|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Patient Initials: TM | Resident Chaplain: Wendy Perego |
| Clinical Locations: Ochsner Medical Center Shreveport La. |  |
| Race/ Ethnicity: African American |  |
| Religious Affiliation: Baptist |  |
| Gender: Male |  |
| Marital Status: single but in a committed relationship |  |
| Age: 25 |  |
| Language: English |  |
| Medical Issues: GSW |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date of Visit: 2/22/24 | Unit: Trauma | Length of Visit: 30 | Verbatim: 4 |
|  |  |  |  |

**Known Facts** TM was a victim of a gunshot wound to the shoulder. He and his girlfriend and his one year old child were in his home and a drive-by shooter shot through the window of the living room. He and his child were hit. The child died instantly with a gsw to the head. TM was hit in the shoulder area, lost a lot of blood, and was taken by ambulance to Ochsner-LSU Shreveport. TM had surgery and was in the trauma unit recovering. The first time I went, his mother and aunt were with him. He was asleep in the bed. They said he had not woken up and been told about his child yet, and they were very concerned. I told them I would be checking on him when he was more awake. They were appreciative.

**Clinical Observation** I entered the room and TM was sitting in his bed alone in his room and on his phone. His shoulder was bandaged, but he was sitting up and alert. I told him I am a chaplain at the hospital and asked if it was o.k. for me to come in. He welcomed me and seemed to be looking for someone to talk to. I sat in a chair across from him.

**The visit encounters.**

Verbal conversation (C: Chaplain, T.M.: Patient)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Initials |  |  |  |
| C1 | How are you doing T.M.? |  |  |
| TM1 | I’m doing alright |  |  |
| C2 | Are you in a lot of pain? |  |  |
| TM2 | No, not really. I’m just kinda mad. |  |  |
| C3 | What are you mad about? |  |  |
| TM3 | Well, I got shot. And I’m so mad at the man downstairs. |  |  |
| C4 | Why are you mad at him? Did he have something to do with this? |  |  |
| TM4 | He might. I don’t know. He is such a jerk. He makes people mad all the time. I was just moving in the day I got shot and we were moving a couch upstairs and he saw us getting it stuck. He didn’t offer to help. He just stood out there and watched us. We struggled and struggled turning it all kind of ways and we could never get it up the stairs. We finally gave up and brought it back out to the truck. He didn’t offer to help at all. |  |  |
| C5 | He doesn’t sound like a nice person. |  |  |
| TM5 | He’s not. I don’t know what his problem is. But, after he heard the gunshots, he came out and he wanted to know what happened. |  |  |
| C6 | That must have been terrifying. |  |  |
| TM6 | Yeah. I ran outside to see who it was. I didn’t even know I was shot. I was just running. I ran all the way down to the corner. Then, I started feeling my arm hurt and I looked I had blood all over me. |  |  |
| C7 | What did your girlfriend do? |  |  |
| TM7 | She brought the baby down stairs. I need you to talk to her. She is very upset. Can you come back and talk to her? I know she has been through a lot and she needs somebody to talk to. |  |  |
| C8 | I would be happy to talk to her. When will she be coming up here? |  |  |
| TM8 | She was here this morning and she had to leave, but she will be back. She had to go to the funeral home to make arrangements. |  |  |
| C9 | For your son? |  |  |
| TM9 | Yeah. She is upset. And I try to be nice to her, but I get angry, really angry and I know I shouldn’t treat her like that. She doesn’t deserve it. Of all people, she doesn’t deserve it. |  |  |
| C10 | Can you tell me more about your anger? |  |  |
| TM10 | I just get mad, you know. I have been telling these people I need to be out of here by Thursday and they said they don’t know. Look at this food they brought me. Who could eat that? I need to get out of here. |  |  |
| C11 | I am sure you are anxious to get home. I would be, too. |  |  |

**End of the Conversation**

1. **How has your theology informed your work in this verbatim and why? What were its limitations? Strengths?**

My theology informs me that children are a blessing from the Lord and we are to love and protect them. It’s limitation here was that I did not know how to comfort TM in his grief. It’s strength is that I know he must be hurting deeply or it will hit him soon and I can pray for him and support him however he needs.

