

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Teresa Ross

Clinton, Iowa

Work Setting: Mercy Medical Center

Teresa is the first certified SANE-A at her facility and currently remains the only certified SANE-A. She has really been a pioneer and advocate for SA victims since she identified a strong need for SANE services shortly after beginning her role as an ER nurse in her small rural emergency department in 2009.

She has single-handedly formed a SANE program at her hospital, assisted in the formation of an area SART and profoundly changed the approach to sexual assault victims in her ED since that time.

She has since gone on to seek higher education and enrolled in a Doctoral program for Nurse Practitioners, but has always kept the SANE program in her top priorities. Since obtaining her SANE training in 2010, Teresa has selflessly been on call for any SA victims that present to her ED 24 hours a day/7 days a week. She has given up and missed many family & social events due to her strong commitment and dedication to this vulnerable population. Teresa also pushed and garnered the support of the facilities administration and sent more RNs to SANE training to expand the coverage in her area.

In this rural area, there has historically been little knowledge on the special needs of SA victims, and Teresa has tirelessly worked to educate her peers, physicians, and administrative personnel to increase SA/domestic violence awareness, responsiveness, and sensitivity. She continues to pursue the advancement of SANE role in her community as well as the response and treatment of victims of sexual assault without any recognition, praise, (and often) compensation. I hope that you will join me in recognizing her efforts, dedication, compassion, and commitment.