

# Darlene Parks, R.N., B.S.N, L.N.C.

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## **WORK HISTORY**

2010 - Present **Parks & Associates Medical-Legal Consultants, LLC**

*Chief Operating Officer & Senior Legal Nurse Consultant*

Legal Nurse Consultant duties include, but are not limited to, professional review and critical analysis of medical records; screening cases for merit; identification of adherences to and deviations from the applicable standards of care and regulatory guidelines; development of comprehensive, detailed reports and chronologies to highlight significant medical events; research and apply the authoritative medical and nursing literature to strengthen the case; pinpoint potential defendants; identify and locate medical expert witnesses with a required specialty; providing expert witness deposition and trial testimony; and assisting with discovery by preparing interrogatories and requests for production.

*Over 30 Legal Nurse Consultant services offered to attorneys and law firms.*

2017 - 2020 **Notre Dame Health and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.**

*Director of Nursing* - Responsibilities include directing the daily nursing care and treatment of this 60-bed skilled nursing center's STR patients and LTC residents and managing its nursing administrative operations.

2015 - 2017 **Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT), Inc.**

*Intensive Care Manager (ICM)/Embedded Intensive Care Manager* - Responsible for managing and maintaining a member caseload of up to 60 high risk adults and pediatric patients enrolled in the CHNCT Intensive Care Management Program until educational needs met and established short term and long term member-centered goals achieved through education and care coordination; documenting member assessments, care plans and progress towards ST and LT goals; presenting complex member medical cases in Regional Case Rounds to CHNCT personnel, State of CT DSS and State of CT Department of Public

Health as requested; participating in the State of CT Asthma Initiative and attending daily and weekly ICM meetings..

As an Embedded ICM, responsibilities include conducting member visits while in Bridgeport Hospital Emergency Department in collaboration with ED Medical Providers and staff personnel to provide condition specific education, to assist with all aspects care coordination as barriers and needs identified and to process referrals to the CHNCT ICM Referral Department for further member follow up and engagement by ICM staff.

**2015- 2016 Waveny Care Center, Inc.**

**Clinical Nurse Specialist** - Responsible for ensuring compliance with State, Federal, JCAHO and OSHA regulatory standards; influencing care outcomes by providing expert consultation for care center staff and implementing quality improvement measures in the delivery of the care center's health systems; training and monitoring staff in the implementation of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) documentation and the reduction of acute care transfers.

**2013-2015 Fairview Healthcare of Greenwich**

**Director of Nursing Services** - Responsibilities include directing the daily nursing care and treatment of this 75-bed skilled nursing center's STR patients and LTC residents and managing its nursing administrative operations. Achieved compliance with this facility's regulatory 2013 annual survey (14 F tags, 3 G's) inherited from a prior administration. Increased Medicare census and generated additional revenue. Improved overall clinical quality of care, customer satisfaction and staff morale. Accomplished attaining a 4-Star CMS rating for this center (previously had a 2-Star rating).

**2011-2013 Village Green of Wallingford**

**Director of Nursing Services** - Responsibilities include managing the daily nursing administrative operations of this 180-bed 5-star skilled nursing center recently recognized by "U.S. News" as one of the best U.S. nursing homes of 2012 and 2013.

**Major Accomplishments at VG of Wallingford:** Increased customer satisfaction by nearly 50% and enhanced clinical outcomes, achieved and **maintained a 5-Star CMS rating**. 2011 State of Connecticut DPH annual survey: 3 level "D" in scope and severity deficiencies. **Operationally increased Medicare census by 35% generating increased revenue.** Improved restructuring and overall competency of the nursing department to accommodate the challenging needs of a medically complex population.

2/10-1/11 **Long Ridge of Stamford, CT (LROS) (An Affiliate of Health Bridge Management)**

**Director of Nursing** – Responsibilities include coordinating and leading this 120-bed skilled nursing and sub-acute rehabilitation center's nursing department in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act, state and federal regulations, and the corporation's policies and procedures. Implementing care systems with staff reinforcement, competency evaluations, and accountability.

