Trinity Counseling Service

Overview

Subsidized counseling is available for PTS students and couples at Trinity Counseling Service (www.trinitycounseling.org). Trinity Counseling Service (TCS) is a nonprofit pastoral counseling service begun in 1968 and licensed by the State of New Jersey. Trinity Counseling Service believes each person is a creature of God and worthy of love and healing. Its mission is to provide quality, individualized clinical and wellness services to the community in a caring environment—regardless of a client’s ability to pay.

Location and Accessibility

Trinity Counseling Service is located on the grounds of Trinity Church, at 22 Stockton Street in Princeton, next to Speer Library. TCS is handicapped accessible.

Eligibility and Fees

Students who have paid the comprehensive fee are eligible for a limit of ten counseling sessions at Trinity Counseling Service while enrolled at PTS with a copayment of $10 per session. Use of TCS services prior to September 1, 2009, for returning students will not count toward the ten-visit lifetime maximum. The Seminary subsidizes these sessions but never sees the names of students in counseling at TCS. This ten-session benefit does not apply to medical visits to TCS psychiatrists. After ten sessions, the Seminary’s subsidy ends, TCS bills the student’s insurance company, and the student’s copayment increases to $20. The Student Health Benefits Plan covers up to twenty-four counseling sessions (no limit for biologically based conditions).

Spouses and children are not eligible for Seminary-subsidized counseling, but TCS works with all insurance companies and has a sliding fee scale, which makes counseling affordable for anyone.

Psychiatrist visits for medication consultation or management can only be scheduled with a referral from a TCS counselor. The cost for psychiatrist visits, except for counseling sessions, is the sole responsibility of the student. Please review the SHBP coverage (refer to page 10) or your personal health insurance coverage for mental healthcare coverage for psychiatry and for counseling services beyond the ten sessions provided at TCS under the Seminary’s comprehensive fee.

Clinicians

TCS’s professional clinicians comprise nineteen experienced and licensed therapists including three psychiatrists, four clergy, five psychologists, five social workers, and two professional counselors. Some have been at TCS and have worked with seminarians for many years. The clinicians are interdisciplinary and ecumenical, representing many religious denominations within the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Hours of Service, Appointments, and Contact Information

Appointments are available from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday until 5:00 p.m. To make a first appointment, call 609.924.0060 and mention that you are a seminarian from PTS. A referral from the director of student counseling is helpful but not required.

Counseling Services

TCS clinicians are prepared to address a range of issues, including attention deficit disorder, alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety and stress, compulsive behavior and certain eating disorders, bereavement, depression, divorce, domestic violence, marital problems, parenting problems, school problems, and spiritual issues.

They also provide cognitive, academic, and personality assessment of children and adolescents. For adults, TCS offers vocational and career counseling, premarital and marital counseling, consultations for families in transition periods, and psychological evaluations of candidates for the ordained ministry.

Members of Trinity Counseling Service

Back Row (left to right): Hollis Nemiroff, Tom Baker, Susanne Hand, Sally Oppenheimer

Front Row (left to right): Ruby Thomas, Peter Stimpson, David Brown
Confidentiality and Informed Consent at TCS

The TCS confidentiality and HIPAA compliance statement is provided to all clients at the time of their first appointment. Counseling is confidential, and the Seminary is not told who is being seen at TCS. However, in the event of a psychological crisis where there is risk of injury to the client or others, the director of student counseling may be informed by the TCS clinician to help ensure safety and an appropriate level of support and response from the Seminary community.

Notice

This brochure may not be construed to convey an obligation on the part of Trinity Counseling Service to provide specific services to students of Princeton Theological Seminary. Service arrangements are subject to change and students are responsible for complying with all aspects of the patient rights and responsibility policies of Trinity Counseling Service. At the Seminary, inquiries regarding the services provided by Trinity Counseling Service should be directed to the director of student counseling.

Passport Health

Passport Health (www.passporthealthnj.com) has been retained by the Seminary to review and maintain immunization records for incoming students and to provide immunization services for both incoming international students and students traveling abroad. The cost for immunizations for incoming international students must be paid by the student at the time of service at Passport Health. The Seminary pays for the cost of immunizations for students enrolled in the Field Education International Program.

WordSecure®

Students are strongly encouraged to use WordSecure®, the online, confidential messaging system for the PTS Student Health Program. Students may use this system to send e-messages to healthcare providers, Student Health Program contracted organizations (e.g., Klais & Company, the claims administrator for the SHBP), and professional staff at PTS identified in this brochure. Students can subscribe to this messaging system at https://ptsem.wordsecure.com.

It is important for students to understand fully their copayment, deductible, and coinsurance responsibilities under the SHBP.