

Thomas Schmidt RN BSN

Please allow me to submit my professional life experience for your review. I have great interest in participating in the Mental Health Board. Mental health and mental illness with all of its struggles has been the focus of the majority of my adult life; as a parent, family member and professional.

August 2010 –present.

Howard county General Hospital.

Nurse Manager in-patient Psychiatry.

Manages all aspects of care in a 20 bed general in-patient community psychiatry setting.
Established a in-service education program/speakers bureau for the hospital and community.
Active member of HCGH speakers bureau.
Has actively promoted the image and relationship of psychiatry to the hospital at large.
Maintains an active relationship with the ED and especially the Behavioral Unit in the Ed.
Was the former resource person for the Behavioral Unit while an ER Nurse since 2002.
Active Member of Maryland Consortium of In-patient Psychiatric Hospitals.
Active member Maryland State Emergency Preparedness: Psychiatric Bed Registry Committee.
Active relationship with Howard County chapter of NAMI.
Active relationship with Howard county chapter of On Our Own mental illness advocacy group.

2002-2010 HCGH ED

Charge nurse/Triage Nurse/Psychiatric Resource Nurse/Staff nurse

Managed the care of acutely ill patients in all areas of HCGH ED.
Oriented staff to the Behavior Unit.
Active resource for Legal aspects of psychiatry: EP/Certification/Hearings.
As charge; directed the care of 42 active patients throughout the ED.
Was utilized as psychiatric resource nurse throughout the ED.
Actively participated in roll outs of new procedures and protocols at HCGH: STEMI, Stroke, TPA, etc.

1988-2002 Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

2000-2002 Staff Nurse Level 3 Trauma Center/ER

General staff critical care nurse duties in all ER areas.
Resource person for psychiatric emergencies.
Instructor for self defense for health care workers and violent patient management.

1995-2002 Clinical Coordinator Department of In-patient Psychiatry

Leadership role involving all aspects of in-patient unit management problem solving and staffing.

1990-1995 Field Services Coordinator Department of In-patient Psychiatry

Developed an independent role in a new program paradigm which accepted medically ill psychiatric patients.
Provided independent marketing to Baltimore metropolitan area health care facilities.
Was medical gatekeeper to this program providing physical and mental health assessments to potential patients.

Provided medical in-services to staff, and provided community outreach as an educational consultant.

1988-1990 Nurse Clinician : Unit Educator

Established/developed a new hospital-wide role as unit based educator in psychiatry.

Initial Chairperson of Nurse of Clinician Group.

Coordinator of hospital-wide in-service program of Self Defense for health care workers and Violent Patient Management.

Functioned as the Department of Psychiatry's Administrative Law Hearing presenter for 12 years.

Active member of hospital speakers bureau.

1981-1988 Johns Hopkins Hospital

Senior Clinical Nurse : Phipps Clinic and then Department of Neurosciences

Nurse therapist for the Forensic Sexual Disorders Clinic.

Co-organized and coordinated the Self defense for Nurses and Violent Patient Management program for the entire Department of Psychiatry.

Functioned as the alternate ECT coordinator: overseeing and assisting in the ECT suite approximately 12-22 patients 3x a week.

Other various areas and experiences in nursing:

GBMC.ER part-time staff nurse.

Mercy Hospital Med-surg staff nurse.

Highland health Facility: in-patient staff nurse. Member State Mental Health consortium of in-service education.

University of Maryland Hospital: staff nurse Renal transplant unit. Senior nurse in Baltimore Cancer Research Center.

Pre-nursing:

Columbia Medical Plan Hospital: Health Assistant: expanded role.

Howard County General Hospital: Nursing assistant after it became public domain.

Taylor Manor Private Psychiatric Hospital: Psychiatric Tech.

Maryland State Drug Abuse Administration: Addictions Counselor II: Ocean City Md. and then College Park Md.

Towson University: Art Education Major focusing on a teaching career.

Other significant experience:

1979-1976 Maryland Army Nat'l Guard 121st Engineer Battalion, Ellicott City Md. Corpsman and dispensary operator.

Former Grey Rock Farm community association president.

Parent volunteer Howard County Board of Education School Board for Northfield Elementary, Dunloggin Middle, and Centennial High Schools.

Education:

12 credits Graduate Nursing program Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

1978: BSN RN University of Maryland School of Nursing.

1969 Graduate Howard high School.

Member Sigma Theta Tau JHU while at Sinai Hospital.

Personal:

Adult daughter who suffers from mental illness. A family member who was successful in her own demise and another who suffers from schizophrenia.

Personal and professional experience as a parent, citizen and professional in advocating for my family.

Seeing from both sides of the fence how the needs of this population have great difficulty in advocating for themselves as well as finding services.

I feel that I bring a wealth of knowledge, understanding, and compassion to this realm of misunderstanding and struggle.

Respectfully,