

Brandy G. Mathews, DNP, RN, CENP, FACHE

BIOGRAPHY

Brandy Mathews currently serves as a Chief Nursing Officer at UK HealthCare for Good Samaritan Hospital and Emergency Services. Prior to assuming this role, Brandy was the administrator for capacity management and was responsible for managing throughput activities and resources for the healthcare enterprise. She has more than 25 years of nursing experience, including more than 18 years of progressive leadership experience.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in nursing, and doctorate in nursing practice all from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. She also received a master of health administration from the University of Kentucky Gatton School. Her research interests are primarily focused on the care of patients with mental health and behavioral issues in the hospital setting – specifically nurses' perceived competency and clinicians' self-efficacy and attitudes toward this patient population.

Brandy maintains national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Organization for Nursing Leadership as a certified nurse executive. She was named a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives in 2020. She is a member of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, American College of Healthcare Executives, and the Kentucky Organization of Nurse Leaders, where she currently serves as president. She recently completed a term on the AONL and the AONL Foundation board of directors. She also serves on the Epsilon Omega chapter of Kappa Delta collegiate advisory board, advising the council members in building confidence and leadership skills in college women.

STATEMENTS

1. Statement describing the biggest issue facing AONL and potential strategies to address the issue.

Stability of the nursing workforce, including the health and wellness of nurses, is one of the biggest issues. The presence of effective and creative nursing leadership is pivotal. To address this, AONL must apply innovative and evidenced based strategies, use technology, share best practices, and conduct research around workplace wellness practices. AONL should promote different leadership and staffing models, working to influence productivity benchmarks that support effective and safe models. AONL should work collaboratively with other professional organizations and industry partners to support and influence healthcare innovation and policy that supports nursing resilience and wellness.

2. Please describe your actions to increase diversity, equity and inclusion within your organization or community.

One source of unconscious bias in my organization is the care and treatment of patients with substance use disorder. I serve as the nursing leader and dyad partner for our addiction consult and education service. I have advocated for resources including nurse navigator and LCSW, and supported creative strategies including nursing education, peer support specialists and in-hospital recovery meetings. I led the work to remove discriminatory language from our policies and behavioral agreements. I have worked with community partners to highlight persons successful in recovery by celebrating Certified Nurses Day annually at a local eatery that employs persons in recovery.

3. Please describe the unique perspective or skills you would bring to the AONL Board.

My strengths are in leadership, specifically focused on operations and execution of strategy. I have a solid understanding of business concepts, developed through formal education, leadership development, and professional experience. My experience in academic and community hospital settings, including behavioral health and critical care transport, gives me a well-rounded understanding of healthcare operations and knowledge of diverse patient populations and teams. My previous experience on the AONL and AONL Foundation boards, and leadership in KONL, provides me with a clear understanding of the mission and work and has prepared me for an executive position on this board.

4. Please describe your actions to improve health outcomes through advocacy.

I have participated in the AONL advocacy academy as well as in person and virtual advocacy days supporting AONL's legislative priorities. I chair the KONL legislative committee and actively collaborate with other professional nursing organizations in the state to advocate for legislation which supports the workforce, especially for workplace violence prevention. Within our workplace I serve as the Chief Nurse liaison to the Enterprise Strategic Workplace Violence Prevention inter-professional team. Our work has been instrumental in advocating for enhanced safety on our campus and in our community.