



Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging



advantAGE

CONNECT



Bonnie Blachly: When Bonnie was 18 years old there weren't many career choices for a woman to pursue. With hopes of moving out of her home and starting a life of her own, Bonnie chose nursing as her profession. Now her 42-year career has proven to be very successful as she has dedicated the majority of her life to geriatric wellness.

Bonnie studied at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Yakima, earning her diploma in nursing and once she graduated she moved to Seattle in 1970 and started as an OBGYN nurse then transferred to coronary care. Shortly thereafter, she started at Ballard Convalescent Center as a staff nurse working on the floor and over her 17 years there she worked her way up to Director of Nursing. After that she moved on to Ida Culver House Broadview, a start up at the time, where she began as a staff nurse again, helping to write policy and procedures. She worked with the owners of Ida Culver and University of Washington to create a Partners-in-care model. Each nurse who worked full time or regular part time was assigned a caseload of 7-8 residents and assumed 24 hour responsibility for those residents. That meant that they knew everything about those residents. The family was told on admission who their PIC nurse was and how to contact them if they had any questions. Ida Culver House offered Bonnie more responsibility as Director of Nursing. Then, Bonnie made a smooth transition into the administrator role and held it while she attended the University of Washington Bothell to earn her Bachelor of Nursing degree. A few years later she went back and earned her Masters of Nursing degree that included a few teach courses to allow her to eventually become an instructor.

With all of Bonnie's experience in geriatric wellness she decided to start her own business called BLB Nurse Consulting Services. She helped communities that didn't have administrators or directors manage themselves and implement proper policies. She also helped communities prepare for Federal and State surveys. After working fulltime for herself she moved on to other endeavors that eventually led her to Aging Services of Washington.

Bonnie's role at Aging Services is to help members interpret regulations and prepare for Federal and State surveys. Additionally, Bonnie is the dedicated staff support for both the Workforce Development Committee and the Nursing Forum; she also helped develop the Nursing Summit and the Assisted Living Leadership Program.

The Workforce Development Committee is working towards strengthening the retention of current staff and development of incoming nurses. Most recently, the committee and other members have

collaborated with a group of University of Washington master students to develop a new curriculum based off of member input. It has evolved into the Aging Services of Washington Assisted Living Leadership Program training course. The Nursing forum's purpose is to be used as a networking opportunity for all positions within communities related to nursing to discuss current issues, regulatory changes and topics relevant to geriatric wellness. Finally the Nursing Summit is an opportunity for nurses to continue their education in geriatric wellness.

While Bonnie is managing all her duties at Aging Services she is also a professor at the University of Washington Bothell campus teaching hospice care. Aging Services and the membership is fortunate to have Bonnie as a team member. From President of the Seattle Chapter of the Beatles fan club to professor and expert in geriatric wellness, Bonnie has been able to reinvent herself as a nurse starting in OBGYN to coronary care to finding her true fit in senior care.