

“In all affairs, it’s a healthy thing to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.”

—Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher

# One attending nurse prepares for her new role

**W**hen Karen Rosenblum, RN, staff nurse on the Blake 11 Psychiatry Unit, first heard that her unit was selected to be an innovation unit, she knew she wanted to be involved.

Said Rosenblum, “I knew it was an opportunity to expand my practice and be an advocate for patients.” Blake 11 nursing director, Tina Stone, RN, and clinical nurse specialist, Connie Cruz, RN, agreed. So Rosenblum is now in the process of preparing for the role of attending nurse.

Preparing for roll-out of the attending nurse role on the Blake 11 Psychiatric Unit are (l-r): Jeff Huffman, MD, medical director; Karen Rosenblum, RN, newly named attending nurse; Tina Stone, RN, nursing director; and Connie Cruz, RN, clinical nurse specialist.



Rosenblum compares the attending nurse role to that of a navigator. “When you consider all the systems that patients and clinicians encounter in the course of a hospitalization, it can be daunting. Having a navigator to guide your progress can not only be comforting but can have a tremendous impact on outcomes and patient satisfaction. I’ve always been a systems thinker, and I think that will be important as we look at ways to make processes more efficient.”

Just as important as systems thinking are Rosenblum’s skills as an expert clinician, her clinical knowledge, and ability to work effectively with all members of the team. Rosenblum believes that working five days a week will give patients a ‘familiar face’ and ensure continuity of the care plan.

Developing an inter-disciplinary plan and implementing it in a timely and efficient manner will challenge all members of the team to think and work together in new ways. Rosenblum is excited to pioneer this new role and work with the Blake 11 team in this new capacity.

Says Rosenblum, “So many of these interventions are going to have a positive impact on patients and families. I’m looking forward to implementing the Discharge Follow-up Phone Call program on our unit. I can see where it would really help prevent re-admissions.”

For more information about this new role, call The Norman Knight Nursing Center for Clinical & Professional Development at 6-3111.