



Christy Cotner DNP, FNPc, PMHNP-BC

Professional Summary

Dynamic and visionary FNP/PMHNP nurse practitioner and professor with over 25 years of experience in healthcare leadership, specializing in internal medicine and mental health. Proven success in developing and managing academic programs, mentoring faculty, and driving strategic initiatives to enhance student outcomes and program excellence. Skilled in high-quality, patient-centered care across diverse clinical environments, combining a compassionate approach with persistent problem-solving to achieve optimal treatment outcomes. Renowned for exceptional communication, documentation, and time management, as well as fostering collaborative environments to inspire teams and advance organizational goals. Dedicated to empowering students, patients and professionals alike through innovative solutions and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Work History

Riverside Psychiatric Medical Group - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Riverside, CA

12/2017 - Current

- Monitored clients and conducted physical assessments to detect harmful and unusual behaviors, reporting observations to assigned physician.
- Utilized supportive therapy, CBT, brief therapy and interpersonal therapy to lead clients into healing and self-actualization.
- Furnished client-centered treatments by referring to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and listening to clients' symptoms and concerns.
- Analyzed explanations for psychiatric illnesses by screening clients for physical illnesses, neurological trauma, developmental issues and genetic factors.
- Administered medication and treatments to patients to observe and record responses.
- Monitored all primary care needs for patients to coordinate access to appropriate providers, including immunizations, vision, hearing and dental care.

United States University - Adjunct Clinical Instructor

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📍 Corona, CA 92881

Skills

- Conferences
- Counseling
- Health education
- Hospital Experience
- Mental Health
- Primary Care
- Psychiatric assessment
- Depression Treatment
- Medication Management
- Schizophrenia Treatment
- Psychopharmacology knowledge
- Bipolar Disorder Treatment
- Anxiety Disorder Treatment
- Psychiatric evaluation

Education

12/2018

Maryville University of Saint Louis
St Louis, MO

Post-Masters: Psychiatric Nurse
Practitioner

San Diego, CA

03/2018 - Current

- Provided immediate and constructive feedback to students individually and as group.
- Implemented instructional presentations to communicate coursework goals.
- Provide clinical instruction to 8 FNP students in clinical settings.
- Instructed and coached students to help overcome academic issues and personal challenges.
- Evaluated students' competencies through written assignments and examinations.
- Delivered individualized instruction on observation, assessment, decision-making and patient health teaching.

Western University Of Health Sciences - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program Director

Pomona, Ca

04/2021 - 09/2025

- Developed PMHN program from ground up, laying out framework and defining roles.
- Provided ongoing direction and leadership for program operations.
- Scheduled and supervised staff meetings to discuss new ideas and update participants on program details and milestones.
- Collaborated with various teams to uncover issues, identify applicable solutions and offer guidance.
- Maintained and updated project related documents.
- Improved success of program by making proactive adjustments to operations.
- Orchestrated smooth and efficient program development by collaborating cross-functionally across departments.

Pacific Grove Hospital - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Riverside, CA

04/2021 - 06/2024

- Provide care for patient in an outpatient intensive program and partial hospitalization program
- Furnished client-centered treatments by referring to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and listening to clients' symptoms and concerns.
- Coordinated and conducted hundreds of individual, group and family counseling sessions to identify potential solutions to decrease emotional turmoil.
- Analyzed explanations for psychiatric illnesses by screening clients for physical illnesses, neurological trauma, developmental issues and genetic factors.

Riverside Medical Clinic - Family Nurse Practitioner

Riverside, CA

12/2017

California Baptist University

Riverside, CA

Doctorate: DNP - Mental Health in Chronic Disease

04/2014

California State University

Carson, CA

MSN-FNP: Family Nurse Practitioner

03/1997

University Of Phoenix

Online

Bachelor of Applied Science

12/2000

Saddleback School Of Nursing

Mission Viejo, CA

Associate of Arts: Nursing

Certifications

- Certified Family Nurse Practitioner-AANP
- Certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner-ANCC

04/2014 - 04/2021

- Prescribed appropriate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment modalities to support health and comfort of patients.
- Educated patients on treatment options, medical needs and non-medical options for treatments and therapy.
- Performed patient physicals and compared and contrasted results with established medical records to provide proper diagnosis and facilitate appropriate treatment.
- Coordinated with physicians, specialists and other medical staff to develop treatment plans for chronic conditions.

California Baptist University - Program Director/Assistant Professor

05/2015 - 10/2019

- Revived a struggling family practice program with 8 students to over 200 in little over a years time
- Grew faculty for the program
- Received CCNE accreditation for 10 years
- Lifted national certification rate from 45% to 94%
- Trained new and existing employees in the best strategies.
- Developed simulation program specifically for the FNP program.
- Developed clinical skills days for FNP students
- Assistant professor: Courses: acute care, chronic care, women's health and mental health.
- Development of curriculum in both didactic and clinical setting across the lifespan Family Nurse Practitioner/ psychiatric nurse practitioner.
- Furthered program goals by maintaining cooperative working relationships with area agencies.
- Maintained solid support network through cooperative and productive working relationships with public healthcare- related agencies and organizations.
- Presented health education talks at training workshops and conferences across United States and abroad.
- Maintained and updated all project related documents.

Riverside Community Hospital - Registered Nurse Supervisor

01/2004 - 06/2014

- NICU RN charge nurse: assessing and caring for preterm infants from 22 weeks and up in the NICU.
- Care manager for the indigent population from ICU to med-surf.
- Developed successful ER case management program and served as lead case manager and facility trainer.

HOAG Hospital - Registered Nurse

01/2000 - 03/2004

- NICU transport nurse.
- High risk delivery nurse for premature infants.
- NICU Charge nurse.

Publications

- Cotner & Spano (2025). Treatment-Resistant Depression and the T-Rex Combination. American Nurse
 - Cotner (2024). PMHNP Review Course & Clinical Update – APEA
 - Cotner (2024). 200 Practice Questions for PMHNP Board Prep – APEA
 - Podium Presentations – NONPF and National DNP Conference
 - Co-Developer – Opioid Stewardship CME Courses (Champions for Health
- Pending publication (2026) Springer Publishing: Psychopharmacology for NP's