

Mary Vanice Muse, M.S., RN, FAAN, CCHP-RN, CCHP-A

Biographical Sketch - Starfish Foundation

Mary V. Muse, M.S., RN, FAAN, CCHP-RN, CCHP-A is a consultant in the specialty area of Correctional Health. In her work she serves as an expert for the legal field in correctional health, correctional institutions, public health, and academia. Ms. Muse has been involved in the specialty of correctional health for twenty-nine years. She has served as the chief nursing officer for both jails and prisons, which include Cook County Jail (Cermak Health Services) and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Muse holds an unfunded faculty appointment at the University of Wisconsin, Madison's, School of Nursing, and is Immediate Past President of the American Correctional Nurses Association, an organization she founded in 2019-2020.

From 2015-2023, Ms. Muse served as the American Nurses Association representative on the board of the National Commission for Correctional Health Care. In addition, she is a surveyor for the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. In this capacity, Ms. Muse visits jails and prisons, assessing their compliance with established correctional health care standards. She also is a representative on the Nursing Advisory Committee for Correctional Health and Committee on Racism in Corrections. She previously served as chairperson for this committee.

Her professional career includes 29 years advocating for justice populations and elevating and leading nursing services in corrections. Prior to her correctional health experience Ms. Muse was the Nurse Administrator for seven federally Qualified Health Centers in Chicago. She has also held positions as Vice President for Nursing, VP Physician and Community Relations, Clinical Director for Medical-Surgical and Critical Care Nursing, Nurse Manager, and staff nurse. She began her career in nursing as a pediatric nurse in Chicago. Ms. Muse has worked in Chicago, Kansas City Missouri and Madison, Wisconsin.

Ms. Muse's career includes holding University faculty positions in Chicago and Kansas City, Missouri. She held a non-funded position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Nursing.

Mary has published articles and book chapters on nursing, and she has presented on nursing leadership practice, ethics, and moral distress. Her contributions to the field of nursing have been impactful. "Muse's Framework for Correctional Nursing Practice" serves as a guide for implementing nursing practice in corrections. In 2021, Ms. Muse received the "Outstanding Woman of Color" award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 2020, she received the highest honors of a nurse. Following rigorous review, and colleague recommendation she became a Fellow in the American Academy for Nursing. This is an honor given to nurse leaders, clinicians and educators who have significantly contributed to the field. The American Academy of nursing is an honorific society and a policy organization, representing nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

Mary's community engagement includes membership in the following professional organizations for women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Incorporated, and The Society of the Arts, Incorporated. These organizations focus on community engagement and uplifting.

Mary Muse is an elder in her church and previously served as deacon. She has served as chairperson for the Flossmoor, Illinois's Community Relations Committee, and Vice President for her homeowner's association.

The 2021 Journal of Correctional Health Care special edition on Correctional Nursing includes an article on Moral Distress which Muse co-authored.

Mary Muse served twice as President of the Academy of Correctional Health Professionals, chaired the RN certification committee for correctional nurses, and has written a chapter on "Professional Practice" for the textbook "Essentials of Correctional Nursing".

During 2020-2022, Ms. Muse was an outspoken advocate for the incarcerated population, ensuring patient assessment, prevention, and management of COVID and advocating for vaccines for this vulnerable population. The Chief Medical Officer of Wisconsin appointed her to the Governor's State sub-committee task force on COVID. This committee made recommendations for COVID vaccine implementation and distribution throughout Wisconsin, including jails and prisons.

Mary Muse grew up in a middle class community in Chicago and received her BS and MS in Nursing from Saint Xavier University (previously College) in Chicago, Illinois. Her interest in nursing evolved at an early age and she prepared herself for this career through science courses while in high school and later college.

Mary Muse has long been interested in being impactful and making a difference, this desire arises from her parents, educational preparation and because she is a nurse.

Starfish Foundation:

After reviewing the work of the organization and its mission of supporting veterans returning from service, transitioning home and to their communities I became interested in learning more. The work of the foundation is important and has the potential to positively influence the lives of our veterans. My background in correctional health has informed me about the trauma and difficulty that service men and women can experience when returning home after deployment and service. In normal circumstances individuals can have their mental wellness challenged. I am aware of the impact of experiencing trauma and how that experience may lead one from service to their country to serving time in the justice system. This scenario where one has given their service to the country and as a result feeling overwhelmed, anxious, having reoccurring nightmares and adjustment issues is sad and a tragedy. It not only affects the individual but their family and community.

I believe my background as a nurse and work with justice populations prepares me to contribute as an advocate and voice.