



Kathy Heilig - Profile

Kathy Heilig joined the Foundation for Nursing Excellence as the Program Director on May 10, 2010. She will begin working as a member of the Transition to Nursing Practice team which is currently focused on the testing of preceptor development tools and the impact such preceptor development has on enhancing the competence and confidence development of newly licensed nurses entering the workforce in nine pilot hospital settings across the state. She will also work with the Foundation's project to "*Regionally Increase BSN-prepared Nurses*" across the state as well as our initiatives to promote a just culture framework for patient safety statewide. Kathy is a North Carolina native. She received her Baccalaureate and Masters Degrees in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Kathy worked as the Vice President Clinical Services for the North Carolina Hospital Association. She coordinated the organizational quality and performance improvement initiatives beginning with the Quality Indicator Project and more recently championed the development of the NC Center for Hospital Quality and Patient Safety. She served as the liaison to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Kathy collaborated with professional associations representing provider groups such as the allied health groups, the medical society, the board of medicine, the nurses association, the board of nursing, and emergency medical services. She was an advocate with state agencies to implement clinical rules and regulations across the continuum of care. Kathy recently coordinated a partnership between NCHA and the N.C. Department of Insurance to further develop the N.C. SAFE KIDS Coalition.

Earlier in her career, Kathy taught and was the Director of the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at Randolph Technical College in Asheboro. She has also worked in nursing at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, Franklin Memorial Hospital in Louisburg, Humana Hospital in Greensboro (now Women's Hospital), Forsyth Memorial Hospital in Winston-Salem, and the Guilford County Health Department.

Kathy also served as a medical malpractice claims representative for Medical Mutual Insurance Company and as a risk management consultant for the North Carolina Hospital Trust Fund where she worked with physicians and hospitals to assist in the resolution of sentinel events and the implementation of processes to avoid further medical errors.