

IAFN's Spotlight-on-a-Member



Vickie Poulin, BSN, SANE-A

LOCATION: Worcester, Vermont, USA

WORK SETTING: University of Vermont Medical Center

FORENSIC NURSING ROLE: Vickie is a forensic nurse at the UVM Medical Center Emergency Department. She is a pediatric and adult/adolescent SANE

YEARS OF IAFN MEMBERSHIP: 12 Years

Why did you become a forensic nurse?

I met and was so impressed with Jennifer Pierce-Weeks. She helped me in so many ways. I am unable to put it into words. She helped to bring the SANE course to Maine, taught by Kathy Bell! Absolutely amazing!

What do you continue to work as a forensic nurse?

I continue to do this work because, everyone deserves to be heard. If they have the courage to step forward and speak about the loss of control and challenges of the event, they deserve to have someone to hear them. I enjoy the education, the continuous learning and peer review process. This field is so dynamic that the learning is constant.

Personal interests/family life?

Taking time away from work is important. It took a while to realize this. Now, I have it down. Hobbies and family are key. My work mates know that after a long shift, I can be found tucked away cutting up fabric, just to sew it together again, into a quilt to give away to the "person that it seems to belong to" when it is done. I also enjoy, cycling, grandchildren and maintaining a meditation path.

Joan Carson shares her reasoning behind "Spotlighting" Vickie:

Vickie has been part of the fabric of forensic nursing since the early years of the profession. She moved to Vermont in 1998 from Maine and from her early roots in the forensic world. Since then she has had many roles, including Clinical Coordinator, educator and committee member. But most importantly she has been on the front line, in the Emergency Department, when a patient comes for care. Her words, "everyone deserves to be heard," seems to be the foundation for her philosophy. She is curious and asks questions, she educates herself about emerging issues and she engages in conversation with our co-workers about caring for victims of violence.