

THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

October 2023

This month, I want to share several items with you in this "chat" section of the newsletter.

First, my sincere thanks to the Academy of Correctional Professionals for honoring me with the Margaret Collatt Service Award for 2023. This award recognizes a member of the ACHP who has made "exceptional contributions to correctional healthcare by their service to professional education and training within the field." Education has always been important to me (I was a teacher before I became a nurse), and to have my efforts in correctional healthcare and correctional nursing education be recognized is incredible! Thanks to the Academy for this wonderful acknowledgment of my work.

Withdrawal...almost everyone working in jails (and even some prisons) knows what potentially serious outcomes can occur to our patients who are withdrawing from alcohol or drugs. This month (October 19th) at the OPEN FORUM for the American Correctional Nurses Association, we will be discussing withdrawal. Because it is an Open Forum, I cannot list the topics we will be talking about (this will be determined by what the participants want to discuss), but I am confident that we will be discussing best practices, protocols, monitoring, medications and just what are the patient risks. If you are a member of ACNA, reserve your seat on the [website](#). If you are not a member, now is the perfect time to join and be part of this conversation! The OPEN FORUM is free to attend for ACNA members, is held MONTHLY and discusses issues important to correctional nursing practice. Previous Forums include All Things Intake and Scope of Practice Issues for Correctional Nurses. To encourage engagement in the discussion, the Forum is never recorded.

I typically receive many emails each month asking my opinion, asking for referrals to resources about particular issues, etc. and last month I received two that I want to share with you for your input. I hope you will take the time to respond if you have information that could be helpful!

The first:

I have been approached by a state DOC regarding allowing RNs to pronounce death. They shared, in part, that they were working with their state department of health, nursing board, and the attorney general's office to craft policy allowing DOC registered nurses to pronounce death. The only resources they found were the policies/procedures of California and Texas. Both states allow RNs to pronounce death if it is expected and there is a DNR on file.

The impetus here for the potential change in policy was several incidents where nurses had to initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation on patients who were clearly deceased, which they found to be traumatic for the nurse/staff and the incarcerated persons who had to witness the situation. If you have any insight or know of any state/facility that permits registered nurses to pronounced death under unexpected circumstances, please contact me and I will forward the information to the person who made the inquiry.

The second:

One of our colleagues has asked me about career ladders for Correctional Nurses, and so I turn to you. Does anyone have career ladders for their nurses? Does anyone have experience developing career ladders, to include criteria for levels, etc.? Any help would be appreciated, and we will share the final product with readers of this newsletter in case it is something you would like to implement at your site, company, etc. Please email me any resources you have. Thanks in advance. I think this is a great idea and exemplifies correctional nurses' professionalism and recognition both internally, with our correctional colleagues, and with the greater nursing community.

I also wanted to let everyone know that Sue Smith, Deborah Shelton, and I have published an article in the [Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing](#) about translating the *Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* into our Nurse Advisory Council's correctional nurse education plan. It took almost a year from first draft to publication, but it was worth it! We view this as yet another opportunity to showcase Correctional Nursing to our colleagues in the greater nursing community. This is the first article about Correctional Nursing published in this journal, and the editors actually asked us to add more about correctional nursing and how our specialty differs from hospital/community nursing because they did not know! Little by little we are gaining recognition...

I hope you all have a great October!!

Newsworthy Notes

The American Correctional Nurses Association OPEN FORUM to be held on October 19, 2023. Check out the [website!](#)

Upcoming conferences include

[The Western American Correctional Health Services Association](#) (WACHSA) on October 25-27, 2023 in Sacramento. I will be presenting on Wednesday about continuing education and how that contributes to providing quality health care in corrections; and

[The American Correctional Association's](#) Winter Conference in National Harbor, MD January 4-7, 2024.

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](#) we will be discussing skin lesions and patient safety.

As always, announcements for new blog posts will be posted on our FaceBook pages and on Instagram.

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 at The Correctional Nurse Educator is [Seizure Disorder for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope you enjoy it!

Remember The Correctional Nurse Educator will work with your group to provide quality, accredited continuing education classes at a discounted and affordable cost.

