

§2000 ARCHDIOCESAN HEALTHCARE PROTOCOL

The Archbishop is responsible for assuring and supporting the Catholic identity of the ministry of Catholic healthcare in the Catholic hospitals, Catholic long-term care facilities, and other Catholic healthcare activities. This coordinating responsibility pays particular attention to, but is not restricted to, ethical and religious matters (as expressed, in part, in the Ethical and Religious Directives). Indeed, it extends to all matters pertaining to the viability of this ministry in particular institutions and throughout the Archdiocese, with particular concern for the healthcare needs of the poor.

2001.1. Policy Catholic healthcare institutions in the Archdiocese of Chicago shall abide by the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,” Fifth Edition, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 17, 2009, or as legitimately amended thereafter.

Procedure

The complete text of the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,” Fifth Edition, can be found on the Internet at:
www.usccb.org/meetings/2009Fall/docs/ERDs_5th_ed_091118_FINAL.pdf

2001.2. Policy Catholic healthcare institutions shall give first preference to partnerships with other Catholic healthcare providers.

2001.3. Policy Strong Catholic institutions shall be expected to provide moral and financial support, insofar as it is possible, to Catholic institutions experiencing significant challenges.

2001.4. Policy All Catholic healthcare institutions shall collaborate effectively to ensure their individual and collective well-being.

Procedures

- a) The preferred form of collaboration between healthcare institutions is an effective Catholic healthcare network.
- b) Joint ventures and other substantive actions of individual Catholic healthcare institutions, systems or a network will be evaluated as to how they will impact the future viability of that Catholic institution, as well as the viability of other Catholic hospitals/systems or the Archdiocesan network.

2001.5. Policy The following criteria shall be used by the Archbishop in evaluating any arrangements between Catholic health institutions, systems, or the network and institutions that are other than Catholic:

- (1) First priority will be given to working collaboratively with those institutions/systems that share in a substantive way Catholic vision and values.
- (2) Substantive collaboration with or sale to publicly-traded investor-owned corporations is not seen as being in the best interest of Catholic healthcare in the Archdiocese.
- (3) A Catholic institution, system, or network can not own or directly manage an institution that, by policy or practice, provides direct abortions. Nor can it enter into any collaborative effort with an institution that would violate the principle of cooperation with evil regarding procedures prescribed by the *Ethical and Religious Directives* as they currently exist or are amended in the future. Likewise, traditional Catholic moral guidance with regard to scandal must be observed.

2001.6. Policy Catholic healthcare institutions, systems or the network shall not finalize any agreements with non-Catholic institutions without the approval of the Archbishop or his delegate.

Procedures

- a) Before formal negotiations begin, the Archbishop must be informed of any possible joint venture or possible substantive business decision on the part of a Catholic healthcare institution, system, or network.
- b) If the Archbishop determines that such a proposed action pertains to any of the matters outlined in Policy 2001.5, he will ask the entity involved to provide him with the information he deems necessary to evaluate such proposals.

2001.7. Policy Failure to abide by the policies in this section may result in the withdrawal of the Archbishop's recognition of the involved institutions' Catholic identity or of the canonical approval for a particular apostolic work of a religious community. (Canons 216 and 683).