now)
- lack of protocols around: support; respectful; helpful communication by Louis Brier staff with the family of their dying loved ones including the day of or day after the resident's passing.

B. Elections:

Voted in and welcome to Joy Lin Salzberg as Co-Chair, replacing Charlotte Katzen; and Joan Strauss as Secretary, replacing Lisa Ford. We thanked all those who had served on Exec with special thanks to Charlotte who has been with Council since the beginning. Charlotte will stay on in capacity of Advisor

Joy Lin Salzberg, M.A. Co Chair

Joy has been involved with long-term care at Louis Brier on a personal basis in the mid 70's and during the last 15 years. Her grandmother and her father were at LB, and now her mother resides at Hospital East. Joy was a member of the LB Companions' Advisory Council for many years. She is a strong advocate for consistent, thoughtful quality care and life for all residents reflected holistically through families, staff, companions, and the administration at LB.

Joan Strauss, Secretary

Joan Strauss's husband David Strauss, is a resident of the LB. Joan has worked with mental health and homelessness for a number of years. Joan looked after Dave at home after he received his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. This was extremely challenging a did lead to caregiver burnout so placing him in long term care where he is looked after is a wonderful gift. The family appreciates all the care and attention Dave is getting. Anything that can be done to improve Louis Brier is great. Joan says:" If I can contribute in a small way I am happy to do it".

C. Family discussed:

- How to work with Rob to devise a business strategy/case for bringing orthodox rituals in line with the congregation it serves. How to marry the values and message with the physical and mental state of those to whom the sermons are delivered. What can be modified under Jewish law to show compassion for those who cannot hear well, move at all and/or are woman of faith who wish to participate.

D. Approval of the September 19 and June 20 meeting minutes – Approval (Helen), Second, (Charlotte)

E. Next meeting Thursday, November 21, 7:00pm, Weinberg classroom

F. Next Information Desk: Sunday, November 17, 10:00am-Noon - Volunteers Needed!