



SHAMMED NURSE VOTED VP

May 11, 2008 in Washington, DC Semmelweis Society International elected Sandra Counce, a Registered Nurse from Nashville Tennessee, to be its new Vice President. This is a great departure from its past practices for the Semmelweis International group. Semmelweis was originally an international group of physicians that has taken on the challenge to uncover and fight fraud and corruption in the U.S. Medical system.

Dr. Roland Chalifoux, Jr., the current President of the group, explained that we have come to realize that nurses are at the forefront of patient care and they see more problems and abuses than most. We are very proud to have Sandra Counce as our Vice President as she has shown herself to be a champion of safe patient care and patient's rights through her own ordeal with the system. Sandra fought to uphold this country's fiduciary duty to provide

compassionate and safe staffing of bedside nursing for veterans at the Nashville, TN VAMC.

Associate Professor of Law at the University of South Dakota, and former chief operations officer of Mercy Medical Center, Sioux City, Iowa Michael J. Myers spoke at the hearings in Washington. He stated that, "In the current environment, in which two or three hospital systems typically enjoy oligopolistic market power in a region, physicians, executives, board members, and their aligned business interests are able to place private interests ahead of their presumed public interest without significant risk of detection or penalty. These modern, multi-billion-dollar health systems earn revenues in amounts sufficient to accommodate their collective interests, attracting an array of entrepreneurial constituents because, to quote bank robber Willie Sutton, that is "where the money is."

Vice President Counce stated that hospitals and healthcare systems are using the very laws that were designed to protect patients to hide abuses, inadequate care and in some cases patient deaths. Now in the 2.5+ Trillion dollar industry of healthcare a corporate model of profits and "bottom line mentality" has taken precedence over safe practices and patient rights. The Health Care Quality Improvement Act (HCQIA) of 1986 was intended to reduce the cost of medical care but it has had the opposite effect because of the billing system called Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs). Sham Peer Review is forcing the cost of health care to increase with the help of Health Care Quality Improvement Act (HCQIA) of 1986.

"I didn't even know that there was a name for the precise and methodical process that happened to me at the VAMC in Nashville, TN until I met physicians at Whistleblower Week in Washington - WWW in May of 2007, and this year I was voted Vice President!" said Counce. Often nurses refer to sham/bad-faith peer review as lateral violence or "nurses eating their young." Nurses vote with their feet and leave nursing at a time when the need for nurses is rising. <http://www.semmelweis.org> and <http://www.allianceforpatientsafety.org/> are devoting space for shammed nurses to post their stories. Also see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semmelweis_Society