

Brennan Lewis, DNP, APRN, NEA-BC

BIO

Brennan Lewis, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, NEA-BC is the Vice President of Nursing Excellence at Children's Health. Under her leadership, she inspires nursing excellence with nurse leaders and clinical nurses through advancement of professional nurses, fostering a culture of clinical inquiry, nursing innovation, establishing nursing professional governance, and standardizing nursing practice across the enterprise, and leads the Magnet recognition program for the organization. As a seasoned professional nurse with more than 23 years of nursing and leadership experience, Brennan is known for driving evidence-based nursing practice improvements, patient family centric care delivery, championing quality and patient safety, and developing future nurse leaders. She has published several articles in peer reviewed journals, conducted research in health literacy and patient family engagement, and completed numerous quality improvement projects with notable improved patient outcomes. Brennan completed the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) Nurse Executive Fellowship in 2023. She is an active member of AONL, Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL), American Nurses Association (ANA), Texas Nurses Association (TNA), National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS), and Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN). Brennan earned a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Texas Woman's University (2002), a Master of Science in Primary Care and Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of Texas at Arlington (2008), a post Masters in Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist from Texas Christian University (2012), and her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama (2018).

STATEMENTS

1. Provide a statement describing the biggest issue facing AONL and potential strategies to address the issue.

AONL faces the critical challenge of addressing workforce shortages and developing the nurse leader pipeline while advancing the profession amid a rapidly evolving digital transformation. To lead effectively, AONL must cultivate future nurse leaders equipped with innovation, digital fluency, and readiness for shifting policies/regulations. Endorsing the American Nursing Informatics Association's (ANIA) 2018 position on the Chief Nursing Informatics Officer (CNIO) role is essential, as CNIOs are integral to leadership teams. Aligning with ANIA, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and others allows AONL to amplify nursing's voice and guide leaders into the future.

2. Describe your actions to increase engagement/belonging within your organization or community.

In 2024, I was honored to accept the AONL Prism Award on behalf of Children's Health for our work advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. I co-developed the nursing strategy with the Chief Nurse Executive and led the transition from Shared Governance to Professional Governance, transforming our culture to elevate nurses' voices and strengthen accountability in practice, quality, competency, and knowledge. From 2020 to 2024, engagement scores increased from 4.09 to 4.29 (benchmark 4.00), and autonomy rose from 3.91 to 4.07. Clinical nurse participation remains strong, with less than 10% of governance seats vacant, reflecting empowered and engaged nursing workforce.

3. Illustrate the unique perspective or skills you would bring to the AONL Board.

As a pediatric nurse leader, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, I bring clinical expertise, implementation science, and executive leadership to the AONL Board. I oversee nursing practice and patient experience across hospitals and ambulatory sites, advancing innovation and technology adoption to improve workflow and care delivery. I've led system-wide

governance and culture transformations that strengthen engagement, autonomy, and shared decision-making. My role in aligning strategic priorities with values and operational outcomes brings a systems-level perspective rooted in evidence and innovation—ensuring nursing remains at the forefront of transformation.

4. Describe your actions to improve health outcomes through advocacy.

I actively engage in legislative efforts that protect the nursing profession and promote patient wellbeing. I participated in Texas Nurses Association's Nurse Day at the Capitol, meeting with legislators to advocate for key issues, like childhood immunizations, enforcement of nurse staffing laws (HB 2187/SB 2356), and preventing criminalization of medical errors (HB 2190/SB 2380). I also supported bills addressing workplace violence and independent advanced nursing practice. My past advocacy contributed to the support for the Medically Dependent Children Program, reinforcing my commitment to policy that advances continuity of care in our most vulnerable pediatric patient population.