



# THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

## Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

March 2024

I recently moved from a nurse Compact state (FL) to a Non-Compact state (CA) and when one of my nurse practitioner licenses came up for renewal from a Compact state, I had to re-apply for my registered nurse license in that state before I could renew my APRN license. As a result, I had to get fingerprinted and go through all the background checks that most states are now doing. So, off I went to my local LiveScan facility (which was actually a MailBoxes, etc. store) where I met Mr. Quinones, a gentleman who very clearly knew his job. I cannot even list how many times I have had my fingerprints taken over the course of my career (and I am sure many of you reading this are the same), and usually my two pinkies do not come out right, but he captured them in two tries! I complemented him and our conversation turned to my many fingerprint encounters, and so of course I took the opportunity to talk about correctional nursing. Mr. Quinones quickly told me that he had been incarcerated about 15 years ago for failure to pay child support for 3 days. During that time, there was a death on the unit he was in, and he shared with me that to this day, he has difficulty talking about it, and sometimes thoughts of it just "pop-up." That got me thinking about our policies and procedures surrounding death in the facility, and how I have never seen anything about the psychological impact to other incarcerated persons who may have witnessed the death. I have seen debriefings and counseling appropriately offered to the healthcare staff and the custody staff. I am sure facilities have some type of mental health program to which the incarcerated person could reach out, but that would be through a request, which most of the time means the person is already having a difficult time. But should we not be pro-active for those who are directly impacted by the death, and schedule them to be seen to discuss potential and/or typical delayed signs and symptoms they should watch out for, and if they occur, to seek help? While we hope we will never have untimely deaths and so will never have to use it, I think it would be prudent to have such a policy/procedure in place to which staff could refer. I would really like to hear from anyone who has a post-death program in place for our patients, and what is done.

I wish everyone a wonderful month!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead for  
Daylight Savings time!

### Newsorthy Notes

The next American Correctional Nurses Association OPEN FORUM to be held on March 21, 2024. WE have been having some very interesting conversations, and I invite you to become a member of ACNA and attend our Open Forum. Check out the [website](#)!

#### Upcoming conferences

PLAN NOW for the NCCHC Spring 2024 Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO April 27-30th.

American Jail Association conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL May 18-22, 2024

Thanks for all you do, and Be Safe!!

## CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) we will be discussing Clinical Judgment and Bias in our Practice.

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 one of our new classes in the **Correctional Nurse Basics series - The Immune System**. I hope you enjoy it!

I am working on our Nurse's Week Bundle for 2024. If you have any requests for what to include, please let me know.

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](#) we will be discussing Mental Health and Alcoholism.

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

Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace  
-Dalai Lama

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#### CONTACT US

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