Nursing opportunities with the University of Connecticut Health Center's Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) offer a wide variety of specialties to nurses. Most individuals enter the nursing profession with the desire to help others. This need is quenched in the correctional arena as correctional nurses deliver care to a population with great medical and human needs. Many correctional patients have pursued high-risk lifestyles that include drugs, alcohol, poor living conditions, and suffer from mental disease and disorders. Correctional nurses exhibit a commitment to this underserved population while continually improving their own skills and status.

One nursing professional that epitomizes the characteristics of a Correctional Nurse is Belinda Billue. Ms. Billue has been in Connecticut State Service for 15 years and currently is a Correctional Hospital Nurse Supervisor at the Manson Youth Institution. Her customers range from nursing staff, custody staff, mental health staff, inmates and their families. She always attempts to be ahead of the curve in anticipation of these customer’s diverse and often times conflicting needs. Nurse Billue actively integrates nursing and mental health routines with an eye to maximize resource and information sharing between the disciplines. Belinda has had no problem working “the line” to help with staffing needs. Often, she comes to work in the wee hours to relieve nurses facing 16-hour shifts. The staff appreciate her efforts and admire her constant professionalism. Ms. Billue is always ready to meet a challenge whether it be serving as a contributing member to the Policy and Procedure Committee or whether it be to initiate an Orthopedic Clinic open to all inmates in the State and have it up and running in only three weeks. For these and many more reasons, Ms. Billue was recently nominated as a State of Connecticut Nurse of the Year.

Advancement is another keystone to CMHC’s commitment to nursing staff. To meet this challenge CMHC offers annual training for both correctional and clinical areas, tuition reimbursement, and through the 1199 union it offers a Training and Education program that allows for time off to pursue educational goals. Employees who have used these tools have been extremely successful in gaining RN licenses, BS in Nursing Degrees and Masters in Nursing Degrees to name a few. These tools have given many nurses the chance to follow the career ladder available to CMHC employees. One employee in particular, Larry Purcell, who works at York CI comes to mind. He began his correctional nursing career at York as an LPN. He studied to meet the requirements for a registered nurse license and obtained it about two years after starting with York. Recently, Mr. Purcell applied for and earned a promotion from Correctional Nurse to Correctional Head Nurse. CMHC is proud to have Mr. Purcell on its staff.


We welcome your interest in Correctional Nursing - a career that offers you a multitude of personal and professional rewards. Please visit our web site at http://jobs.uchc.edu or contact Noreen Logan, 860/679-7691 or Alexis Crean, 860/679-4946 for available opportunities.