



CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION:

- 1998 Bachelor of Science Degree, Magna Cum Laude, in Nursing at Indiana Wesleyan University, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- 1991 Associates Degree with Honors in Nursing, Lutheran College of Health Professions, Fort Wayne, Indiana

EMPLOYMENT:

- 10/04 to present President & Certified Legal Nurse Consultant
Forensic Legal Nurse Consultant's, Inc.
- 9/04 to present Staff / Charge Nurse, Emergency Department
Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 12/94 to 8/04 Executive Director and Forensic Nurse Examiner, Fort
Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 10/94 to 2003 Founding President and Co-Founder of Forensic Nursing Specialties, Inc.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 2003 to 8/04 Secretary, Forensic Nursing Specialties, Inc.
- 1990 to 1996 Student RN, Clinical RN, Trauma RN, and Charge RN, Emergency
Care Center, Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 1981 to 1988 Medic / Computer System Specialist, United States Air Force

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES:

- 2004 – Current Certified Legal Nurse Consultant
- 2002 – Current Certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adult/Adolescent
- 1999 – 2004 Regional Forensic Nurse Examiner for Allen County with Provider
Privileges at Lutheran Health Network, St. Joseph Hospital, and Parkview Hospital.
- 1996 - 2004 Provisional Instructor, Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board
- 1995 - Current Forensic Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- 1993 - 1996 Pediatric Advanced Life Support Provider
- 1992 – 1997 Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider
- 2004 – Current Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider
- 2005 – Current Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course
- 1991 - Current Licensed as a Registered Nurse in Indiana
- 1990 - Current Basic Life Support Provider

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants
- American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- Indiana Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, Past-President, Board of Directors
- Past member, American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- Past member, Emergency Nurses Association
- Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing
- Founding Member, Children's Advocacy Center of Allen County, Board of Directors

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS:

- As one of the founding nurses of the Center, was awarded the "Writing Women into Herstory" award from the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau, April, 2001.
- Director of the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center at the time it received the "Hope Award" from the YWCA during their 1999 Week Without Violence Campaign, October, 1999.
- Distinguished Fellow Award, presented by the International Association of Forensic Nurses, October 1998.
- Outstanding Service - Medical Professional for 1995. Awarded by the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, September 1996.
- Director of the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center at the time it earned and received the Alfred Adler Newcomer Award, October 1996

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS:

- In September 2000 served as part of a Medical Mission trip for 10 days in Mitrovica, Kosovo. Provided medical services to refugees who had returned to their homeland following the end of the Kosovo Crisis. Many were left without food or shelter and availability of medical care was sparse.
- In May 1999 served as part of a Medical Mission trip for 3 weeks in Albania. The medical team traveled daily to various emerging refugee camps and provided a wide range of emergent care for the dislocated citizens of Kosovo.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

As a registered nurse since 1991 I have:

As a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant (CLNC) practice includes comprehensive case screening and analysis in matters involving health, illness or injury. Clients include both plaintiff and defense attorneys, insurance companies, healthcare provider organizations, physicians and more. Service includes, but is not limited to:

- Screen health, illness or injury cases for merit
- Define deviations from and adherences to the applicable standards of care
- Identify factors that contributed to the alleged injuries
- Organize, translate and interpret medical records
- Identify and recommend potential defendants
- Analyze and compare expert witness reports
- Review and analyze depositions and past testimony
- Help prepare witnesses for deposition and trial

As a Forensic Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, practice included:

- Have practiced as a Forensic Nurse Examiner on 245 cases since 1996.
- Testified as an expert witness in 13 sexual assault trials as well as 3 depositions, having been called by both prosecution and defense as a witness.
- Participated in ongoing case review and Quality Assurance/ Quality Improvement with fellow nurse examiners as well as review of photographs of all cases
- Reviewed the current literature for journal articles pertaining to sexual assault, injury evaluation, photography, child/elder/partner abuse, interviewing skills, evaluation of research methodology, special populations and violence (i.e. Hearing Impaired) and other areas of Forensic Nursing.
- Provided guidance to other Health Care Professionals, law enforcement and advocacy groups seeking information on establishing a Sexual Assault Response Team.

As an Emergency / Trauma nurse, practice has included:

- Direct nursing care to thousands of Emergency Care patients in various levels of acute medical crisis. Medical emergencies and injuries treated include orthopedic, gynecological, obstetrical, genital and rectal trauma, multiple traumatic injuries, neurological, endocrine, cardiac emergencies and more.
- I have seen hundreds of soft tissue injuries in various stages of acuteness, from fresh to days and weeks old. The cause of these injuries (fractures, dislocations, sprains, lacerations, cuts, bruising, swelling, abrasions, avulsions, amputations and puncture wounds) included anything from falls, fists, knives, guns, blunt objects, automobiles, ligatures, power tools, sharp instruments, and animal and human bites as examples. Mechanisms of injury included accidental injury, self inflicted wounds, homicide attempts, suicide attempts, interpersonal violence, automobile accidents, drowning, drug and alcohol intoxication, sexual assault, and intentional surgical interventions.
- Each patient contact required the use of triage skills as well as an extensive history and physical examination. Obtaining the patient history includes using communication skills to obtain details concerning the particular events and explanation pertaining to the present medical illness or injury. A nursing physical includes a comprehensive head to toe examination for injury, complaint of pain, deformity or irregularity. Additionally, my duties included ongoing reassessment of complaints and / or injuries.

