

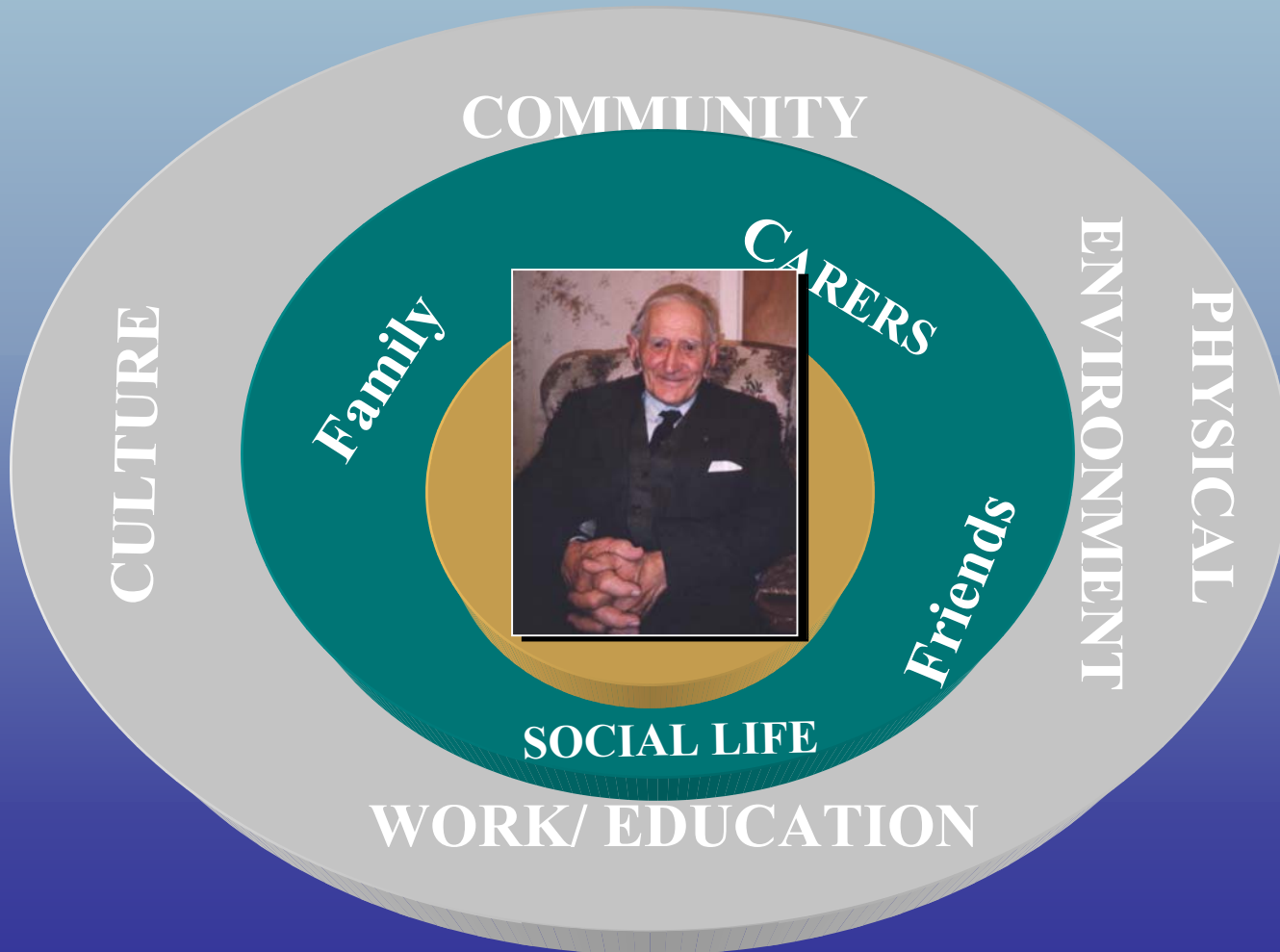
Differences & Tensions in Multi-disciplinary Practice

Challenges
&
Opportunities

Why Multi-disciplinary?

- Traditionally chaplains were on the edge, providing ministry without reference to other professionals.
- Emphasis on sacraments.
- Chaplains did not see a need to communicate anything to nurses or doctors.
- Ministry was seen as a private matter between priest and patient.

Holistic Person Centered Care





BODY

MIND

SPIRIT

Modern Health Care

A woman in a hospital gown is sitting up in a hospital bed, reading a newspaper. The room has a window, a bedside table with a phone, and medical equipment.

- **Patient interacting with:**
 - **Doctors,**
 - **Nurses,**
 - **Care Attendants,**
 - **Allied Health Professionals,**
 - **Porters,**
 - **Catering Staff.**
 - **Chaplain**

Each person can gather information in relation to person's story.

Who Cares for the Spiritual?

- **Hopefully all are aware but chaplain has specific responsibility of meeting the spiritual and religious needs of patients.**
- **How are spiritual needs, struggles communicated to team?**

Options in Communication

- **Informal chat to nurses.**
- **Informal chat to doctors – not as likely.**
- **Charting.**
- **Case Conferences.**
- **Inter-disciplinary team meetings.**

Tensions from chaplain's perspective.

- **Understanding of Confidentiality:**
 - Patient's story is sacred and no one should hear anything that is communicated.
 - Confessional approach.
 - This understanding presents difficulties in communicating to the team vital information to other professionals.
 - Prevents charting.

Team Confidentiality

- Issues are communicated to the team:
- Eg. Person is dealing with loss.
- Person is ready to meet his/her God.
- Person is in denial.
- Person is at Peace.
 - *Issues are communicated.*
 - *Story is not.*
 - **Facilitates charting**

Meetings/Case Conferences

- Time Consuming
- Consultant lead.
- Focus on medical, rather than holistic care.
- Professional sometimes disregard the chaplain because the perception is that s/he is only concerned with religion.

Way Forward

- **Communication in the understanding of Pastoral Care especially in an understanding of the Spiritual.**
- **Education of students.**
- **Chaplains need to be seen as part of multi-disciplinary team**
- **Chaplains need to chart.**