

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Mary Cole

Humboldt, Tennessee

Work Setting: Hospital - Serves large rural area of West Tennessee. Mary is a SANE-A. She handles call and training. She also manages equipment and supplies and pushes our program innovations.

Mary is a gem. She is one of the people you meet in life who works quietly (unless you ask her a technical question) in the background and gets the job done; the kind of person you want working with you when you have a task or responsibility to accomplish. She is meticulous, consistent and persistent. She doesn't seek recognition and rarely gets the recognition she deserves.

Mary is a longtime IAFN Member and Forensic Nurse. She came to our program from Washington State about six years ago when she moved home after retiring. She brought extensive forensic nursing knowledge with her.

Mary was one of the original forensic nurses at Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse in Everett, Washington. Her knowledge of forensic nursing and its interactions with allied fields in healthcare, advocacy, law enforcement and prosecution combined with her knowledge of systems – “the nuts and bolts of how things work”, her vision of making forensic nursing work within a given system and flexibility to keep it working as changes in laws and systems demand are testament to her experience and wisdom. Mary helped develop our family justice center; the Safe Hope Center.

In retirement, she works harder than most people I know. She stays up on changes in the field sharing information and conducting in-service training, participates in basic and advanced training and precepts other nurses. She volunteers for more than her fair share of on-call. She revised and participates with our Sexual Assault Response Team reviewing cases and procedures monthly. She still has time to be active as a community member in the Humboldt Exchange Club for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the Gibson County Carl Perkins Child Advocacy Advisory Board.