

Ethics Committee Report

Committee:	Ethics
Chair:	Joan James, Board
Committee Members:	Cynthia Davies, Board Michael Pontus, Board Ron Philip, Board Barb Kinnon, Staff Gordon Carter, Staff Jodie Crombie, Staff Anne Roberts, Staff Don Fockler, MD Deb Theriault, Staff Doug Anderson, MD Janet Fletcher, Staff Jonathan Reggler, MD Mary-Lynn Taylor, Staff

The Ethics Committee met eleven times during the year with several changes in membership.

We have missed Dr. Barb Fehlau and Deb Theriault, though Mary-Lynn Taylor, Janet Fletcher and Jody Crombie have been welcome additions.

The Terms of Reference were updated and expanded to better reflect the Committee's function. The positive role of the Ethics Committee in the hospital was acknowledged during accreditation.

The main area of focus this past year was policy review and development. The majority of the work was done by dedicated staff who brought numerous drafts to the committee for discussion. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of those who took responsibility for the policy drafts and to thank all members for their thoughtful suggestions as we debated the final wording. The results were: the final acceptance of a new policy governing Do Not Resuscitate orders; updating of Degrees of Intervention; extensive revisions to the policies Consent to Health Care and Health Care Planning, and Care of Patients and Residents with Substance Use; and the first draft of two new Board policies, Code of Conduct and Whistle Blowing.

The Committee reviewed and recommended three research projects including a three year on-line staff survey. We also previewed a Vancouver Island Health Authority DVD on advance health care planning. Three members of the Jehovah's Witness Hospital Liaison gave an informative presentation and were able to answer some of our doctors' concerns.

In keeping with the desire to have more staff involved in ethical reflection, Gordon Carter designed a poster to help educate and encourage staff to access the committee. He also distributed numerous articles of interest for education and discussion. Several video-link conferences at our hospital were open to staff.

A major accomplishment this year was the planning and organization of an all-day Ethics/Spirituality conference. St. Joseph's General Hospital, several community agencies and partners sponsored this event which included a Continuing Medical Education credited presentation for doctors the previous evening. The conference entitled "A Life Undivided," with Dr. David Kuhl as the keynote speaker, was filled to capacity and a great success. It is hoped that the conference will be an annual event.

I would like to thank and applaud our Director of Pastoral Care, Mission and Medical Ethics, Gordon Carter, for his vision and hard work in spearheading the conference and for continuing to be the backbone of the Ethics Committee.

We are thankful that Corrie Marles, our recording secretary, has returned after an extended sick leave; we appreciated working with Janice Kilgour in her absence.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan James". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joan James
Chair