Empowering Night Shift Nurses to Transform Care at Night

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Empowering Night Shift Nurses to Transform Care at Night - The Night Shift Nurse Council
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA

Purpose: The Night Shift Council is accountable for decisions and actions that impact professional nursing practice and ideal patient outcomes during the night shift.

Authority
This council is a decision-making body.

Functions
1. Identify opportunities for improvement of patient care and the patient care environment, with an emphasis on quality and safety.
2. Identify opportunities to sustain the ideal nursing practice environment.
3. Lead initiatives that specifically relate to promotion of the ideal patient and staff member experience during the night shift.
4. Serve as Magnet Champions.

Membership Guidelines
1. Membership consists of registered nurses representing all service lines.
2. Each member may serve a maximum of one, three year term.
3. Each year, one third of the Council membership changes.
4. Members must attend a minimum of 50% of meetings per year.
5. The following attend council meetings but are non-voting members:
   a. Chief Nursing Officer
   b. Consistent Representative for Clinical Resource Specialists
   c. Consistent Representative for Night Shift Supervisors

Chairperson-elect
1. The chairperson-elect is selected by a majority vote of all members.
2. To be eligible for the chairperson-elect role, the individual must have served a minimum of one year as a council member.
3. The chairperson-elect term is one year, after which the individual becomes the chairperson.

Meetings
1. The Council meets every other month.
2. Meetings are 60 minutes in length.

Communication Methods between Council Members and Unit Staff
1. Members are responsible to gather input from night shift colleagues and communicate their views at Night Shift Council meetings.
2. Members are responsible to communicate meeting outcomes to night shift colleagues.

VIII. Annual Report
An Annual Report of decisions and actions is completed by the chairperson and chairperson-elect, with support from the administrator who is serving as mentor.