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

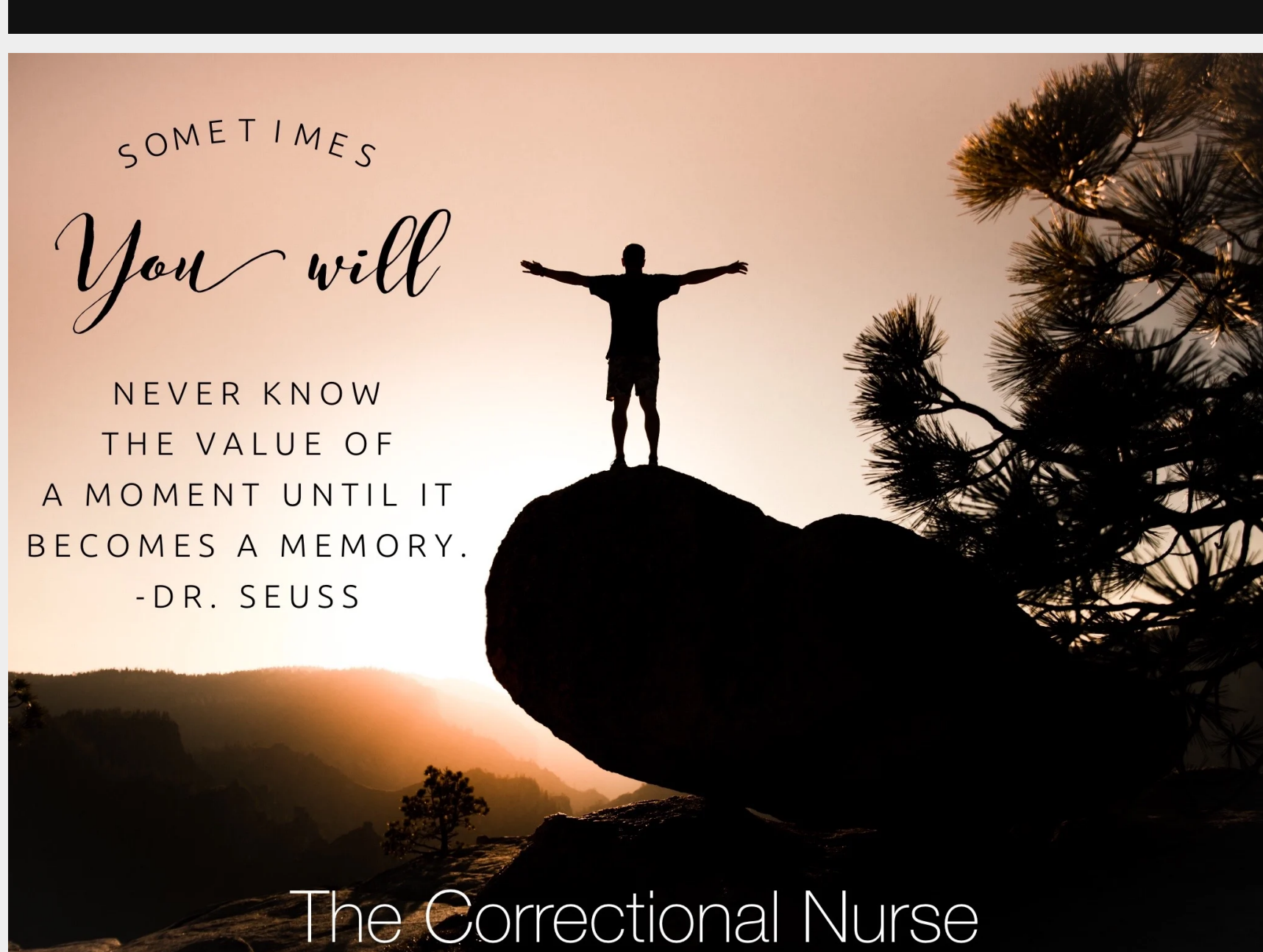
This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) you will meet Ms. Decker, a young woman with abdominal pain.

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 far-reaching, 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

Inspiration



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