SPECIALTY EDUCATION / CERTIFICATION:

Legal Nurse Consultant – National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants

- Attended certification training which included:
 - Anatomy of Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Products Liability, Toxic Tort and Workman's Compensation cases
 - Theories of Liability and Defenses
 - The Litigation Process
 - Screening medical related cases effectively and efficiently
 - Detecting tampering in a medical record
 - Case evaluation strategies and report writing techniques
 - How to research medical related cases
 - Standards of care resources
 - Helping attorneys with discovery
 - Nurses role as a testifying expert
 - Locating testifying experts
 - Assisting with the development of demonstrative evidence

Forensic Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adult/Adolescent

- Attended the 40 hour didactic Forensic Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Response Team Training course at Pomerado Hospital, Poway California in January 1995. Lectures included:
 - Injuries caused by non-consensual sexual intercourse
 - Forensic significance of body fluids

- Evaluation of patterned and other injuries seen in sexual assault cases
- Mechanism of injury in sexual assault (absence of human sexual response)
- Injuries seen in post-menopausal women
- Recognition of microtrauma after non-consensual sexual intercourse, cervical findings in rape victims, and use of Toluidine Blue in the Sexual Assault Examination.
- Completed 40 hours of preceptorship with Law Enforcement, Crime Laboratory, Pelvic Examinations, assisting with Pelvic and Sexual Assault Examinations and Observation of Court Room Procedure and Testimony.
- Certification was first offered by the International Association of Forensic Nurses in 2002. Certification examination was taken and successfully passed.

Forensic Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner - Pediatric

- Attended the 40 hour didactic in Fort Wayne Indiana. Lectures included:
- Physical signs of Child Sexual Assault (CSA)
- Behavioral signs of CSA
- Communication skills to facilitate a non-leading question process for the medial history
- Identification of the methodology of CSA
- Identification of the stages of growth and development through the life span
- Examination position variance for identification of sexual abuse in the pre-pubescent child
- Interpretation of variations of pre-pubescent genitalia
- Appropriate interpretation of hymenal normal variations and abnormalities
- Interpretation of anal abnormalities in the child
- Appropriate interpretation of genital findings in the male child
- Stages of genital healing and its variations
- Recognition of Sexually Transmitted diseases and the Centers for Disease Control treatment recommendations
- Value and use of the colposcope in the examination for CSA
- Laws specific to the protection of children reporting sexual abuse
- The presentation of forensic and medical findings through the use of documentation and testimony

CLINICAL AND INFORMATIONAL UPDATES RELATED TO LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING, FORENSIC NURSING, AND EMERGENCY NURSING

Attended approximately 50 professional education conferences and seminars throughout the United States. Educational conferences have included hundreds of hours of continuing education in the fields of Legal Nurse Consulting, Emergency Nursing, Sexual Assault Nursing, Forensic Nursing, Death Investigation, and Courtroom Testimony.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- 1995 – Current Have spoken nearly 100 times in the areas of Sexual Assault Nursing, the Medical-Forensic Examination of Patients Following Sexual Assault, and Legal Nurse Consulting. Speaking engagements have included being a guest lecturer as well as faculty. Speaking locations have included numerous cities throughout Indiana, as well as Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, California and Washington. Venues have included Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Courses, National Association Conferences, Trauma Symposiums, and more.
- June, 2005 Completed an exhaustive review and update of the “State of Indiana Protocol for Evidence Collection in Sexual Assault of the Adult and Child.”

- 1999 – 2000 Spearheaded the development of the Indiana Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses which was officially granted a charter in June of 2000 and serves as its founding President. The organization is quickly growing and is working diligently to establish the highest standards of practice for Forensic Nurse Examiners in Indiana.
- 1998 – 2000 Worked as a team with other community service and criminal justice organizations to develop and implement a full service Child Advocacy Center in Allen county. Member/Secretary of the founding Board of Directors.
- February, 1997 Organized and Developed the first SART/FNE course in the State of Indiana. The course content was validated by a committee of Forensic Nurse Examiners and Forensic Nurse Examiners from throughout the United States and the International Association of Forensic Nursing. Course participants included members from nursing, medicine, advocacy and law enforcement. This course is now offered three times a year in an effort to educate nurses, physicians, and more throughout the Midwest.
- September, 1996 Participated in the research and development of a Forensic Data Base Program for the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center. Pertinent data is entered from each case and is easily accessed only by the directors of the Center. The Data Base is confidential and is useful for tracking survivor, assailant, law enforcement, advocacy, nurse examiner and miscellaneous information.
- August, 1996 Participated in the research and development of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Form. This form has been approved by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and is being distributed throughout the state with the State Protocol for Evidence Collection.
- April, 1996 Researched and redesigned the Indiana State Police Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit. This new kit conforms to the new updated guidelines for forensic evidence collection standards. This new kit is in production and being distributed statewide. This updated kit is the only kit endorsed for use by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.
- 1995 - 1996 Participated in developing the 1996 State of Indiana Protocol for Evidence Collection in Sexual Assault of the Adult and Child. This protocol resulted from the efforts of combined disciplines within the Governors Task Force on Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and the process took approximately 1 ½ years.