

Journey to Beacon: Trailblazing Culture of Excellence



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Background Information:

The American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Beacon Award for Excellence™ honors units that distinguish themselves by improving every facet of patient care awarding recognition at three levels of designation-gold, silver and bronze. Designated critical care units meet or exceed national quality standards based on proven indicators of excellence within five specific categories set forth by AACN. A Perioperative Services nurse lead committee formed to conquer the journey to Beacon designation.

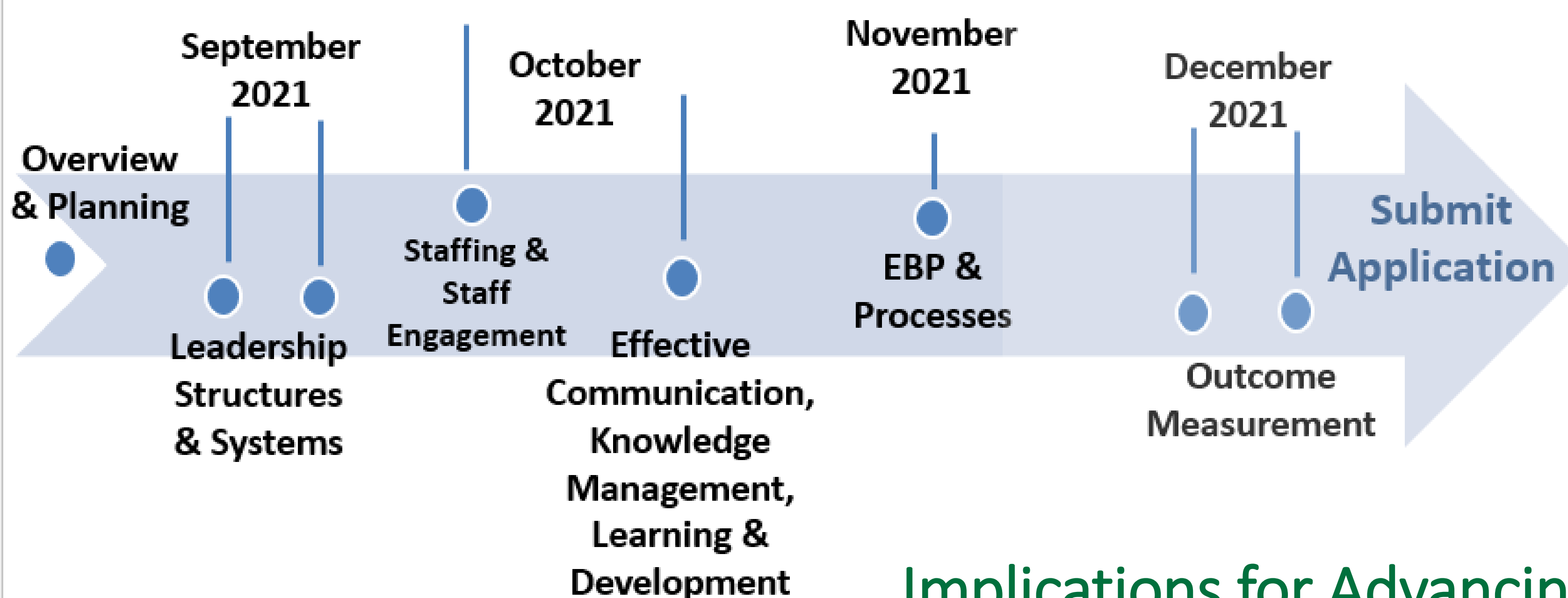
Objectives of the Project:

- Achieve national recognition for Perioperative Services, in alignment with the organization’s nursing strategic plan of structural empowerment
- The project outcome objectives achieved by meeting the following process objectives:** (1) Beacon Committee membership includes contributing to the completion and submission of the award application following scoring guidelines, and (2) committee members commit to attend committee meetings, in-person or virtually, twice monthly

Process Implementation:



Award Application Timeline



Implications for Advancing the Practice of PeriAnesthesia Nursing:

Our silver-level award proudly signifies innovative and continuous improvement strategies in perioperative nursing while leading the standard for nursing excellence. The three-year designation indicates exceptional patient care influencing positive outcomes, trailblazing a culture of perianesthesia nursing excellence.

Statement of Successful Practice:

Our unit received the **Beacon Award for Excellence™ Silver designation** in August 2022. AACN found our application reflected a unit with an effective systematic approach to nursing excellence with participation by key stakeholders highlighting exemplary practice with the implementation of the Post-Operative Urinary Retention (POUR) Protocol, translating evidence into practice and contributions to the mission and vision.

- Our unit joins six other critical care units within the organization who have earned Beacon designation.
- **The granting of this prestigious award includes seven other Perioperative Care Units nationally, and the first in the of state of Illinois.**