

Loretta (Lori) Melby RN, MSN, has 27 years of healthcare experience, 21 years as a Registered Nurse with 15 of those years being in a variety of nurse management and leadership roles with key participation in strategic planning for growth while staying recent in bedside nursing. She joined the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) in 2014 as a Nursing Education Consultant (NEC). In this role she upheld the mission of public protection by ensuring compliance with nursing education laws and regulation while providing consultative services to local, State, and National agencies and supporting Board committees. She was appointed to serve as the Acting Executive Officer in February of 2020 and then the Executive Officer for the BRN in June the same year. In this role she has proven to be essential to the Board, Department staff and the DCA when navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency and instituting multiple process improvements. She has worked well under pressure, sought out alternative solutions within relevant statutes and regulations while maintaining the integrity of Nursing Practice.

Lori's previous management experience is as a Nursing Administrator for a GI Surgery Center where she assisted with the construction, opening, and growth of the center. There she was responsible for the clinical, operational, and financial aspects of the growing business. Another management role was that of a Practice Manager responsible for planning, organizing, care coordination, and the daily clinical operations for two physicians, three Nurse Practitioners, one Physician Assistant and 3 practice locations. She also served as a Nurse Education Specialist and a Senior Specialist at two hospital systems in Southern California, providing education, consultation, mentoring of new staff including new graduates; participated in quality and process improvement projects. In addition, she assisted in designing, testing, credentialing, and moving a women's services department, including operating room services, from an old hospital building to newly designated locations within a state of the art hospital.

In Nursing Academia, Lori spent 16 years helping to develop over 2,500 students to become the next generation of nurses and healthcare professionals. She worked her way up from a Clinical Teaching Assistant to Director of Nursing; serving in both Private and Public institutions at the Associate and Baccalaureate degree levels.

Lori has direct bedside nursing experience in inpatient, outpatient, ambulatory, and procedural settings. She has worked within GI nursing, Sexual Assault/Forensic nursing, Maternal Child nursing, Plastic Surgery nursing, and Pediatric nursing. Prior to becoming an RN her healthcare experience included working in the Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, Hospital Admissions, Private Practice, and Psychiatric Mental Health services.

Lori is a highly accomplished nursing leader with vast experience in service excellence, staff recruitment and retention, education, and regulatory affairs. She has received honors and awards throughout her career such as Manager of the Quarter, You Make a Difference, Nurse of the Month, All-Star, and Student of the Year. She has presented on topics of Teen Pregnancy, Sexual Assault, Nursing Regulation and is looking forward to continuing her education by completing a doctoral degree.