

# Maximizing JFS Partnerships with Faith-based Organizations

Jewish Family & Career Service of Atlanta  
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis  
Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, New Jersey



**Why did we chose this model to reach out to our community?**

- **We wanted to reach isolated seniors. Congregational Nurses know who is isolated, and there is built in trust from a congregant because the nurse is from their community.**

**What does this model do to benefit JFCS?**

- **This model has elevated our reputation in our local NORC communities, with our legislators, both state and Federal and with local city government.**
- **Increases referrals to JFCS programs.**
- **Helped us to raise money from State and foundations.**

**Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis**



**West Metro Congregational Nurse Network consists of:**

**4 synagogues**

**1 mosque**

**9 Christian faith communities**

**This network is designed to provide professional development for the nurses, share best practices and provide networking opportunities**

**Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis**



## Who needs a nurse?

- Nurse will serve congregants from birth to death
- People with no family in town
- People needing spiritual connection
- Families needing respite

## In addition Congregational Nurses can:

- Teach health related classes
- Coordinate outreach volunteers
- Provide Support and Grief Groups
- Attend doctor visits and translate information

**Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis**



## **Importance of working with Faith Communities**

- **They offer Cultural Sensitivity**
- **Meet the expectations of congregants**
- **Nurse is part of a community they trust**
- **The changing economy.**
  - **Health care reform**
  - **Cuts to government services and reimbursement**
  - **Social service agencies budget cuts**

**Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis**

# About The JFCS Atlanta Synagogue Outreach Initiative

A unique best practices model driven by community need that provides personalized human services, educational programs, and one-stop informational assistance.

# What JF&CS Provides

- Shared vision of collaboration
- Needs Assessment to determine relevant offerings
- Liaison between JF&CS and Synagogue (on-site staff as needed)
- Programming and service recommendations and delivery at synagogue and other convenient locations.
- Co-branding
- Internal training for staff, board and committees
- Volunteer opportunities

# What Synagogues Provide

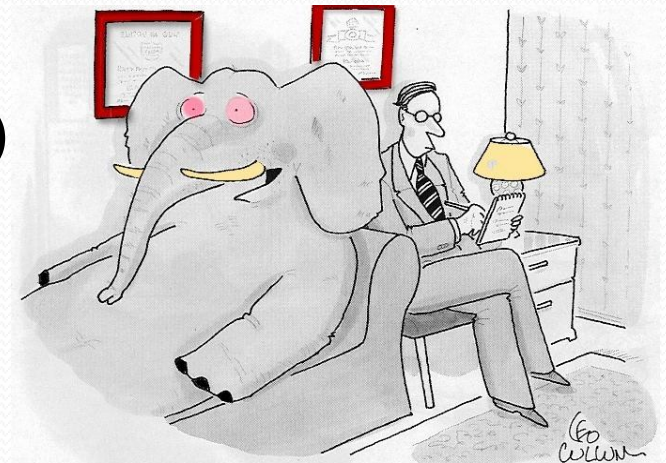
- Shared vision of collaboration
- Support and cooperation from professional and lay leadership
- Prospective volunteers
- Publicity and promotion of collaborative services
- Website and newsletter integration in joint initiatives
- Co-branding when appropriate
- Office space for liaison and flexible space for service delivery if appropriate
- Payment for certain services

# Meeting Synagogue Needs One by One...

- Information & Referral
- Workshops
- Customized Consulting
  - Grant Writing
  - Board Development
  - Affinity Groups
  - Volunteerism
  - Information & Referral

# Variables that Impact Success

- Time/accessibility of relevant partners for implementation
- ‘Buy-in’ from synagogue and congregants
- Utilization of JF&CS services in order to generate revenue to sustain partnership
- Collaboration – An unnatural act between 2 non-consenting adults.
- The Elephant in the Room (Funding)



*"I'm right there in the room, and no one even acknowledges me."*

*The New Yorker, 9/18/06*

# Lessons Learned

- Needs vary by synagogues.
- All synagogue partners recognize and value the need to build community within their shuls and in the broader Jewish Community
- JF&CS is a trusted, neutral convener and service provider.
- Synagogues are willing to collaborate with JF&CS and other synagogues when a mutual benefit is derived.
- Success of the initiative is dependent upon flexibility and ability to respond to changing needs.
- Once a relationship of trust is established, synagogues will readily utilize JF&CS services directly and by referring congregants
- Outreach has resulted in an agency paradigm shift; it is integrated into all aspects of agency operations.
- As confirmed by specific rabbis, Outreach has created a “Huge culture change in congregations making JF&CS a part of their operating model, in the way they do business.”

# Emerging Needs

- Job Development and Placement
- JF&CS as Convener
- Professional Services Consulting
- JF&CS is serving as an entry point by which external organizations can offer innovative service offerings to synagogues (social enterprise)
- Community Building
- Need for additional outreach resources to support discrete functions
- Service Delivery and Financial Assistance are increasing

# MetroWest New Jersey Synagogue Caring Coalition

- Established in 2007
- Initially six participating synagogues; now eight; representing all denominations.
- Each synagogue contributes financially toward the JFS position, with match coming from local private foundation.
- Rabbi has to want this program

# JFS Provides:

- On-site SW; 12.5 hours per week.
- Clinical peer group supervision – monthly; as needed.
- Convenes Rabbis and SW's – at least 3x/year.
- Annual community Rabbinic training.

# What Do the Social Workers Do?

- Individual consultations (brief)
- Community education
- Crisis intervention
- Support Group Facilitation
- EAP Support
- Volunteer Coordination/Training
- Liaison with other Federation agencies
- Weekly email blogs to SW Team

# Participating Synagogues Provide:

- Office space, voice mail
- Administrative programming support
- JFS SW is considered part of synagogue senior staff.
- Signed MOU between JFS & Synagogue
- Marketing to synagogue community –
  - Email messages from JFS Synagogue SW
  - Monthly column in synagogue bulletins
  - JFS SW Section on Website
  - Social Media presence

# Funding:

- Each synagogue contributes  $\frac{1}{3}$  of SW salary.
- Private foundation contributes  $\frac{2}{3}$  for three years.
- Private foundation continues at this level for a fourth year, providing the synagogue finds full funding for the fifth year.
- Now engaging with Federation to replace the private foundation funding.
- Four synagogues have secured private funding for their contributions and are now seeking to increase the level of that support.

# Benefits/Lessons Learned:

- Truly transformative – putting JFS into mainstream of the community.
- JFS now receives 3-5 new intakes per week for a wide range of agency services.
- JFS has benefited from new volunteer support, new donor support and increased community exposure.
- Synagogues feel much stronger connection to Federation community; able to provide “immediate response” to members in need.
- Federation agencies benefit from JFS SW “ambassador roles”.

# Thank you!

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