

From: valerieanderson

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 12:25 PM

To: Office of the Mayor

Subject: Forensic Nurses Week 2012

Hello,

November 12th -16th 2012 is Forensic Nurses Week. I was hoping that the mayor's office could bring some attention to this week and the forensic nurses who work here in Hamilton. Forensic nursing can be simply defined as the intersection of nursing practice with the legal system. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Forensic Nurse Examiners, Forensic Psychiatric Nurses, Correctional Nurses, and Forensic Nurse Death Investigators are some examples of forensic nursing. Hamilton Health Sciences has a team of forensic nurse examiners that work on call 24hrs a day to respond to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. St. Joseph's West Fifth location has a secure forensic unit in which forensic psychiatric nurses provide care for patients with mental illness who have been in contact with the legal system. The Hamilton Detention Center has correctional nurses who provide care for their patients in a secure environment. When people think of nurses- they generally think of the busy bedside nurse at the area hospital. I would like to bring attention the those nurses working in these sub-specialties, not only to provide the recognition of the hard work and unique challenges they face, but also to educate the public that this specialty exists and the places that these nurses practice are right here in their city. In addition- November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month and this recognition would also go far in educating the public that there are forensic nurse examiners at their hospital who specialize in the care of women who are victims of domestic violence. These nurses provide crisis intervention, forensic photography, domestic violence documentation, risk assessment, help arrange for a safe place to go on discharge- such as a shelter, and arrange for follow-up with the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center at MUMC. Please contact me with any questions,

Thank you for your consideration,

Valerie Anderson