

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Jean Cheek

LOCATION : Richmond, VA, USA

WORK SETTING: Hospital

NURSING ROLE: Forensic Nurse Examiner Team Coordinator Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

Jean Cheek started her Forensic Nursing career in 1999. She has been on the Forensic Nursing team at Virginia Commonwealth University for the past 17 years. It has not been an easy road and to say she has experienced highs and lows is an understatement. Jean became one of the team coordinators early in her Forensic career and has maintained this position except for one year. This one year was one of the most difficult times in Jean's Forensic Nursing career. Jean was very frustrated and thought about leaving the FNE team. Once she realized that her disappointment did not override her passion, Jean continued her FNE journey. She continued to work to improve the services that were provided to this patient population. Jean created a strangulation evidence collection kit, policy and protocol for evidence collection. Jean has started a research project on sexual assault follow up rates, that resulted in a poster presentation at the 2016 IAFN Scientific Assembly that won second place. She planned and presented a SANE training program in a 3-month time frame, training an additional 6 nurses. Her efforts and continued dedication to this patient population resulted in her returning to her coordinator status. Since her return she has implemented an improved QA/QI process that resulted in changes that have improved patient outcomes. Jean has also returned to obtain her terminal degree and is working on her DNP that will be completed in 2019. She will continue to work toward improving patient follow up rates post sexual assault as part of her DNP project. Perseverance and passion is what has continued to keep Jean moving forward in her Forensic Nursing career. She is looking forward to what the future holds for her and her team mates.

