

AWARD: Nurse of the Year  
NAME: Barb Rockey, LPN at the Central Counties Youth Center for 3 years  
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Barb Rockey, LPN at the Central Counties Youth Center is our nominee for Nurse of the Year. Barb is the only medical professional present at the facility full time providing care for the kids. We contract with PrimeCare Medical for other services, but Barb is our employee providing this care.

Barb is a true professional in all of her dealings with the kids and their families. She will meet with each new admission to review their medical history and fill out our medical admission form. She will contact each family to obtain additional medical history, insurance information and medications and will answer any questions that the families have. She will then direct the medical care that the kids will need with staff after consulting with PrimeCare Medical.

But, Barb is a lot more than just our Nurse. She is our Certified CPR/First Aid/AED Trainer and our Certified Medication Administration Trainer, providing these important trainings to our staff. She researched and obtained Narcan from the local hospital and trained all our staff on the proper usage of this life saving medicine after we were seeing kids coming to the Center under the influence of opioids. As we saw more kids with opioid additions, she reached out to the Centre County Hope Initiative (local group of agencies dealing with the opioid crisis in Centre County) for help and information and is now our representative at this monthly meeting. When she saw that the afternoons during the summer lacked activities for the kids since school was not in session, she contacted people and organizations in the community to provide life skill presentations for the kids. She has brought in such agencies as the American Red Cross, the Aids Coalition, Careerlink, the Women's Resource Center, Army Recruiters and other community agencies to talk to and work with the kids providing them with skills and knowledge that will help them the rest of their lives.

Barb is driven to provide each kid detained with the best medical care possible and will work tirelessly to achieve this. A prime example was this spring when a number of kids suffering from their usage of street drugs (heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, etc.) and prescription medications (Xanax, Suboxon, etc.) were being detained. These kids were exhibiting behaviors that caused the Center to be concerned for their safety. For four (4) straight weekends, Barb was at the Center working extra (without additional pay) making sure of the kids medical needs were being met. She was a lighthouse in a stormy sea at that time, guiding the staff through this difficult period, educating them and the kids on the various drugs, their effects and dangers. She came in during the evening and overnight shifts sitting outside a kid's room, monitoring his breathing and vitals to ensure that he would live. She observed the erratic and acting out behaviors associated with a kid entering the inactive stage for methamphetamine withdraw, monitoring his actions and recommending a transfer to the hospital where she sat with the child in the hospital for 16 hours. When this was getting to be too much for the staff, she approached Administration and worked with us, gathering information and helped create the policy changes and clarifications needed to make the Center a safer place for kids and staff.

Barb will step out of her job description without prompting to help with other aspects of the operations of the Center to ensure efficient operations. She is willing to help with the meal preparation and clean up when the cook is off. She helps the maintenance person when he needs an extra hand or something researched on the internet.

It is without hesitation that I nominate Ms. Barb Rockey for JDCAP Nurse of the Year