

ASANTE® News

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Nurse Practice Council Seeks Across-the-Board Excellence

Asante's Nurse Practice Council was established on a concept so straightforward it seems obvious in retrospect. The council has met monthly for the past year to sort through nursing policies and procedures at each of the organization's hospitals, identify the practices that work best and make those the standards for care throughout Asante.



"The mission is to promote excellence in clinical nursing practice through the delivery of standardized, quality care throughout the Asante system, using a shared governance model which represents direct care nurses, clinical experts, educators and nursing leadership," the council's charter states.

The council – focused on the big picture of patient care across all Asante hospitals – had its first meeting in January 2015 after the concept grew out of an earlier discussion in Asante's Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Group. The idea and a draft of the council's charter were taken to Asante's Nursing Directors Group, which offered input and support as a lead-up to the inaugural meeting.

Now, after a year of meetings, the council's actions have begun to leave a constructive fingerprint on nursing procedures throughout the organization.

"The council is reviewing and updating our nursing policies based on best practice and consolidating policies from all three facilities into one Asante-wide policy, to facilitate standardization of nursing care across all three facilities," said Kathy Sindmack, a clinical nurse specialist at Asante Rogue Regional and a council chair for the past year.

"As nursing practice issues arise, they are brought to the council for recommendations and decisions on what should be implemented," she said.

All three Asante hospitals are represented on the council, whose members include staff nurses from the medical-surgical, critical care and peri-operative units, and women's and children's areas. The council also includes clinical nurse specialists and clinical practice advisors; a representative from Nursing Professional Development; a member of the Epic team; and leadership members such as clinical coordinators, managers, directors, the hospitals' vice presidents of nursing and Tiffany Oliver, Asante's chief nursing officer.

Members of the council are hoping to represent the thoughts and ideas of nurses throughout Asante, so they are counting on candid feedback during discussions throughout the nursing ranks.

"When our nursing representatives ask our nursing staff for feedback or suggestions on various

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nursing practice considerations, providing thoughtful feedback for change is essential and much appreciated by the council,” Kathy said. “Our intent is to allow all nursing opinions to be heard and considered.”

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