

# How does the wind blow?

Interpretation of chaplaincy care  
by clients in psychiatric care

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“An opportunity, a chance  
to better assess your own humanity,  
to take your life to a new level.”

Mary

# Research Question

How do clients in psychiatric treatment receive, interpret and evaluate chaplaincy care?

## Motivation

- Reasonable amount of research with self-reporting by chaplains
- Most of the research among patients and clients is quantitative, e.g. satisfaction questionnaires
- Limited amount of qualitative research among clients

# Points of interest

- General experience (interaction)
- Topics (domain)
- Course of conversation (method)
- Relation to treatment
- Religious or world view identity

## Method

- Literature & survey study
- Semi-structured interviews & focus groups
- Coding, analyzing, comparing & concluding

# What is chaplaincy care about?

- More than presence or empathy alone:  
issues of meaning, life, spirituality & religion
- More than spirituality alone: three strands  
of spirituality, identity & humanity
- More than counseling or reflecting alone:  
input expected from chaplain
- Spatial metaphors:  
depth, height, breadth, length

# Relation to treatment

1. Form of care on its own
2. Help in relating to disorder or crisis
3. Compliment to therapy (grief)
4. Part of therapy
5. Help in relating to therapy & treatment

# Results of chaplaincy care

1. Emotions & inner attitudes: calmness, less fear, relief, courage, acceptance
2. Recognition: pain, struggle, humanity
3. Cognitions: clarification, insight, wisdom
4. Situations: advice, retort
5. Existential & spiritual experiences: trust, comfort, freedom, growth, reconciliation
6. Aesthetic experiences: poetry, music
7. Ethical aspects: sympathy, respect
8. Identity: empowerment, centering, 'seen'
9. Therapeutic effects: healing
10. Survival: 'saved my life'

“It has to do with the spirit,  
and the spirit blows where it wants to,  
and like I say,  
despite all the norms, values and  
traumatic experiences,  
the spirit still blows  
in one direction or another,  
and that promises freedom.”

Wendy







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