

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Ellen Johnson

LOCATION: St. Paul, MN, USA

WORK SETTING: Level I Trauma Hospital

NURSING ROLE: SANE Program Supervisor

Ellen Johnson deserves national recognition as a Forensic Nurse of Excellence for many reasons - the best one-word description for Ellen Johnson's outstanding role as a forensic nurse is advocate. Ellen is the supervisor of the SANE program at Regions Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center in downtown St. Paul, MN; she is also the current president of the MN chapter of the IAFN. Ellen advocates for the best care of sexual assault patients far beyond her nursing role.

Ellen organizes 40-hour SANE training programs across the state. She carefully selects and hires SANE nurses who are compassionate and passionate about caring for sexual assault victims. Ellen supports her SANE staff nurses with continuing education and is available 24 hours a day for consultation on cases. In addition, Ellen coordinates with advocacy groups to ensure they are available to see all sexual assault patients during their exam and are available for after-care.

Ellen promotes collaboration between SANE's, advocates, and law enforcement. She is a member of several county-wide task forces in which she advocates for victim's rights and coordination of care. She has implemented a program to perform suspect forensic exams and has worked with law enforcement to increase the frequency of these exams.

Ellen ensures that all post-exposure medication recommendations are up to date, she has a close working relationship with the medical director and has implemented order sets to ensure patients are being offered the best care possible. She has relationships with pharmacy providers to ensure HIV nPEP is made available to all victims, regardless of their ability to pay.

She has a compassionate soul that she shares freely with others – Ellen is an advocate in every sense of the word!