C**ompassion and Presence:**

I remained calm and allowed him to speak and vent some anger – even though it seemed illogical or misplaced. I did not challenge him on what he was saying as he was displaying anxiousness already and I wanted him to remain still so that he can physically heal.

**Active Listening**:

I listened and let him lead the conversation and vent. I was perplexed by his avoidance of acknowledging his son’s death, but did not want to push him at this time. I felt like he just needed to be listened to, even if it wasn’t in the direction I would have expected.

**Offering Continued Support**:

1. **What do you think is going on spiritually in this patient's life?**

I think he avoids his thoughts and misplaces his emotions – or just avoids them as well. He believes in God. He seems to not want to be a burden to anyone and doesn’t want to be vulnerable – with people or with God. He kept saying his girlfriend needs prayer, but he was ok.

1. **Identify and discuss who you identify with in this encounter, is this a familiar experience (abandonment? Loneliness, etc.? Does anyone remind you of someone? What feelings surface during the encounter?**

This was not a familiar experience. I wasn’t sure how to handle it. I had never spoken to someone so out of touch with their emotions and the reality around them in a situation like this. It made me feel perplexed.

1. **What was your assessment of the people involved and what do you base that assessment on? Has your assessment changed since the encounter occurred?**

I assessed that he is a young man that just went through a life-changing event and wasn’t ready to face it, because of his avoidance and distracting himself. It has not changed. He remained this way until he was discharged. I am sure it will be something he wrestles with for a long time.

1. **What relational dynamics were present during the encounter? What did you do with your observations of these dynamics? How does your presence impact the dynamics at play?**

The mother and the aunt were totally devastated at the first encounter. I did not see them interact with TM because he was asleep. Also, his girlfriend was not present during this visit. He seemed to want someone to talk to, so he welcomed my visit.

**Offering Support and Comfort**:

1. **How did you initiate the encounter?**

I was doing general rounds. I had noticed him on the Spiritual Care Census as a young man having a GSW made a note to go see him. I walked in and asked if it was ok for me to visit and both his family and he were very welcoming.

1. **In what ways did you connect with the person and in what ways did you differ? Take into consideration elements such as age/ethnicity/gender/economic lifestyle/sexual orientation/race.**

I connected well with him in that he was friendly and welcoming and talkative. He was glad to have company and he was easy to have a conversation with. He was a lot younger and he is a different race than me. However, I taught school and enjoy talking to younger people.

**Spiritual Care Reflection.**

1. **Discuss how you addressed your learning goals in this encounter.**

I took initiative in rounding and I’m feeling more confident. I prayed with him at the end of the encounter and I feel like it is more genuine and personal now – not just trying to say the right words.

1. **What was different about your functioning in this encounter? Why?**

I took a back seat with this conversation, as he was eager to lead it. I didn’t have to ask questions – he freely talked.

1. **Based on your reflection on this encounter, what goals do you have for future encounters that will address any weaknesses and or strengths you have identified**?

I want to learn if there is anything I should have done or could have said to have been a support to him. I felt like we just avoided the elephant in the room.

1. **Share any image, song, metaphor or symbol to describe this encounter.**

The image I have is picturing a second floor window on a cold, dark night and them sitting on the floor in the living room with no couch.

1. **Were there any physical sensations that you became aware of while in the room (an ache, pain, gut response to something? If so, when did it occur?**

I felt the top of my head scrunch up a lot.

**d. When you reflect on this care receiver what emotion and or physical sensations do you experience?**

My heart hurts for him. It is more than anyone could handle on their own.

**What questions particular to this encounter do you have for your learning process?**

I want to learn from my peers if they would have redirected the conversation to the tragedy at hand or how would they have handled it?