

LAC Nurse Leader Mentorship Program Cohort #3 Projects

Tiffany Brooks, PhD APRN CHE GNP ANP-BC VHA-CM

Mentor: Jennifer Manning, DNS, APRN, CNS, CNE

Project: Inmate Meal Selections

The aim of Brooks' project was to offer meal selections to the inmate population that would decrease prealbumin levels and increase C reactive protein levels. The results of her efforts are improved patients' nutritional status and improved patient outcomes and satisfaction. She plans to continue to collect data on all patients and use that data to improve patient nutritional outcomes.

Lori Carruth, RN

Mentor: Gaye Dean, MBA, BSN, RNC-NNP

Project: Physician Engagement as a Catalyst for Clinical Improvement

Carruth's project goal was to ultimately safely reduce nulliparous cesarean birth rates by engaging providers and other key members of the healthcare team. Her efforts resulted in physician champion engagement and achieved cultural awareness and clinical change as well as a multidisciplinary team focus and effort. Areas affected by her project included the scheduling process, triage management, admission criteria, pain management and staff/provider education. She plans to use the lessons learned through implementing the project to recruit and retain more physician champions and encourage their involvement in all clinical change processes.

Brandon Dees, RN

Mentor: Mitchell Bourg, RN-BC, MBA

Project: Computerized Sample Medication Inventory System

Dees' project goal was to develop and implement an electronic sample medication inventory tracking system. By improving the sample medication inventory control process, inventory discrepancies can be reduced, allowing for routine auditing and increasing staff accountability. Initial results show reduced inventory discrepancies from 10 percent to 3.5 percent and resulted in improved staff communication and engagement.

Maranath Graugnard, RN

Mentor: Cynthia Suire, DNP

Project: Medical Special Needs Shelter Clinical Skills Training

Graugnard's project involved identifying learning needs of her clinical team members and providing hands-on training in specific areas of need in order to increase their comfort levels when providing care. After holding a needs assessment session and providing training, pre and post program evaluations showed an increase in comfort level in all five areas identified: wound care, detox/withdrawal, dialysis, IV care and CPR/O2. She hopes to continue her efforts by expanding training opportunities across the state.

Bradley Leonhard, BSN, RN

Mentor: Joseph Epling, MN, RN, NEA-BC

Project: St. Tammany ED Staffing Improvements

Leonhard's project aimed to decrease patients' lengths of stay by improving staffing and throughput. Aspects of his project included implementing a new graduate hiring program with extended orientation

and, implementing an ED nurse tech program and improving employee and patient satisfaction. Focusing on communication, he was able to reduce RN openings in the ED from 11 to one. He also was able to decrease patient length of stay by an average of 40 minutes. He will carry on the work begun with his project by continuing to foster strong relationships between the ICU, CCU and ED to assist with boarders and staffing issues and continuing to work with HR on recruiting events and nursing school visits.

Lisa Nicoletti, DNP, MSN, AORN, RNP-BC, NP-C

Mentor: Yvonne Pellerin, RN

Project: Postgraduate Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Programs: Transforming the Future of Primary Care in the State of Louisiana

Nicoletti's project aims to make a case for nurse practitioner residency and fellowship programs in order to better prepare Louisiana nurse practitioners to fill primary care gaps. Her project research revealed that 90 percent of recent NP graduates were interested in NP residency training programs. Research also indicates major benefits of postgraduate NP training include improved patient safety with improved clinical outcomes, improved patient satisfaction and continuity of care, fewer hospital admissions and decreased provider salary and recruitment costs. Nicoletti plans to continue to engage in conversation with key stakeholders to move the establishment of a postgraduate NP residency/fellowship program forward in Louisiana, explore funding and identify potential organizational partners.

Charmaine Power, MSN, APRN-BC

Mentor: Jennifer Couvillon, PhD, RN-BC, CNE

Project: RN-C Initiative in the NICU

Power's project goal was to increase NICU RN certification rate from less than 25 percent to between 33-40 percent. To help achieve this goal, Power developed a RN-C review course and identified barriers to success for the 150 nurses in her facility who qualified to take the exam. Power plans to track test success and certification rates and to offer the course twice each year.

Anastasia Wynn, MN, RN

Mentor: Cynthia Bienemy, PhD, RN

Project: The Development of a Faith-Based First Responder Plan

The goal of Wynn's program is to educate and prepare volunteer members of the church so they can react to immediate medical emergencies prior to the arrival of emergency medical response teams. Actions related to the project include completing American Heart BLS Instructor certification, recruiting members for the initial first responder group and ensuring proper precautions and equipment are in place for medical emergency response.

