Brenda Dzierzawski

MSN, RN, SANE-A

IAFN/IAFNF DIRECTOR AT LARGE

CANDIDATE BIO

Professor Brenda Dzierzawski is the newly appointed Forensic Nursing Program Director and full-time Special Instructor at Oakland University (OU) in Rochester, Michigan. In 2003, her nursing career began in critical care with a cardiovascular focus. She became a Certified Critical Care Nurse (CCRN) in 2010 and continued to care for the critically ill until 2019 when she completed her MSN in Forensic Nursing. At that time, she moved to a Risk Management role with Legal Affairs for a large hospital system. She spent her time there focusing on legal and ethical aspects of patient care, investigating medical malpractice claims, and identifying and mitigating safety events. In 2021, she became a contractual Forensic Nurse Examiner for Turning Point of Macomb County, a position she still holds. She obtained her SANE-A certification in 2022 and is a member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, the Academy of Forensic Nursing, and the Michigan Society of Healthcare Risk Management. She is a member of multiple committees and task forces including Elder Justice and Trauma Informed Care. She dedicates her time to education and the advancement of the science of forensic nursing while working toward her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Her DNP project focuses on using Augmented Reality to train nurses to complete medical forensic examinations. This teaching method can potentially be used to hone these important skills in multiple settings including academia or rural agencies with low patient volumes. Professor Dzierzawski resides in Rochester Hills, Michigan, with her husband, three daughters, and their dog.