

Brandy Mathews currently serves as a Chief Nursing Officer at UK HealthCare for the Samaritan, Emergency Services, Medicine and Trauma service lines. Prior to assuming this role, Mathews was the administrator for capacity management and responsible for managing throughput activities and resources for the healthcare enterprise. She has over 20 years of nursing experience, including more than 10 years of progressive leadership experience.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in nursing, and doctorate in nursing practice all from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. She also received a master of health administration from the University of Kentucky Gatton School. Her research interests primarily focus on the care of patients with mental health and behavioral issues in the hospital setting – specifically nurses’ perceived competency and clinicians’ self-efficacy and attitudes toward this patient population.

Mathews maintains national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Organization for Nursing Leadership as a certified nurse executive. She is a member of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, American College of Healthcare Executives, Kentucky Organization of Nurse Leaders, and a lifetime member of the University of Kentucky alumni association. Mathews currently serves on several committees, including KONL’s conference planning committee and scholarship committee and AONL’s membership committee and has previously served on the AONL nurse director fellowship committee. She serves on the Epsilon Omega chapter of Kappa Delta collegiate advisory board, advising the operations and standards chair in building confidence and leadership skills of college women.

STATEMENTS

1. Statement describing the significant issues facing AONL and potential strategies to address them.

Stability of the nursing workforce, especially the health and wellness of nurses, is one of the most pressing issues. Following the pandemic, a focus on nurse wellness and treatment of mental health issues has never been more important. The presence of effective nursing leadership is pivotal.

To address this, AONL must apply innovative and evidenced based strategies, share best practices, and conduct research around workplace wellness practices. AONL should promote different leadership and staffing models, working to influence productivity benchmarks that support effective models. AONL should work collaboratively to support and influence healthcare policy that supports nursing resilience and wellness.

2. Statement describing the applicant’s perspective of diversity, equity and inclusion and strategies AONL can take to demonstrate its commitment.

Diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) means that we must consider all aspects of our differences. Individually and collectively, we must start with introspection to keep DEI at the center of all decisions and interactions.

AONL demonstrates its commitment by having DEI at the forefront of its membership (understanding current demographics), programming (succession planning and leadership

development), and decision making (policies). AONL must take an active role against systemic racism and oppression existent within the profession and society, advocate for DEI centric legislation, collaborate with other professional organizations, and ensure the voice of nursing is strong and inclusive of all.