



NURSING PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023

11:30 am-1:00 pm

Zoom

MINUTES

INDUSTRY ATTENDEES: Lauren Hadley (Co-host), Julie Baxter (Providence Swedish), Dana Nelson-Peterson (Virginia Mason Franciscan Health), Elizabeth Hinkson (Providence), Emie Cupat (Hearthstone), Dorene Hersh (Public Health)

STAFF: Mary Burroughs, Niki Kirby, Sheryl Rasmussen, Emily Howerter, Sharon Lowenborg, Robert Reynoso, Nancy Sievert, Joan Riesland, Aaron Leonard, Carley Borgen

Welcome & Introductions- Mary Burroughs

Approval of Minutes from Spring 2023 (Feb. 7th)

Committee Member Practice Updates – Emie Cupat, Julie Baxter, Elizabeth Hinkson, Dorene Hersh, Dana Nelson-Peterson

Emie Cupat (Hearthstone):

- Long term care is transitioning to endemic covid. They are updating covid guidelines and lifting mask requirements. Uncertain if Medicare will require covid vaccination for staff (“currently recommended”). Bivalent booster expected to be available for residents and staff by next week)

Julie Baxter (Providence Swedish)

- All units are currently clear of covid.
- Continuing covid policy alignment with North and South regions.
- Masking is still required for all areas. For outbreak areas, N-95 and eye protection is required as well as daily antigen testing for staff on that unit (students send results to instructor). Need to find antigen test supplies for students.
- Vax changes: Swedish requires staff be fully covid vaccinate with “original doses”; single bivalent or Johnson and Johnson single dose will be accepted as “original doses”. Boosters are not required.
- No longer doing fit testing for non-high-risk areas
- 204 residents were hired.

Elizabeth Hinkson (Providence)

- N-95 masks and protective eyewear required for outbreak areas.
- Currently no outbreak areas.

Dorene Hersh (Public Health)

- Covid policies unchanged.
- Notified by King County Executive Dow Constantine of 100-million-dollar deficit, surveys being sent regarding program reviews. Staff lay-offs expected to begin on Jan. 1st, 2024.
- Dorene announced that she will be retiring in September.

Dana Nelson-Peterson (Virginia Mason Franciscan Health)

- N-95 masks and protective eyewear required on outbreak units.
- There was an issue with clinical placement on one of their floors (unspecified by Dana), which they are currently working through, as well as the prevention of future issues.
- Utilization of travel nurses ~36%
- They are exploring a campaign to increase med-surg nursing numbers as more recent grads are more focused on working in clinics.

Following notes from discussion prompted by and related to Dana's last point: (issues, concerns, barriers and solutions regarding staffing levels and encouragement of recent grads to med-surg)

Elizabeth Hinkson:

- Noted staff concerns about "lack of respect" of some new RN's.

Mary Burroughs:

- Noted high volume of "traveler RN's", high patient loads.

Emie Cupat:

- Noted concerns about night shift staffing levels and new RN's night shift hesitancy.

Nikki Kirby:

- Suggested describing med-surg as a path/transition to desired clinic roles.

Julie Baxter:

- Noted (units that can) keeping new grads on days for first year before transitioning them to night shifts-no data on if they leave at that point.

Sheryl Rasmussen:

- Speculated what demographic/economic changes for new RN's may not be conducive to night shift: life responsibilities, family age, increased expense, etc.

Dana Nelson-Peterson:

- Noted having several available positions unfilled for 200+ days due to lack of applicants vs. a small number of posting for online "virtual care" positions garnering very high number of applications in a very short amount of time.

Emie Cupat:

- Speculated that increase in med-surg hesitancy due to pandemic period negative media messaging (hardship, risk, loss, etc.).

Mary Burroughs Presents Shoreline Nursing Program Updates:

- a. Shoreline NCLEX pass rates, completion rates at 85.85% for 2022, lower than 90's average pre-pandemic, however, a milder drop than other programs in WA state.
- b. Mary presented data from the Fall 22 Seminar Evaluation NURS 103 survey.
- c. Proposed new building: approved by WA legislature; planned Fall 2023 construction start with Fall 2025 opening; however, this is dependent on the completion date of building currently under construction. The proposed building will contain 4 simulation rooms: 1 extra-large, 1 ICU, 1 med-surg and 1 med lab. This will double the capacity of skills labs.
- d. New/updating equipment: review for skills labs. 2 skills labs will be ICUs with lifts.

Next Meeting:

Meeting Adjournment: 12:54 pm

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