

Narrative Summary

1. Narrative Summary

Name	Lori Andrews
School	Cullman High School
Date	June 21-25, 2010

“Each educator will prepare a one-paged typed narrative suitable for publication in newspaper, newsletters, magazines, etc. This narrative should reflect on the experiences during the externship and how it will impact your individual curriculum during the school year.”

2. Narrative Summary

Lori Andrews Summary Cullman Regional Medical Center June 21-25, 2010 The week I spent at Cullman Regional Medical Center was extremely informative and exciting. I gained a new insight as to how health care facilities operate while learning valuable information that I can pass along in my classroom. The courtesy and professionalism that I was shown is a true indication of the employees' dedication to providing the highest quality healthcare for our community. On Monday, I attended New Employee Orientation where CEO Jim Weidner discussed the Mission of CRMC. Vice President of Patient Care Services, Cheryl Bailey talked to the new employees about Patient Bill of Rights and Patient Safety. Susan Copeland, Vice President of Ambulatory Services presented information concerning Advance Directives and Organ Donation. Darla West spoke to us about the Foundation. Maria Stanford, Marketing Director, discussed public relations, marketing, media releases, and community services. After lunch, Brandi Jones, Human Resources Administrator went over policies and procedures. On Tuesday, I spent two hours in the Heart Cath Lab. I observed two cath procedures. From there I went to the Critical Care Unit and shadowed Melinda, the charge nurse. I observed a new cooling protocol used on patients to hopefully prevent brain damage after cardiac arrest. I was also able to spend some time with Deborah, who provided dialysis to hospital patients. I spent the afternoon in surgery, which was probably the most fascinating department. I observed Dr. Sidel with a wound procedure and Dr. Fuller with an orthopedic procedure. On Wednesday, I was introduced to the Pain Center. Director, Ellen Schmidt oriented me to this department and allowed me to shadow with patients prior to the procedure and in recovery. I observed nurses Jody, Becky, and Natalie. I was amazed in that department by the medicine and supply cabinets that are so technologically advanced. I spent time in the outpatient lab on Wednesday afternoon where I observed patients having blood drawn and learning about general lab procedures. On Thursday morning, I spent time with Maria Stanford in Marketing. She explained the goals, responsibilities, and duties of the marketing department. She also took the time to give us a tour of the Rehab department and the Administrative Offices where we were able to look at the plans for the new Emergency Room. Thursday afternoon was spent in the Sleep Clinic. Sharon Wisener gave us an orientation of their services and a tour of the new Sleep Center facility in Professional Office Building 3 (they are in the process of moving). She was very informative, provided us with numerous brochures and offered to be a guest speaker in our classrooms. Friday was spent in the maternity/nursery department. Director, Joan Kilpatrick walked us through the department and explained every aspect of the labor and delivery process. We were able to go into the nursery and see two newborn babies. She thoroughly discussed career opportunities and hiring procedures for that department. She too, offered to be a guest speaker to our students. In addition, she shared with us the plans of hopefully adding a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CRMC. Words cannot adequately describe this learning experience. I have been an educator for 19 years, so it was an eye-opening experience for me to get a “taste” of the health care field. I was amazed at the variety of jobs offered at CRMC. As a high school teacher, it is my job to prepare my students for life after high school. It is evident that students entering health care professions need math, science, and technology skills; however, there are numerous jobs and career opportunities for students who are not planning to attend college immediately after high school. CRMC offers on-the-job training for many positions and tuition reimbursement programs. Students need to be prepared for these jobs not only with academic skills, but more importantly, they need to possess interpersonal skills so they can communicate effectively and be able to work on a team. I look forward to working with my students this fall with more activities and assignments that involve collaborative learning, interpersonal skills and teamwork.