

Community Hospital

Beth Bricker

Chief Nursing Officer



I accepted the chief nursing officer position at Community Hospital in April 2007 after being in the USAF for 22 years. I left the military with some trepidation of heart in considering transition to the civilian sector, but I also left the military with a calculated plan of going to a hospital that would seriously consider the journey

to Magnet designation. I couldn't have been more thrilled when the hospital's board of trustees approved our Magnet journey just three months after I arrived.

We started our journey with the approval of a nursing clinical ladder, which would eventually transition to a broader career ladder that includes some of the ancillary departments. We moved on to developing our Magnet councils and then asked departments to stand up unit practice councils. It was a thrill to watch our nurse practice council, made up primarily of direct-care nurses, begin having a voice in policy development that affected their bedside care. Shared governance is now alive and vibrant in our facility - you can hear it in the hallways. Along the way we have changed our dialogue from, "That's how we do it here." to "What does the evidence show." It's been an exciting ride that has included collaboration with Mesa State College on a research project and joining the state of Colorado in data collection that may lead to a mandatory nurse-to-patient ratio proposal in the state legislature. I am fortunate enough to be a board member for the Colorado Nurses Association and it's been exciting to move our hospital toward more involvement in nursing related legislation.

Much is happening in the nursing department at Community Hospital and proceeding along our Magnet journey keeps us enlivened and eager to come to work. We're always looking for nursing leaders who want to join ranks with us and march toward our goal of nursing excellence.....we're growing a house full of them.

On the personal side, my husband Mike has retired from the Army and is now living with me in Grand Junction. We have three grown children and one grandson at this point. Hopefully, there are many more to come. We both really enjoy the Grand Junction area and love hiking and camping in this gorgeous state. The military provided a great career for both of us, but it has been very enjoyable to settle down and plant some roots.

Education:

Master of Arts in Healthcare Administration, Webster University, San Antonio, TX

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

Professional Affiliation:

American Nurses Association

Colorado Organization of Nursing Leaders

Colorado Nurses Association

Certification:

Nursing Administration, American Nursing Credentialing Center

Experience:

Medical Operations Squadron Commander/Chief Nurse Executive, Altus, Air Force Base, OK, 2004-2007

Clinical Operations Flight Commander, Chief Nurse Executive, Malstrom Air Force Base, MT, 2002-2004

Nurse Manager Surgical Unit, Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, MD, 2000-2002

ER Nurse Manager, Family Practice Nurse Manager, Hospital Performance Improvement/Risk Manager, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, AK, 1996-2000

Intensive Care Nurse, San Antonio, TX; Portland, OR; and Longview, WA, 1981-1996

Emergency Room Staff Nurse, Raymond W. Bliss Hospital, Fort Huachuca, AZ, 1975-1978

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