

SCAMeL Speedy Startup 2021 Outcome Report

## Spirituality Training in the Health Sciences

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Agency/Sponsor: South Central Academic Medical Libraries (SCAMeL)

Timeline: April 2022 – April 2023

### Project summary

The goal of this project was to add spirituality training to the continuing education opportunities at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). It required the four TTUHSC employees listed below to complete a Certificate in Spirituality, Health, and Healing through Harvard Community Education (25 contact hours over 6 weeks), review pertinent publications, and share the information as an elective/continuing education unit with any interested TTUHSC and University Medical Center (UMC) employees. Interview and survey was to be collected to assess the outcomes of the training. A stock of pertinent chapter e-books was also to be purchased and added to TTUHSC's library inventory to facilitate self-study by interested employees.

### Institution/Roles

- Institution: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Tobias Kroll, PhD, CCC-SLP – Project director
- Rosalinda R. Jimenez, Ed.D., MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC – Project manager
- Regina Baronia, MD, M.Ed. – Project leader
- Amy Faltinek, MLS, CAS, AHIP – Project leader

### Outcomes

**Summary:** The goal was only partially met due to extenuating circumstances. With some alterations to the original plan, however, the goal will be implemented at a later date no extension of the grant period will be needed.

#### *Individual outcomes*

**Outcomes met:** Of the outcomes mentioned above, the first and the third were fully met. All members of the project team completed the designated online training by Harvard. 19 e-books were purchased and added to the TTUHSC library inventory.

*Outcomes not met:* In the project's original form, there would have been enough time to meet the targeted goal of providing a CE training. However, the project could not be completed as per the original proposal, due to two reasons.

- 1) *Insufficient support by leadership.* At TTUHSC, institution-wide emails (e.g. for announcing a continuing education opportunity or sending out a survey) require school-level approval and must be sent through Deans' offices. However, of the 5 schools (Schools of Medicine, Health Professions, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health), only three Deans gave their approval, citing workload burdens. One school (School of Health Professions) opted to participate at a later date due to the timing of another project being executed at the same time as this one. Also, two other entities (University Medical Center & Physician Network Services) included in the project declined the opportunity to participate due to overburdened providers. In sum, only three of the seven projected institutions' faculty and staff participated in the survey and the continuing education opportunity offered by this project.
- 2) *Paucity of interest on part of the target population.* When the information was sent out, it was met with no response for several weeks. At the time of the writing of this report, only 4 out of roughly 500 target participants had expressed interest in the training. The project team therefore decided to change the format of the training (see below).

In the extended period of waiting for responses, first from Deans, then from interested participants, the project team decided to prepare for two different options on the way forward. In the event of having a sufficient number of participants (around 10-12) for an in-person training, the training would be implemented as originally planned. In case of a low level of interest in participants, a change of plans would be triggered: the team would offer continuing education credits on an ongoing basis. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Schools of Medicine and Nursing have an online database of continuing education videos to which any qualified providers may add. The team would create a video training (including a pre-/post-survey) and upload it to this database for any interested participants to earn continuing education credits, and gain survey data on the efficacy of their training.

The first proposal – assembling a small group of interested employees for in-person training – never materialized due to lack of responses to the notifications that did get sent out. It took several months until enough individual participants signed up for the training and study. At this point, while the grant period has expired, the team is ready to take the alternative option and go forward with video creation. No further funds are needed to do complete this alternative, therefore the grant can be closed.

### ***What worked well?***

The Harvard-issued training was in-depth and worthwhile. This training provided additional information in assessing and providing spiritual needs to patients in healthcare settings. By completing the training, any provider is equipped to assess and implement spirituality needs to patients encountered.

### ***Would you have done anything differently?***

It became evident over the course of this project that spirituality as an aspect of healthcare does not take precedence in the perspective of many stakeholders. It is possible that some Deans may have actively refused exploring and supporting this project on behalf of potential participants. Knowing this, we would have been more strategic in approaching the stakeholders with more evidence on the efficacy

of spirituality in patient encounters and the overall patient satisfaction. There was also a timing issue with our request, which we may have been able to circumvent using a more strategic, collaborative approach. Other projects and priorities competed with the timing of our project.

***Budget report***

At the time of this report, there are \$964.87 left in our budget. This number represents the projected salary for a student assistant, which we did not use because the part of the project that would have benefited from an assistant – creating and implementing an in-person training, evaluating survey responses – has not been tackled yet. We are confident that we will be able to complete this part of the project without the help of a student assistant. Our budget presents as follows:

Awarded	\$5,000	
Expenditures:	\$3,195.13	e-books
	\$840	Harvard online course
Remaining balance:	\$964.87	

The remaining balance will be returned to SCAMeL.

***Acknowledgments***

The project members would like to thank SCAMeL for their contribution to this important work. Although the in-person continuing education training has not reached the projected number of participants, we are confident that the web-based continuing education resource will prove valuable to the healthcare community.