**Major Accomplishment at LROS : Achieved substantial compliance after the center's 65-page, sub-standard care, immediate jeopardy CT Department of Public Health and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services February 2010 survey. Avoided a CT state monitor and a consent order.**

2007-2010 **West Rock Health Care, Inc.**

**Director of Nursing Services** - Responsibilities include managing this dually-licensed 90-bed skilled medical nursing and mild psychiatric facility's nursing department in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act, State and Federal regulations, and the facility's policies and procedures. Collaborating with the interdisciplinary team to provide holistic health and psychiatric care. Identifying and resolving patient/resident/family/facility issues. Supervising the duties of the Certified Infection Control Practitioner, the Staff Development Coordinator, the shift Nursing Supervisors, the MDS/Medicare/RCP Coordinators, the Nursing Scheduler and the Central Supply Technician. Assuming the role of the acting Administrator in the licensed NHA's absence.

2006-2007 **Courtland Gardens Health Center/Kindred Healthcare, Inc.**

**Director of Nursing Services** – Responsibilities included operating this 180-bed facility's short-term rehab, sub-acute, and long-term care nursing programs in accordance with State and Federal regulations and Kindred Healthcare policies and procedures. Delegated and monitored the duties of the Assistant Directors of Nursing, the Infection Control Practitioner, the Staff Development Coordinator, the Nursing Supervisors, the MDS/Utilization Coordinators, the Data Entry Clerk, and the Medical Records Clerk. Identified and resolved patient/resident/family/facility issues. Acted as the facility's administrator in the absence of the licensed NHA.

1999-2006 **Bridgeport Manor/Bridgeport Health Care Center, Inc.**

**Director of Nursing Services** – Responsibilities included managing the daily aspects of all patient/resident care and treatment using an interdisciplinary approach in this 240 bed facility; ensuring nursing personnel maintained competency to efficiently perform their job functions; and assessing that the delivery of care promoted the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident. Additional duties included, but were not limited to reviewing admission

applications of potential patients to determine care needs; overseeing the tasks of the specialty nurses as well as the Quality Assurance practitioner; developing and implementing computerized medical charting; and participating in State/Federal and JCAHO re-accreditation surveys.

1999 – 1999 **Bridgeport Manor/Bridgeport Health Care Center, Inc.**

*Assistant Director of Nursing*

1998 – 1999 **Bridgeport Health Care Center/BHCC, Inc.**

*R.N. Unit Manager*

1993 - 1998 **Bridgeport Hospital**

*Professional Clinical Nurse I- R.N., B.S.N.*

**Special Skills: Maintenance of ventilator- and tracheotomy-dependent patients, ventilator weaning, HeartMate II LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device) maintenance, telemetry monitoring, EKG interpretation, intravenous peripheral line insertion and site maintenance, accessing and de-accessing central venous access devices (i.e., Portacaths, Hickmans, Triple Lumen Catheters, PICC lines and Midlines), maintenance of hemodialysis access devices (AV Fistulas, Quintons, Ash catheters), performance of Peritoneal Dialysis manual exchanges via Tenkoff catheters and CAPD cyclers, PCC/PC/JRS/Nursing Information/Electronic Medical Record systems usage, and Paradigma Medical Information Systems development and usage, Kronos Payroll System knowledge and usage, well-versed in the standards of care and practice with thorough knowledge of OBRA, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), State and Federal guidelines and regulatory compliance standards for SNF/LTC/ECF/Psychiatric/Sub-acute settings.**

**Dually licensed in CT and NY State.**

## **EDUCATION**

1987-1990 University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT

Undergraduate Nursing Program

1990-1993 Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT

Baccalaureate Nursing Degree, Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
(B.S.N.)

2010      Obtained certification as a CLNC (Certified Legal Nurse  
Consultant) through the Vickie Milazzo Institute

*ACTIVITIES/HONORS*

Member of the National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (NACLNC)

Member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society (Mu Chi Chapter – Fairfield University) (1993)

Member of Alpha Sigma Lambda (Fairfield University) (1992)

Recipient of the Grace Cole Jones Nursing Scholarship (Norwalk Hospital) (1992)

Recipient of the Dean Porter Achievement Award for Academic Excellence (Fairfield University) (1993)

Member of Manchester's Who's Who of Executives and Professionals (2004)

Member of the Connecticut League for Nursing (CLN)

Member of the American Nurses Association (ANA)

Member of the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW)

Member of National Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (NALNC)

Member of the International Society of Female Professionals (ISFP)

Former member of The National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration of Long-Term Care - Connecticut Chapter (NADONA/CT)