

Career Pathway Report: From Lived Wisdom to Sacred Service

1. Introduction: The Integrated Path

Coby, we view your vocational transition not as a career change, but as a sacred "Gathering of the Sparks." Your journey is a profound integration of your lived wisdom—drawn from your background in fitness and your personal history of recovery—into a life of dedicated spiritual service. Using the "Four Worlds" philosophy of Jewish Renewal, we see your path beginning in **Assiyah** (Doing), where the physical discipline of fitness provides the grounded action necessary for leadership. As you move through **Yetzirah** (Relating) and **Briyah** (Knowing), you will eventually reach **Atzilut** (Being), the realm of professional chaplaincy. We believe that your history is not a hurdle to be overcome, but a vital prerequisite for authentic service; your experiences allow you to meet others in their brokenness with a unique and holy authority.

2. Phase I: Immediate Stabilization (The PLACE Program)

The first step in your journey focuses on professional stabilization through the "Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment" (PLACE) program. Administered by the Worker Education & Resource Center (WERC), this path prepares you for Community Health Worker roles within the L.A. County Department of Health Services. **Program Eligibility Requirements** To enter the PLACE program, participants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Receiving CalWORKS, GR, or CalFresh.
 - Experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.
 - Being "Justice Involved."
 - Former Foster Youth (ages 18–24).
 - Unemployed for 6 months or more.
- Job Application Requirements**
- **Experience:** 6 months of experience working with the public or community groups.
 - **Documentation:** A valid California driver's license or the documented ability to utilize an alternative method of transportation.
 - **Availability:** Ability to work any shift, including evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays.
 - **Health Status:** Must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Participant Benefits** The PLACE program offers essential tools to ensure your successful entry into county service:
- **Civil Service Exam Preparation:** Specialized coaching to navigate the county's competitive testing requirements.
 - **Resume & Interview Prep:** Expert assistance in translating your background into a professional narrative.
 - **Case Management:** Targeted support including resources and Fair Chance Hiring guidance to help navigate past barriers.

3. Phase II: Near-Term Professional Path (Care Navigator Apprenticeship)

Once stabilized, your path transitions into the Care Navigator Apprenticeship Program (CNAP). This phase serves as your functional "Yetzirah" (Relating) internship. Here, the skills you develop in patient engagement and clinical coordination act as the direct precursors to the "Holy Accompaniment" required in your long-term calling. | Care Navigator Core Competencies | Goal

Description || ----- | ----- || **Patient Engagement** | Utilize Motivational Interviewing and cultural humility to effectively outreach and engage diverse patient populations. ||

Relationship-building | Master effective communication strategies for collaborating within multidisciplinary medical teams and supporting patient families. || **Service Coordination** |

Develop the capacity to link patients to vital community resources and ensure efficient navigation of the medical system. || **Professional Skills** | Apply critical thinking, workplace etiquette, and ethical standards to ensure safety and professional conduct in clinical settings. ||

Health Literacy | Acquire a functional understanding of chronic medical conditions and prevalent mental or behavioral health issues. || **Advocacy** | Empower individuals and communities by addressing social determinants of health and existing healthcare disparities. |

The Apprenticeship Model The CNAP utilizes a rigorous work-based learning approach, combining **150 hours of classroom instruction** with **2,000 hours of on-the-job training (OJT)**. You will be paired with an **OJT Mentor**, a senior employee who shares industry wisdom and helps you apply classroom health concepts to the "Assiyah" of real-world clinical care.

4. Phase III: The Long-Term Calling (ALEPH Rabbinic Pastor Path)

The final phase of your journey is the ALEPH Ordination Program (AOP) Rabbinic Pastor track. This path was specifically cultivated in 2001 by Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Rabbi Marcia Prager to differentiate this form of service from the traditional "Talmudic study" focus of the Rabbinic track, emphasizing instead the role of the specialist in pastoral care and ritual craft. **Curriculum Distribution Overview** Your ordination requires a minimum of **34 units** of graduate-level study, ensuring a high level of Jewish literacy and clinical mastery:

1. **Jewish Pastoral Skills:** Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 8 units, Jewish Pastoral Counseling 4 units, and Jewish Biomedical Ethics 1 unit.
2. **Liturgical Artistry:** Davvenen' Leadership Training Institute (DLTI) 2 units, Introduction to the Siddur 1 unit, and Lifecycle Officiation courses 4 units.
3. **Jewish Literacy:** TaNaCH and Biblical Hebrew 4 units, Kabbalah and Hasidut 2 units, Jewish History 3 units, Rabbinic/Halachic Literature 1 unit, and Jewish Thought/Philosophy/Theology 4 units. **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)** CPE is the professional standard for board-certified chaplaincy. To meet national certification requirements for employment in healthcare settings, you must complete **1,600+ hours** (typically four units) of supervised encounters with persons in crisis, emphasizing interfaith experience and deep theological reflection.

5. Spiritual and Ethical Foundation (Hashpa'ah)

Coby, a non-negotiable requirement of your training is the relationship with a **Mashpia** (Spiritual Director). You are required to remain in ongoing spiritual direction from entry until six months after ordination. This "Hashpa'ah" ensures relational coherence, providing a sacred space for personal growth and the cultivation of your own spiritual gifts. **Atzilut (Being)**

Principles for the Journey of Recovery The following "World of Atzilut" principles from the ALEPH Eighteen Principles provide a spiritual framework that honors your background in recovery:

- **Godwrestling ("Yisrael"):** Viewing the human spirit and the Divine as one evolving process of interaction and "Gathering the Sparks" (Principle #4).

- **Transformation of Consciousness:** Commitment to opening oneself to the ongoing manifestations of the Divine, including the emergence of the Feminine after millennia of suppression (Principle #5).

6. Summary Roadmap: Milestones of Agency

Phase, Primary Institution, Outcome

Stabilization, WERC (PLACE Program), Employment with L.A. County Dept. of Health Services

Navigation, L.A. Care / Community Clinics, Industry-Recognized Credential (CHW)

Ordination, ALEPH / AOP, Clergy Ordination (Smicha) as Rabbinic Pastor

7. Closing Affirmation

Coby, this report acknowledges that your agency and inner capacity are the primary drivers of this journey. In our tradition, "Smicha is a recognition of inner capacity," a formal naming of the colleague you are already becoming through your mastery of self and service. Your evolution from the grounded action of fitness (Assiyah) to the profound accompaniment of chaplaincy (Atzilut) is a vital contribution to the Renewal of Judaism. By integrating your lived wisdom with professional training, you serve the ultimate goal of Tikkun Olam—the healing of the world and the soul.