

Wilma Lynne Cherry

Vitae

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Wilma Lynne CHERRY MSN, APRN, BC- FNP

Lynne is the RN Instructor. She started employment in July 2018. She comes to Coastal Bend College with 40 years of experience in the nursing field. Her initial experience began as a Nursing Assistant and a Ward Clerk. For seven years she worked at this level. Later, she was accepted and graduated from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. She also worked as a Licensed Vocational Nurse until graduating as a Registered Nurse. Her nursing experience there included Rehab, Orthopedic , Medical/Surgical , Psychiatric Units among others. She was on the team of nurses who were considered “floaters” meaning she would go anywhere in the hospital a need was for the shift. After graduating Lynne moved from a large Medical Center to a small thirty bed hospital in a very rural area. There she continued to learn to master her nursing skills and knowledge. She initially started on the Medical/Surgical Unit, also the OBGYN Unit and including pediatric patients. After a year she was transferred to the ICU/CCU four bed unit which also included monitoring cardiac patients from another unit who were being monitored for cardiac reasons with telemetry. During this time Lynne developed and started a Stage II outpatient post myocardial infarction cardiac rehab program to help the patients in that rural community recover after a heart attack.

After 5 years, she became the Chief Nursing Officer of a new hospital-based Home Health Agency where Lynne was successful in the development, administration, and education for nurses, patients and families. She also managed a grant of \$600,000 a year for 3 years to set up the program. She was a manager over 30 employees and had 200 patients in the average patient monthly census. She developed a contract with a large insurance company for nurses to perform post-partum and new born evaluations of mothers and infants in the homes. Because they were discharged the hospitals six hours after giving birth in an uncomplicated delivery. She developed that program and trained other nurses to do this also. Lynne also developed a wound care program and protocol that was adopted by both the home health agency, the hospital and later was shared

to surrounding care centers. Lynne was appointed on a special state committee along with other home health organizations and state officials to develop and recommend state guidelines for home health agencies. She shared the wound care evaluation and protocol that she developed to the committee. This and other recommendations were later adopted by the State of Utah.

Lynne moved to California due to her husband's employment. There Lynne worked at Fountain Valley Hospital which had three ICU/CCU's. At that time HIV was just being recognized and treatments were being sought. This hospital specialized in cardiac procedures. There were also specialty procedures and training involving increased new technical equipment and skills. She worked and was mentored by highly trained specialists and physicians.

She then moved again when her husband was transferred to Beeville, Texas where her experience continued with many opportunities. They included ICU, House Supervisor, Director of Education, and Director of the Surgical Unit. As her career continued to grow Lynne started back to school to obtain her BSN and then her MSN with a Family Nurse Practitioner Degree. During this time, she continued to work and have many career opportunities. These included working as an Instructor at Bee County College (now Coastal Bend College) where she taught both the LVN nursing courses with Betty Sims, MSN. She also instructed CNA courses at the college. She was active on several committees including federal and state. These included the Area Health Education Committee (AHEC) which had Federal money and resources for South Texas to help with local community needs. She also was appointed on a committee led Texas A & M University that was performing a study sponsored by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant to identify nurses in communities and patient's needs. The data identified was programmed into a computer program that identified where nurses lived, were employed and the patient's needs. This work group also included several departments of the University which brought skills such as newly developed ability analyze the information and map it using satellite information. The internet was used to input the information, maintain, and update in real time the data on a webpage. This study was useful for many later projects once the data was gathered and evaluated. She was active on many committees both community and Bee County College (now Coastal Bend College). Nursing Instructor

committees that included several projects. She attended meetings with other local colleges to seek funding from grants and other sources. Curriculum adopting committee, admissions committee were among some of the roles she was involved. Setting policy and procedures for the nursing school and having them adopted by the college were another activity that she participated in. During this time Lynne also worked part-time for a local Home Health Agency. She was the RN who tested and trained the CNA's (HHA's). She went to the HHA to evaluate with the and monitored their skills for hire. and She was able to organize and deliver instruction to both HHA's and other nurses. Once identified Lynne monitored the educational needs to include CEU's or re-remediation of skills. Lynne also took after hours call and worked in the office as a Weekend Supervisor for the same home health agency. She delegated to other nurses to include RN's, LVN's and HHA's (CNA). She took call and made administrative and nursing judgement. Lynne would admit, evaluate and complete the documentation process. Some examples of nursing that Lynne performed also included the following; she administered pre-prepared chemotherapy in the home setting; was certified to place and manage PIC Lines (specialty Central IV lines). She also instructed other nurses and checked off their skills to care for different types of central lines and IV medications among other items. She wrote care plans and collaborated with other nurses and the care team to manage the patient's assigned. Lynne also cared for Hospice patients and pediatric patients among specialty needs.

