

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

July 2021

I am curious, before being critical.....

This past weekend, I participated in a large Health Fair for the homeless in the parking lot of a local church. This included not only healthcare, but showers; washers and dryers to do laundry (both on trailers designed to be mobile); barbering services; and tables of clothing. Food was available as well (to eat there and groceries to take with). Our healthcare services included screening for COVID and HIV, as well as vital sign and glucose screenings. We also provided medical evaluations and wellness exams. Some of the individuals I saw were patients I have seen and treated in the past who were there for their follow-up visits, but most were new. We had one person leave via ambulance after their evaluation revealed a strong indication for DVT, and another whose remarkable hernia will be fast-tracked to a surgeon who sometimes donates his services for our patients at the community clinic. Anyone in need of mental health services was also referred to our provider at the community clinic [our clinic is free and we only see patients who do not have insurance - you would be amazed at how many people that is!].

I am privileged to have been involved in "Street Medicine" for a while now - providing healthcare to the homeless population where they are. I have been inside this Without Walls church before when we had clinic there, but it was the first time for my colleague. In it, there is a Star of David banner prominently displayed alongside a Christian banner on the wall behind what could be considered the altar area. I always assumed that the services were multidenominational, and that was the reason why they were there. I thought, perhaps, it was a donation. When we walked into the building to get something, her expression changed, and so I asked her if she was bothered that the banners were there. She immediately replied, "Oh no, I just wonder **why** they are there. I am always curious before I am critical." Her words have rung in my head all weekend, and I decided to share them with you in this newsletter. I believe they are powerful.

What a wonderful world it would be if we sought to understand the why before judging and being critical of others' actions and philosophies! Think of all the knowledge you might gain and the impact this may have on your own philosophies and life. I challenge you to be curious before being critical...

Newsworthy Notes

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is holding its Mental Health online conference on July 20-21, 2021. Registration is open on the <u>NCCHC website</u>.

The American Correctional Association will hold its 151st Congress of Correction on August 11-15, 2021 in Nashville. It will include virtual and in-person activities. You can register on the <u>ACA website</u>.

The American Correctional Nurses Association is soliciting nominations for its 2021 Elections, to be held in October. Please check out the <u>website</u> for more information and the forms to be submitted. The ACNA has been granted provider status by the Florida Board of Nursing, and will soon be offering continuing education programs that will award accredited continuing education hours. Best of all, they will be free for members! Our first program is a webinar on Correctional Nurse self-care. It will be held at the end of July, date to be determined, so check out the ACNA website for details!

Remember that you can find our past Newsletters on the CorrectionalNurse.Net website in the Newsletter Archive.

Thanks for all you do, and Be Safe!!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at **CorrectionalNurse.Net** our clinical discussion will be about Seizure Disorder.

Our professional practice discussion will be about the Seven Guiding Principles of Correctional Nursing. As always, announcements for new blog posts will be posted on our FaceBook pages.

Please **FOLLOW US** and check back often to ensure that you get notification of new posts!

VISIT CORRECTIONALNURSE.NET NOW

Correctional Nurse Educator

Our 50% off featured class this month is Seizure Disorder for the Correctional Nurse.

I hope that you enjoy it!

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at **Nursing Behind the Wall**, you will meet Mr. Grant, a gentleman complaining of facial numbness.

VISIT NURSING BEHIND THE WALL NOW

In closing, I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter, and I hope that you will find our sites interesting and educational. Our

profession of Correctional Nursing is unique and sometimes challenging, but always very important to our patients. The impact we make is farreaching, even if it is not always evident as we care for our patients. I have ALWAYS been proud to say that I am a Correctional Nurse - I hope that you are as well!

Lori

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