

The Voice of Nursing in a Comprehensive Healthcare Ethics Program

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Overview of Presentation

1. Voice of Nursing in a healthcare ethics strategy
 - Brief overview of nursing ethics project at BSR
2. Ethical foundations of nursing:
 - Advocacy, accountability, cooperation, caring
3. Group exercise
 - Exploring the ethical foundations nursing

Part 1

Context for Nursing Ethics at BSR

Nursing Congress Ethics Panel

- Interdisciplinary panel on ethical concerns surrounding code status issues
 - “Where has ethics been?”
 - “It’s a new time for ethics at BSR”
 - “Sounds like an opportunity for a nursing ethics committee”
 - What is the voice of nursing in ethics at BSR?
 - Have we asked, listened, responded?

Goals of Ethics at BSR

Have we asked, listened, responded?

1. To integrate ethical reflection into organizational decision making, practices, and processes
2. To educate for sensitivity and competencies
3. To assess empirically the ethical environment of the organization
4. To participate in ethics-related quality improvement

Nursing Ethics Workgroup

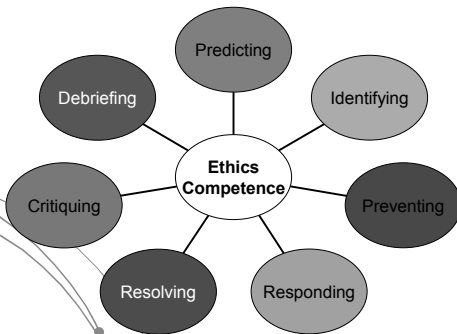
Responding, Asking, Listening

- In Sept 2007, 20 nurses from across the system met for a working retreat facilitated by Dr. Carol Taylor
- Goals of retreat:
 - Discuss ethics competencies for nursing staff
 - Identify ethics issues and concerns for nursing staff
 - Identify organizing ethical principles for nursing practice at BSR

What did our Nurses Say?

- BSR nurses will be:
 - Competent, collaborative, and compassionate advocates for the well-being of their patients and the profession
 - Remembered by patients and families for making a critical difference during their hospitalization
 - Committed to learning and integrating ethics competencies into their professional practice

Skills for Ethics Competency



Part 2

Ethical Foundations of Nursing

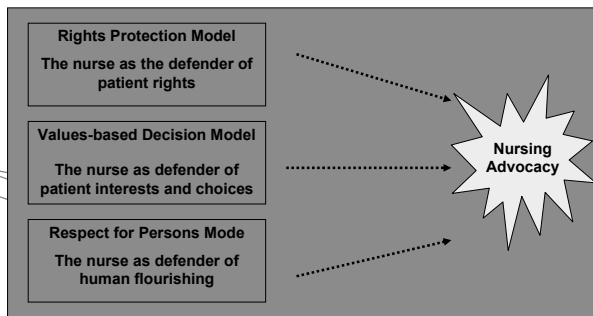
Foundations for Ethical Decision Making in Nursing

- Four concepts provide a foundation for ethical decision making in nursing
 1. Advocacy
 2. Accountability/responsibility
 3. Cooperation
 4. Caring

Sara T. Fry and Megan-Jane Johnstone, *Ethics in Nursing Practice* 2nd ed. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2002), 37-47.

Advocacy

The active support of an important cause



Fry and Johnstone, *Ethics in Nursing Practice*, 37-38

Accountability Responsibility & Answerability

Patient

Profession

Society

Colleagues/Employer

Fry and Johnstone, *Ethics in Nursing Practice*, 39-40

Cooperation

Movement toward A Common Goal

- Active participation with others
- Collaborative engagement
- Reciprocity with others with whom you share common goals

Fry and Johnstone, *Ethics in Nursing Practice*, 41-42

Caring

Behaviors the Demonstrate Connection

- Being there for the patient
- Respecting the patient
- Feeling with and for the patient
- Closeness to the patient

Fry and Johnstone, *Ethics in Nursing Practice*, 41-43
