IHC HEN Learning Communities
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Doug Beardsley received a bachelor’s degree in health education from the University of Utah and a master’s degree in public health majoring in health education and health behavior with an emphasis on evaluation of research design from the University of Alabama. Beardsley has spent his entire career in administrative capacities in county health departments in California, Illinois, and, since January of 2008, Iowa, where he is currently the director of Johnson County Public Health. He has served on numerous state advisory boards and committees and represents local public health departments on national workgroups developing anti-viral distribution systems.

Connie Burkett, RNC, WCC, is the quality management director for Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson. She has worked at the medical center as a staff nurse in medical-surgical, obstetrics and the emergency room, as well as surgical care unit nurse manager and wound care nurse. Her current role includes quality improvement, risk management, utilization review, HIPAA compliance officer and inpatient discharge planning responsibilities.

Kathy D. Duncan, RN, faculty at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), oversees multiple areas of content and is the clinical lead for IHI’s National Learning Network. She also directs content development and provides spread expertise for IHI’s Project JOINTS as well as additional content direction for the Hospital Portfolio. Duncan directs a number of virtual learning webinar series and manages IHI’s work in rural settings. Previously, Duncan co-led the 5 Million Lives Campaign National Field Team and was faculty for the Improving Outcomes for High Risk and Critically Ill Patients Innovation Community.

Ann Erickson, RN, BA, is the acute care director for Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson. She has worked in most nursing areas including medical/surgical, emergency room, intensive care, obstetrics, cardiac rehabilitation and shift leader. Previously she served as the acute care nurse manager.

Tom Evans, MD, FAAFP, is president and CEO of the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative. He practiced family medicine for 13 years and served as chief medical officer for Iowa Health System. Dr. Evans has served on the board for the National Patient Safety Foundation and on the delegations for both the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has served as president of both the Iowa Medical Society and the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Evans currently serves on the board of the Network for Regional Health Initiatives, is the chair of Iowa’s Medical Home System Advisory Council and works with the National Quality Forum’s Measures Application Partnership. Dr. Evans is a faculty member with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the College of Medicine at Des Moines University and the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa.

Linda Guebert, RN, MS, FCN, graduated from Moline Public Hospital School of Nursing. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Illinois and her master’s degree from Western Illinois University. Guebert currently serves as the manager of the Parish Nurse Program at Trinity Medical Center in the Quad Cities, which is part of UnityPoint Health. She has worked in a variety of positions throughout her career including open heart recovery, cardio-
vascular intensive care, out-patient surgery manager, hospice manager, home care nursing, nurse educator, clinical nursing instructor and patient safety office.

**Janelle Nielsen, RN, BSN**, is a medical home improvement consultant. Previously she was a medical home improvement advisor with the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative working with Iowa clinics, nurse executive at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan and medical clinics director during the Harlan facilities involvement in the American Academy of Family Physicians TransforMED national demonstration project for medical home.

**Meg Nugent, RN, MHA** is director of clinical strategies at the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC). She oversees IHC clinical initiatives including hospital acquired infections, patient safety, cardiovascular and stroke and is a project team lead for the IHC Partnership for Patients Hospital Engagement Network. Nugent received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Iowa and a master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. Nugent has extensive clinical experience in the areas of critical care and cardiovascular nursing.

**Bonnie Orris, RPh**, serves as pharmacy director of Greene County Medical Center, a Critical Access Hospital in Jefferson. An integral member of the variance review clinical team, she has collaborated with the quality management and nursing directors as a champion for medication safety. Having built a culture of blame-free reporting, the team works together for process evaluation and improvement.

**Debra Picone**, a nurse for 40 years, began her career as a staff nurse at the US Public Health Service Hospital in New York. She has worked as a nurse educator, nurse manager and nurse researcher and for the past 19 years has focused her efforts on quality improvement in health care. Her areas of interest include medication safety, falls prevention, readmission reduction, nurse retention and integration of evidenced based practice into care routines. Picone received her doctorate in nursing administration with cognate minors in economics and statistics from the University of Iowa. She is currently a quality and operations improvement engineer in the office of quality, safety and performance improvement at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

**Lance Roberts, BS, MS, PhD**, is Iowa Healthcare Collaborative’s health services analyst. He is primarily responsible for collaborating with state health care stakeholders and national quality and safety measurement and reporting organizations in order to promote and carry out responsible public reporting efforts in Iowa. These efforts culminate in the release of hospital performance information in the Iowa Report. He also utilizes statistical and health services research tools to produce actionable knowledge for use in various continuous improvement, policy and research activities.

**Darcy Smith, RN**, is the utilization review coordinator at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake, where she has been involved with the readmission prevention Lean team since 2011. Smith assists patients with discharge planning and arranging needs at home and also provides education to community providers to prevent hospital readmissions.
Deb Theisen-Chenchar RN-BC, BSN, has worked in the health care industry for 33 years in clinical, supervisory, administrative and quality roles. She has managed hospital inpatient services and functioned as chief nurse in the areas of rehabilitation and skilled care. Theisen-Chenchar led teams through process improvement initiatives that brought quality care, innovation, value and cost savings across a multiple hospital system. She is currently the nurse executive for the Mercy Health Network-Central Iowa. In her role as liaison and consultant for the network she provides leadership, support and resources to Mercy’s affiliate hospitals.

Kathy Trytten has more than 30 years’ experience in a hospital setting with a background in health information management and quality management. She is the director of information and quality management at the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA). She is responsible for statewide data collection of inpatient and outpatient visits and manages statewide Iowa hospital reporting of quality indicators including medication errors, falls and evidence-based practices in the emergency room. Trytten works directly with the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative on quality initiatives in Iowa hospitals including health care-associated infection and Partnership for Patients Hospital Engagement Network reporting. She serves on the Iowa Health Information Management Association and Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality boards and represents IHA in multiple collaborative settings with statewide partners.

Penny Tyynismaa, RN, is nurse manager of the medical-surgical department at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. She received an associate’s degree in nursing and has more than 20 years of nursing experience primarily involving direct patient care.

Timothy R. Gutshall, MD, vice president and chief medical officer at Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, received his medical degree from the University of Iowa and completed his family medicine residency at the Wake Forest University’s Bowman Gray residence program. He began his career in family medicine where he practiced for nine years prior to moving to the emergency room. In 2007, Dr. Gutshall became the senior clinical director of Telligen, formerly Iowa Foundation for Medical Care. He has used his experience and skills on the local, state and national scenes to engage CEOs, CFOs, physicians and nurses to understand the importance of process improvement and communication skills in impacting the quality of care in the clinical micro system. Dr. Gutshall became chief medical officer at Telligen in 2010 and continued in that role until joining Wellmark in 2012.