



The National Institute for Jewish Hospice

Accreditation Conference 2009 A Great Success!

Representatives of 48 hospices from across the country participated in the NIJH Accreditation Conference, held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel at JFK Airport in New York City, on November 19, 2009. Over 100 people represented these hospices, including social workers, chaplains of all faiths, nurses and administrators. After a welcome and introduction by Shirley Lamm, Executive Director of NIJH, they spent an intensive day delving into topics directly related to the care of the Jewish terminally ill.

Sessions included a focus on Jewish ethics with a case-study lecture by Dr. Barry Kinzbrunner, Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, entitled "Jewish Medical Ethics & End-of-Life Care"; a lecture on "Connecting Across Religious Lines With Integrity" by Nehama Glogower, Chaplain, St. Joseph Mercy of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and a lecture on "The Psychology of the Dying Person" by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, noted rabbi and psychotherapist.

There were also sessions on Marketing Hospice by Colleen Swick, Regional Director of Business Development, Care Alternatives Hospice and on Practical Judaism and the Jewish Calendar by Rabbi Steven Shulman, Chaplain Continuum Hospice, Bronx, New York.

Participants were excited and energized by the amount of information they acquired and by the quality of the presentations. For many, this was their first exposure to the richness of Jewish culture and the profundity of Jewish ethical values. Many expressed the feeling that they were now much more prepared to better care for their Jewish terminally ill patients. They were glad to have participated in the conference and looked forward to a fruitful relationship with NIJH.



From left-top clockwise; Shirley Lamm, Executive Director NIJH; Dr. Barry Kinzbrunner, Nehama Glogower, Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Colleen Swick, Rabbi Steven Shulman,

Comments From Participants

"This was my first conference, it was great! Thank you. I feel as though I can return to my hospice team and provide them with information and resources. I am excited about working with Jewish patients now, versus feeling inadequate. Our hospice can now have more comprehensive care now, thank you! Finally it is helpful knowing NIJH is available to provide guidance and resources as needed. Thank you!"

"I found the program very beneficial and informative. I look forward to coming next year and bringing more members of our hospice team."

"I found everyone enlightening. As a Catholic, I found it extremely helpful when the speakers defined the customs and words. Thank you for the education provided by NIJH. I enjoyed and valued my time spent here."

"I attended the conference before and it keeps on getting better. Each speaker gave critical information which combined to give an in-depth perspective on how to serve Jewish patients in hospice."

"It was very informative and will definitely be helpful in my understanding of our Jewish clients. Thank you."

"I have found NIJH to be the most beneficial, not only this year but in years past. Also, I feel strongly that NIJH has been an impetus for other ethnicities to be acknowledged. NIJH has clearly shown society that death and dying is not a "one size fits all" philosophy or entity. Thank you for creating and continuing this wonderful organization."