



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Kimberly R. Willis, M.Div., BCC

Executive Director, National Chaplain Service VHA

Chaplain Willis advances spiritual care integration throughout the health care system by equipping and empowering chaplains to innovatively provide multi-tiered/broad based programming and increase outreach and education of spiritual care practices through varied service modalities and platforms.

Chaplain Willis most recently served as the National Program Manager of Clinical Care and Education where she developed a National Clinical Pastoral Education Center to promote and enhance the professional development of all chaplains. As Chief of Chaplain Service at the Hampton VA Medical Center she formed a strategic alliance with DoD partners which established the Hampton VAMC as the training center of choice for those seeking Clinical Pastoral Education; directed efforts to shift outpatient care to a virtual modality without disruptions in patient care; developed local DoD protocols with Joint Base Fort Eustis Langley to provide continuity of care for discharged service members. Provided consultation to medical center MCAOs in developing workload capture protocols. She has conducted training for chaplains on MST, served on the LGBTQ Directive work group, and consulted for Suicide Prevention Teams.



Having joined the Veterans Health Administration in 2009 as a Chaplain and (ACPE) Supervisory Education student at the Hampton VA Medical Center while also serving in the USAF Reserves, Chaplain Willis provided spiritual care for 1800 airmen and most notably delivered “on-target on-time” spiritual care to deployed members during the September 2011 Operational Readiness Exercise. During her time at the VA Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic from 2013 – 2016, Chaplain Willis used her analytical problem-solving skills to establish the VA North Texas Health Care System Chaplain Tele-Health Service, thereby increasing the Chaplain Service Rural Health footprint and reducing consult processing

Chaplain Willis is a sought-after national speaker, presenter, who engages clinicians, ministry leaders, and other community stakeholders to effectively communicate the intersectionality of spirituality with the physical and mental health of Veterans. As a true champion of Veterans and those charged with their care, she received the coveted Henry Luce Foundation Grant (2020) for her grant proposal “Wellness is Essential,” which focuses on building and supporting the resilience of front-line workers. She is a certified trainer for the Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®), a Certified Warrior to Soul Mate Master Trainer, a VA Voices National Coach, a VHA Federal Internal Leadership Coach.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2022 – Present	Executive Director, VA Chaplain Service
2021 – 2022	National Program Manager Clinical Care and professional Development
2016 – 2020	Chief of Chaplain Service – Hampton VAMC, Hampton, VA
2013 – 2016	Chaplain – Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic, Fort Worth, TX
2010 – 2013	Chaplain – Hampton VAMC, Hampton, VA

EDUCATION:

- 2008 Master of Divinity, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington DC
- 2007 Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology, Park University, Parkville, MO