

# Crossing the Religious Divide: Training Caregivers in Religious Diversity



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## **Executive Summary**

The second training opportunity for professional care givers, medical personnel and social service providers that was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Visiting Nurses Association conference room. Creighton University Health Science Library, Project Interfaith and Nebraska Respite Network participated in promotional activities and there were 33 participants.

## **Administrative/Planning Activities**

Beth Katz, of Project Interfaith and her staff compiled participant packets. The workshop was held May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Beth led the training with establishing ground rules, identity exercises and developing a common language for diversity issues. Betty Evans presented a history of religious diversity in the United States and introduction to some legal issues. A panel of volunteers from Jehovah's Witness, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish faiths presented a summary of their religious practices. Beth led a discussion on best practices and strategies for inclusion and Judi Bergjord presented resources for dealing with religious diversity issues in healthcare.

## **Collaborations/Partnerships**

Creighton University, Project Interfaith and the Nebraska Respite Network worked together in promoting and marketing this workshop. The staff at the Visiting Nurses Association assisted in set-up and technical support throughout the day of the event.

## **Publicity/Marketing Activities**

Beth and the Project Diversity staff marketed the event at diversity fairs and community programs. Judi Bergjord sent e-mail to the nursing staff at the Creighton Medical Associates office and to state health sciences librarians. Judi Bergjord had a poster at Creighton University's Health Sciences Diversity Day on April 4.

## **Registration**

Thirty three registered for the May 6 workshop. Thirty-two signed the Outreach Activity Participant Information Sheet. Participants included three members of the general public, two public health workers, and one public library staff member. The other participants were health care service providers.

## **Laptop and Website**

Project Interfaith staff are currently uploading content onto the website, including podcasts, videos, and helpful links and resources. This content should be available for people to access from the website by end of summer/early Fall. They have used the laptop at booths/tables that they have had at diversity

fairs and community programs.

### **Evaluation and Feedback**

The needs assessment that was sent out to each registrant for completion was reviewed. Evaluation forms were given to each participant and were collected at the end of the workshop. A member of the Project Interfaith staff is still compiling the results of the evaluations.

### **Photos from the Event:**

