

A Brief History

The California Counseling Institute began as the Center for Pastoral Care established at the Episcopal Church of the Advent of Christ the King in 1978. Four years later, Canon Pastor George Foxworth spearheaded relocation to Grace Cathedral where we remained until 1988. In 1981, the name was changed to the current one which more accurately reflected the expanding clientele and direction of the center.

From 1984 to 1991, the Reverend John Gallagher acted as Executive Director and developed the core therapeutic staff. When he retired in 1991, Hal Childs and Lynn Bjork Mannix were chosen as Executive Co-Directors. Both had worked within the Institute for many years. In 2007 Elaine Chan-Scherer assumed the role of Executive Director and Meg Bloomfield became Managing Director.

We were an Employee Assistance Program provider for the Episcopal Diocese of California for ten years, 1994 to 2004. We expanded our services to the East Bay by opening an office at All Souls Church in Berkeley in early 1994.

Currently there are six staff therapists associated with the Institute. They consist of a Clinical Psychologist (PhD), Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). For twenty years CCI has trained registered interns who work under the supervision of licensed therapists as part of their training required for state licensure.

The California Counseling Institute is incorporated as a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors. We are completely self-supported by client fees, and we are committed to providing psychotherapy to as broad a group of people as possible. We offer short-term counseling and long-term in-depth psychotherapy to individuals, couples, families, teens and children. We also lead workshops and groups.

Approximately 34% of our clients pay fees well below the industry standard. We support low-fee clients through the Client Assistance Fund (CAF). One hundred percent of donations to the CAF provide direct assistance to low-fee clients.

The staff is dedicated to bringing together the psychological process of healing and self-knowledge with the larger spiritual questions about the meaning and purpose of life. We believe that integrating psychotherapy and spirituality is essential in the healing process. Psychotherapy is a process in which both the client and therapist are active participants, creating a therapeutic relationship which is both sacred and professional.