

HEALTHCARE HEARTBEAT

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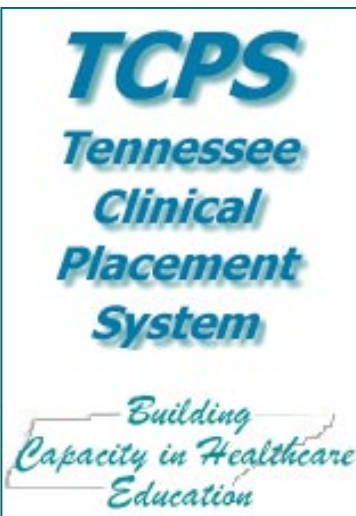
TCPS®: Reaching Across Tennessee and Beyond!

The Tennessee Clinical Placement System or TCPS® is striving to build healthcare education capacity by centralizing clinical placements throughout Tennessee in an on-line data base as one step toward curing the nursing shortage crisis facing not only Tennessee, but the nation. As the Tennessee Center for Nursing convened the initial clinical

Submitted by: Pam Taylor
TCPS Program Director



placement partners in 2005 the Middle Tennessee region, four major barriers to the clinical placement of students in healthcare settings were identified: (1) knowledge about open placements; (2) time required to secure placements; (3) redundant clinical requirements and orientation content, and (4) time required to orient multi-



ple student groups to a specific facility. The outcome of the work of these leaders was the development of the TCPS® which today consists of an online database of clinical placements, a standardized online general orientation program, and a multifaceted evaluation program to monitor the outcomes of the solutions.

During this past year, much progress has been made in further developing the TCPS® and expanding its solutions other areas of the state.

Highlights include:

- Through the use of the TCPS®, additional open placements have been identified and are now in use. The online database currently has over 3400 listed clinical placements with just over 2000 of these listed as OPEN. These open placements represent a variety of teaching/learning opportunities for schools of nursing including day, evening, and preceptor placements. The database may be searched for a specific type of placement and requests made with the click of a mouse. Placement confirmation times have dropped from approximately 16 days to two working days since the implementation of the online solution.
- Over 2000 students and faculty utilized the TCPS® Online General Orientation during Fall '08 and applauded the concept. Facility educators report less time being spent on redundant student orientations and are working to implement additional online components to further streamline the orientation process.
- Much of the Middle Tennessee region is now utilizing TCPS® with many requests coming from the fringe areas of the region. This interest has resulted in discussions related to how we can better use the TCPS® to support and network rural and community healthcare facilities. More work will be done to better connect these areas in 2008.
- Memphis is currently in the process of identifying their clinical placements and developing their facility specific online orientation. This region should be fully functional with the TCPS® by January '08.

Knoxville and Chattanooga are discussing how they can take advantage of the solutions offered by TCPS and could potentially join the partnership by academic year 2008-2009.

The TCPS® solutions are also now available to other states. Due to many opportunities to present the work of the TCPS® across the nation, many other states and regions have contacted the TCN expressing interest in using the online orientation and evaluation solutions offered by the TCPS®. The Northeast region of Florida (Jacksonville area) and the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence have partnered with the TCN and are now using the TCPS® Online Orientation and Evaluation programs respectively. Others are actively pursuing demonstrations and information for potential implementation by Fall '08. Building these partnerships with other regions will further contribute to the sustainability and enhancement of the TCPS®.

For questions or more information you can email Pam Taylor, TCPS Program Director by [CLICKING HERE](#) or Ann Duncan, TCN Executive Director by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Redesign and Collaboration: We Can't Stop Now!



Submitted by: Treva G. Berryman, Ed.D.
TCN Vice President, Member of Statewide Education Planning Committee
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Tennessee Board of Regents

The theme for the 5th National Conference of Nursing Workforce Centers held in San Francisco, CA in June 2007 was “Taking the Long View: Nursing Education Capacity and Effectiveness.” The TCN continued to address these issues at the fall 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors by discussing how Tennessee nursing educators and practitioners, with support from institutions of higher education and healthcare delivery systems can continue to expand our view of nursing education. The Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE) provided an example of new approaches being implemented. Christine A. Tanner, Executive Director of OCNE shared the model at the national conference and gave permission for her slides to be presented to TCN.

