The Quinte Healthcare Corporation is composed of 4 sites – Belleville (largest patient load), Trenton (about 20 minutes from Belleville), Picton (about 25 minutes), and North Hastings (about 1 ½ hours).

The QHC Spiritual Health Services Team provides service 24/7 365 days a year at all 4 sites.

There is one paid staff – a part-time coordinator/practitioner,

This person is on site in Belleville weekday mornings, and responds to all spiritual health related calls/consults/referrals, makes unit rounds, and tries to see patients from a daily generated list of inpatients who had requested spiritual care at the time of registration.

This person also takes calls most weekday afternoons, on a voluntary basis. Occasionally, there are 'duty chaplains' that take this responsibility – again, on a voluntary basis. At the moment, there are 5 duty chaplains who take one afternoon a month.

For evenings and weekends at Belleville, there is a weekly rotation of oncall chaplains, who volunteer their time to take calls and respond. At the moment, there are 4 chaplains doing this work. The Coordinator takes part in this rotation as well.

At the Belleville site, there is a list of oncall Catholic priests, who come in, on a volunteer basis, as requested by the Coordinator or unit staff.

Since COVID, all regular visits, within the Organization, by Catholic lay people to distribute the Host, and to pray with patients, have stopped. To fill the gap, there is ongoing discussion with priests at 2 sites, to see if they could come in on a more regular basis.

At the other 3 sites (Trenton, Picton, North Hastings), there is one chaplain on call 24/7 as first responder for all spiritual health calls. They either respond directly, or direct the call to the appropriate person. These chaplains receive an annual (modest) gift. They are assisted by the Coordinator/Practitioner, as requested by them (eg., sickness, vacation, other commitments), or by staff.

***Just a note: all chaplains are trained, and most have been doing this work for years. This is great, but it also raises concern about possible replacements when they can no longer do this work, or do not wish to continue.***

Monthly oncall lists are made available through switchboard, and are posted in the ICU.

I hope this helps!

Barb Willard, Spiritual Health Services Coordinator/Practitioner, QHC