

## **JOB DESCRIPTION - JEWISH COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN**

### **Job Summary:**

The Jewish Community Chaplain serves the spiritual care and wellness needs of Jews throughout the Greater Portland who are ill, at end-of-life or experiencing life crises, or otherwise in need of spiritual care outside of a traditional synagogue setting. Clients may include but are not limited to people who are living with life-threatening illness, chronic illness, and experiencing health crises, bereavement, significant loss. Settings may include hospitals, long-term care facilities, prisons and other institutions, independent living facilities, personal residences. The Jewish Community Chaplain works to implement the vision of the Jewish community to meet the spiritual care needs of the most vulnerable and educate in non-traditional settings. The Jewish Community Chaplain is encouraged to identify previously unknown stakeholders and clients in the community.

### **Background Requirements:**

- Certification through a professional organization such as the National Association of Jewish Chaplains or the Association of Professional Chaplains, or certification eligible (4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education - CPE) and commitment to become certified within a two-year period after hire.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution- counseling, psychology or theology are helpful.
- Master's degree from an accredited institution in Theology (M. Div.) or Jewish studies, or counseling or similar.
- Rabbinic or cantorial ordination/investiture from a recognized seminary is preferred.
- Membership in good standing in a professional rabbinic, cantorial and/or chaplaincy organization
- Minimum of 2 years' experience as a professional chaplain

### **Responsibilities:**

- Visits and provides spiritual care to Jewish people in the Greater Portland Jewish Community.
- Follows up on referrals from the Oregon Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Family & Child Service, synagogues, and other Jewish community agencies to meet the spiritual care needs of the unaffiliated, especially ill and dying individuals and their family members, in hospitals, long-term care facilities, resident hospices, and private homes.
- Informs congregational rabbis when working with people who are affiliated, with permission from those care recipients, in compliance with HIPAA Federal laws.
- Establishes close working relationships with hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, independent living facilities, funeral homes, and prisons, so that calls for spiritual care are channeled directly to the Jewish Community Chaplain.
- Develops groups for bereavement, caregiver support, people living with chronic illness in collaboration with other community programs.
- Visits unaffiliated Jewish people throughout the community when they request spiritual care or when they experience a significant loss.
- Officiates at lifecycle events (funerals, also possibly weddings or other where religious conviction permits) for the unaffiliated. Provides immediate bereavement support and follow up on the bereaved.
- Works closely with the staff of local hospitals to help ensure that the spiritual and religious needs of Jewish patients are met. Provides consultation on Jewish medical ethics as appropriate.
- Ensures that hospitals and other institutions have necessary ritual items such as prayer books, matzah for Pesach, Hannukiot, etc.
- Provides emergency spiritual care coverage, when needed, for out-of-town colleagues.

- Provides spiritual care and support during community crises, such as wildfires and natural disasters, threats to the Jewish people locally and worldwide, Jewish crises overseas and in Israel.
- Establishes close working relationships with other communal agencies. Refers Chaplaincy clients to support groups, bereavement groups, and other programs.
- Serves as a communal and educational liaison with health care chaplains of other faiths and provides ongoing education to such chaplains about Jewish rituals and attitudes.
- Encourages individuals and families to affiliate with community institutions, including synagogues, and participate in the organized Jewish community.
- Provides pastoral visits to unaffiliated Jews incarcerated in correctional facilities when there is need for interaction with a Jewish Community Chaplain. Provides consultation to administrators regarding spiritual and religious needs of Jewish inmates.
- Serves as a spiritual resource for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the overall Greater Portland Jewish community. Participates in Jewish community events. Creates holiday programming and educational opportunities where desired as time permits (not to conflict with other available community opportunities).
- Represents the organized Jewish community at appropriate Greater Portland area community events.
- Maintains complete confidential records of clients served, with careful observance and compliance with HIPAA Federal Regulations
- Meticulously reports statistics of chaplaincy visits, groups, workshops, interactions in the community monthly to Federation, Board of Rabbis and JFCS.

**Reporting Structure:**

The Jewish Community Chaplain reports to Jewish Family and Child Service (JFCS). The Chaplain will provide statistics on all aspects of work within the role of Community Chaplain. The Chaplain will receive direction, community support and partnership through JFCS, in consultation with local community stakeholders, first among them the Board of Rabbis, from which it will regularly solicit input, responses and requests.

The Chaplain will interact with and receive referrals, suggestions, and input from the Board of Rabbis as a collaborative partner. The Chaplain will attend Board of Rabbis meetings, interact with members and respond in a timely manner to any requests from colleagues. The Board of Rabbis may assign a member to serve as a mentor for Community Chaplain.

The Chaplain will consult with the JFCS Clinical Director on cases involving mental health concerns..

**Salary and Benefits:**

This is a .5 FTE contract position with a salary and benefits of up to \$50,000.

**Application Guidelines/Contact:**

To apply, email a cover letter and resume to **Susan Greenberg**, Executive Director Jewish Family & Child Service [sgreenberg@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:sgreenberg@jfcs-portland.org)