The OCNE is a partnership of both public **and** private community colleges and universities with a formal intergovernmental agreement signed by partner schools. The OCNE website states that the goal is to: prepare a new kind of nurse for practice in the 21st century, deliver a standard competency based curriculum with an AAS exit and completion of Baccalaureate in nursing on the ‘home’ campus, and to make best use of scarce education and clinical resources. Essentially, **the faculty and administration of the OCNE institutions worked together to completely redesign and establish a common nursing curriculum leading to an associate degree in 2 years and promotes the BSN in 2 additional years.** Transfer among partner institutions is much easier. Nursing fundamentals were redefined. Emphasis is placed on deep understanding of nursing’s most central concepts, active learning, authentic performance assessment, and promotion of self-directed learning. Case studies and simulation play a major role in the education process.

Driving forces behind the OCNE are the maldistribution of baccalaureate prepared nurses in rural areas and in selected areas of practice, an aging population, increasing diversity, increasing prevalence of chronic conditions, the changing nursing practice to more community-based, and the shortage of registered nurses—**not unlike Tennessee. Is it possible for Tennessee to expand collaboration by developing common nursing curricula that provides for accelerated completion with a true 2+2 articulation?**

Over the past 5 years, all levels of Tennessee’s nursing education programs have worked diligently to increase capacity through new initiatives and collaboration between programs, institutions, and healthcare providers. Data provided by TCN demonstrates that this work has been successful, but we still need more. Collaboration among the nursing programs in the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) system resulted in the Tennessee’s first common curriculum in nursing that will be shared among 10 institutions. Approval was recently received from TBR, the Tennessee Board of Nursing, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and SACS to implement the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing through the Regents Online Degree Program in fall 2008.

TCN encourages collaborations in nursing education and workforce development for Tennessee. OCNE and other states provide additional models that need to be considered. **We’ve come so far—but we can’t stop now.** For more information on curriculum redesign, other models being developed in nursing education, and the new TBR collaborative AAS in nursing, you are encouraged to visit the websites listed below or contact TCN.

<http://www.ocne.org>

http://www.cinhc.org/documents/Proto_2_NERCWP.pdf

<http://www.rodpc.org/home.htm>

<http://www.thencat.org>

TTC-Elizabethton School of Nursing’s latest acquisition



SimMan, an advanced patient simulator, may help save someone's life someday. The programmable mannequin is used in team training of students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program at the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton. Sandy Barker, RN, nursing instructor, uses a computer to program a medical condition in SimMan to test the diagnostic skills of nursing students Jessica Stephens of

Hampton, Tennessee, and Lorna Gerding of Johnson City. The practical nursing training program at TTC-Elizabethton, one of the largest in Tennessee, prepares students for the state exam to become a Licensed Practical Nurse.



[Click to go to TTC-Elizabethton website](#)

Welcome TCN's New Staff for 2007!!!

The Tennessee Center for Nursing is proud to announce the newest two members of their staff; Aleshia Garrett is the new Marketing Coordinator and Jennifer Murray was appointed to the new Research Assistant position.



Aleshia Garrett joined the Tennessee Center for Nursing (TCN) in August 2007. As Marketing Coordinator, she designs the marketing campaign for TCN, manages the Tennessee's nursing licensure database and coordinates special events. Aleshia also serves as managing editor for Nursing Perspectives magazine and works in conjunction to assist Ann Duncan, Executive Director, in the daily operations of the TCN office.

Previous employment as Office Manager for a hospital project management firm and Marketing Coordinator for the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce, Aleshia has extensive experience in marketing, print design, publicity and event coordinating.

Aleshia received her B.S. in Public Relations from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN. She is returning for her third year as the Publicity Chair for the Goodlettsville Relay For Life, a non-profit annual event held by the American Cancer Society. This overnight event raised over \$100,000 last year for the research and treatment of cancer.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Jennifer Murray joined the Tennessee Center for Nursing (TCN) in September 2007. Her role with TCN is a Research Assistant, where she provides support for the Associate Director of Research, Dr. Lois Wagner, and Jennifer also serves as the Project Coordinator for the Tennessee Clinical Placement System (TCPS).

Jennifer comes to TCN from the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Cancer Surveillance where she worked as an epidemiologist. As an epidemiologist, Jennifer worked both for the Tennessee Cancer Registry (TCR) and the Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition (TCCCC) programs. Jennifer was the Program Manager for Data Use and Support and was responsible for data requests, analysis, cluster investigations, publishing for the TCR and supervising IT staff. She was an active member of the Tumor Registrar's Association of Tennessee (TRAT) and served as the Middle TN representative. In addition to providing data support to the various TCCCC workgroups, Jennifer served as Chair of the Surveillance Committee and was responsible for development, implementation, and analysis of the evaluation program.

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