

EMILY BRYANT, RN, BSN, MPH

Director of Nursing, Maternal Child Health

NYC Health + Hospitals/Community Care



Emily Bryant dreamed about being a nurse ever since she was a little girl and 34 years ago, she made her dreams a reality. "From the age of 8 I had a desire to become a nurse," she recalls. "I had a compelling desire to care for others after experiencing an illness that caused me to be hospitalized."

Today, Bryant helps other children and their families by training new nurses in the Community Care program. "One of my proudest accomplishments as Director of Nursing for the Maternal Child Health program in Community Care is assisting in training new nurses," she explains, noting that these new nurses may specialize in Maternal Child Health, but typically do not have experience in home care.

Under her direction, these nurses "have become successful practitioners in caring for Community Care's high risk Maternal and Child Health population, which services patients residing in Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx."

Even after 34 years, Bryant remains committed to her vocation. "There is always a need for patient care and education," she notes. "Job satisfaction also makes me want to continue in my role as a nurse." Bryant also points to the system's emphasis on continuing process improvement as a motivating factor. "Improvement increases the value of excellence in an organization," she says. "It includes teamwork and helps improve job satisfaction. Improvement also will give better patient outcomes, patient satisfaction and ensure patients are receiving quality care."

Bryant points to compassion as being one of the most important qualities in a nurse. "Working in the City's public health system, one must have compassion and a desire to work with patients representing a lower socioeconomic group, who have fears of seeking medical care either due to immigration status or because of their culture," she comments, adding, "As a nurse, we cannot only demonstrate compassion to our patients, but it must also be demonstrated to our peers especially during COVID-19," "This has been a very stressful year; it is important that we support each other and help prevent burnout."