

Sarah McCarthy, FULD Fellow Cohort II



The goal of the Hourly Rounding project focuses on techniques to improve safety and patient satisfaction. This project was initiated after learning patient satisfaction is directly affected by nurse responsiveness and patient safety. The initiation of the project created a standardized rounding schedule on the Weinberg floors. Nurses check in on each of their patients once an hour for the 5 P's: pain, possessions, position, potty, and correct medication administration in IV pumps. A checklist measures rounding compliance.

I am currently a BSN candidate for December 2013. I graduated from Smith College in 2007 with a B.A. where I majored in Psychology and minored in African-American studies. Following school I counseled adolescent boys in a juvenile lock-up facility. I continued on to manage a group home for adult men with developmental disabilities and a Day Habilitation Center for men and women with mental and physical disabilities. I also conducted all Massachusetts and Connecticut new staff orientations for my company.

My experience working with people with disabilities and with at-risk youth have shown me that vulnerable populations are often ignored, disregarded and unfairly treated. Several men and women I worked with were put into dangerous situations because of workarounds and poor communication. I hope to be able to advocate for the safety, protection, and the quality of care of those who are less likely to advocate for themselves.

In the next few years, I hope to become a nurse practitioner. My goal is to employ safety techniques that I have learned during my FULD experience into practice. I plan to have regular meetings with team member to review quality and safety improvements and regularly strive to improve my place of employment. I hope to instill a culture of safety, openness and communication wherever I work.