After graduating and obtaining her MSN degree in 1998, she obtained her first employment as a Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner in a busy, large Family Practice. The physician she worked with had three offices one of which was an Urgent Care. He had many home health and nursing home patients. Lynne worked at the Urgent Care and once a month made home visits to the Home Health and Nursing Home patients. She also had hospital privileges and did rounds with and for the physician. She learned to perform DOT physical examinations, school and sports physical examinations along with other specialty examinations. She learned to perform minor office procedures suturing, wound care, removal of nevi, use of the laser for skin procedures, Incision and drainage of boils, casting, among office procedures. This job lasted a total of four years.

During this time, she moved for one and one-half years back to Utah for family reasons. There she was employed in a Family Practice Clinic that also did OBGYN. Lynne worked along with the Physician to care for patients of all ages to include OB up to thirty-two weeks, post-partum, newborns, pediatric, and geriatric among others. She later moved back to Beeville where she worked with the initial physician she had worked for until he retired and closed his practice. Next, she worked briefly with a psychiatrist as a case manager for his geriatric psychiatric patients who resided in six nursing homes in rural South Texas. She went monthly and as needed for face to face examinations, evaluation and chart audits with the assigned case load of patients. She next took employment during this time as working locum tenens in a large pediatric office in Alice, Texas while the pediatrician was on vacation.

At her next position Lynne was employed at the UTMB Corrections as a NP. She worked in three separate prison units which included different levels of custody for male inmates. At the intake facility she and another NP performed physical examinations daily on new inmates. Then they would hold clinic and be on call for after-hours needs. The patients included lock down and maximum-security inmates along with general population.

After this Lynne moved to Brownsville, Texas for four years where she worked as a NP in a large pediatric practice for four years. Her next employer was for six and one-half years in rural East Texas. There she worked with a physician in his late 80's. When he retired. She worked collaboratively with a consulting physician from another city. She was active on the hospital Medical Staff Committee and attended monthly meetings to set policy and procedures for the hospital. She again did hospital rounds, nursing home rounds, home health, hospice home evaluations along with a busy family practice clinic.

After that job, Lynne moved back to Beeville. She briefly worked an Urgent Care Clinic. There she performed the skills and patient care she had been doing in other settings. These included patients from different cultures, Spanish speaking patients, evaluation and treatment of patients of all ages. She also performed Workman's Compensation physicals and evaluated and ordered patient's on the job injury and treatment plans. She is certified to perform Dot Examinations and

completed documentation relating to the health and wellness to obtain a Federal or Texas State license to drive large vehicles.

After this she briefly was employed again at the pediatric practice she had worked before in Alice Texas.

Currently Lynne is employed as the RN Instructor at Coastal Bend College at the Beeville Campus.

Lynne is a member of Texas Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International which is an International Honor Society for Nurses.

She is Board Certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Corporation since 1989.

She has been listed in Who's Who yearly since 1991.

Lynne is currently Certified as an Examiner for the Department of Transportation to perform physical examinations on DOT licensed drivers.

She has performed Workman's Compensation physical and care for patient's injured on the job.

In the past she was included in a special program for Veterans to perform physical examinations on Veterans to evaluate and document if they require an extension of their current disability related to their previous service injuries.

Lynne has been involved in three studies which included:

The International study for streptokinase versus TPA. This study was randomized and changed the use of streptokinase during a myocardial infarction to TPA.

The National Study from The University of South Florida for which she was a Principle Investigator for patients with hypertension in the use of blood pressure medication with or without ace inhibitors. The information resulting from this blind study was later of use to change practice standards related to the hypertension medication and treatment guidelines of patients who have comorbidities of hypertension and diabetes.

A Robert Woods Johnson Foundation sponsored a study in connection with Texas A & M University for the needs of patients and availability of skilled, trained

nurses that was mapped on the internet. This study assisted to identify, map, and evaluate information about the nursing shortage in Texas.

Lynne is a member of Lion's Club International and has been active in their charitable organization. She is also active in her church organizations.

She has served on many boards in the past including AHEC where she was instrumental in obtaining funding for education in the Bee Area and surrounding counties. Some of the seed money to train and develop EMS in the surrounding counties was obtained and continues at this time.

She has been an American Heart Association Instructor for CPR, ACLS, PALS, NRP. She was honored by having her NRP course receive a national award for the over 98% of the OB/Nursery staff at Bee County Hospital being trained and going on to become instructors for this course. During her years as the Director of Education she was the first RN in South Texas to become a Director of a program for ACLS. She brought ACLS, PALS and NRP to the health care professionals of the area including EMS. She also instructed in these courses in Driscoll Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas and Methodist Hospital System in San Antonio, Texas.

Lynne graduated with her Associates of Science Degree from Weber State University, Ogden, Utah as a Registered Nurse in 1985.

Her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, Texas in August 1995.

She received her Master of Nursing Family Practitioner in May 1998.