

SIMULATION EXCHANGE

SimLEARN

Excellence in Veterans' Healthcare

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Training Catalog

The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center has a variety of courses available throughout the year. Please check often for any upcoming courses on the [SimLEARN course catalog](#).

For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov or [send us an e-mail](#).



SimLEARN Hosts First Event Post-Pandemic



LeAnn Schlamb, MSN Ed.S, Associate Director for Research and Outreach | VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

Jisha Markose, PT, DPT, OVAHCS Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Coordinator | VHA Orlando Veterans Affairs Health Care System

ORLANDO, Fla. - On Feb. 23, SimLEARN successfully hosted the Ceiling Lift Vendor Show, the first major event to occur at the National Simulation Center (NSC) since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the event was to provide frontline staff a venue to evaluate ceiling lifts from multiple vendors as part of the campus ceiling lift replacement for the Orlando Veterans Affairs Health Care System (OVHCS) and SimLEARN. Some of the current lift systems were at the "end of support" phase with parts no longer being available.

This event also provided a framework on how future large events could be conducted safely while adhering to current COVID-19 guidelines. Success of the event was due to the great

collaborative efforts between SimLEARN and (OVAHCS) Safe Patient Handling Coordinator and Biomedical Engineering.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).

VA photo by VHA SimLEARN

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Escape to Simulation: How a COVID-19 Escape Room provided Interdisciplinary Team Building and Safer Practices

By Janet Sprehe, DNP, APRN, CVRN, RN-BC | Program Director of Simulations, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, FL

Sherri Boisvert, PhD, MSN, RN | Simulation Nurse Instructor, National Simulation Center, SimLEARN, Orlando, FL

Michelle Regragui, MSHS, BSN, RN | Field Based Simulation Nurse Instructor, National Simulation Center, SimLEARN, Orlando, FL

Tampa, Fla. - Together with VHA SimLEARN, the Tampa Advanced Simulation Center piloted a COVID-19 Escape Room to bring an innovative methodology to enforce and prepare new employees with our COVID-19 policies in donning and doffing and proper transfer of a positive COVID-19 patient. COVID-19 Escape Room participants included physicians, nurses, transporters, and the Environmental Management Service (EMS) and our training lasts about 90 minutes.

So, what really is an escape room? It is a gamification modality that uses hidden puzzles for participants to put together in order to get to the next clue to complete the objectives of the game. Participants then have thirty minutes to solve the clues to safely transport the COVID-19 patient safely in the game. When the team achieves their goal of securely transporting the patient to the different department, participants receive a prize of simulated money and chocolates. Once the game is completed the staff participate in a debriefing of the entire game. Discussion centers around what aspects of the game were done well; what areas could the staff improve upon; and finally, what could improve the game next time.

All in all, Team Tampa and SimLEARN perfected the concept of a COVID-19 escape room and have seen the positive ways to engage our learners. If you want to join a session with us, our contacts at Tampa are Janet.Sprehe@va.gov or Jennifer.Prinsen@va.gov and SimLEARN contacts are SherriBoisvert@va.gov and Michelle.Regragui@va.gov.

For the rest of the story click [here](#).

Mobile Sim Cart: A Homegrown VA Compatible Virtual AV System



*By Joseph Ferrand, Telehealth Clinical Technician
Jerome Perry, Simulation Technology Specialist
Trang Nguyen, MSN, RN, Simulation Coordinator and
RedI BLS PD/ACLS TCF: SimLEARN Outreach
Network*

*Jane Robinson, MSN, RN, CEN, Systems/Hospital
Activation Nurse*

*LeAnn Schlamb, MSN, Ed. S, Associate Director,
Simulation Education, Research, and Outreach*

Fayetteville, NC - A year ago, the SimLEARN's Outreach Network (SON) Systems Hospital Activation (S/HA) was traveling the country providing S/HA services to facilities across the country. In collaboration with stakeholders at the facility the S/HA team would create scenarios to evaluate workflow, patient flow, equipment, and emergency procedures latent safety threats. When the S/HA team had to stop traveling one of the sites impacted was the Fayetteville, North Carolina Veterans Affairs Medical Center (FNCVAMC). FNCVAMC was planning to increase the complexity level of their Urgent Care to a full Emergency Department (ED) and due to the rising COVID-19 threat, the need to focus on Veteran care, and to ensure staff safety, they delayed their systems testing planned.

The FNCVAMC team took the lead to create what would come to be known as the Mobile Sim Cart. With no budget available to build the system they used locally available equipment and systems. Applying their experience with telehealth and simulation, Mr. Ferrand and Mr. Perry began collecting the equipment needed to create a cart that would meet the specifications identified by the team. Its performance exceeded the team's expectations, allowing for seamless streaming of activation activities and for the remote S/HA team and on-site participants to communicate successfully. The Mobile Sim Cart is an affordable, off the shelf solution that is compatible with VA systems. It is a cost-effective way of closing the gap between evaluator and learner.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).

Operator's View of Mobile Sim Cart: Standing in front of Mobile Sim Cart: Trang Nguyen, MSN, RN | Upper Left: Lisa Hubbard, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC (SimLEARN) | Upper Right: Jane Robinson, MSN, RN, CEN (SimLEARN, SON) | Lower Right: LeAnn Schlamb, MSN, Ed. S (SimLEARN, SON) | VA Photo by Jerome Perry (FNCVAMC)

Simulation Center for Innovation (SCI) Presents: SCI: Escape the (room) Simulation with Leadership Medical Media News Release

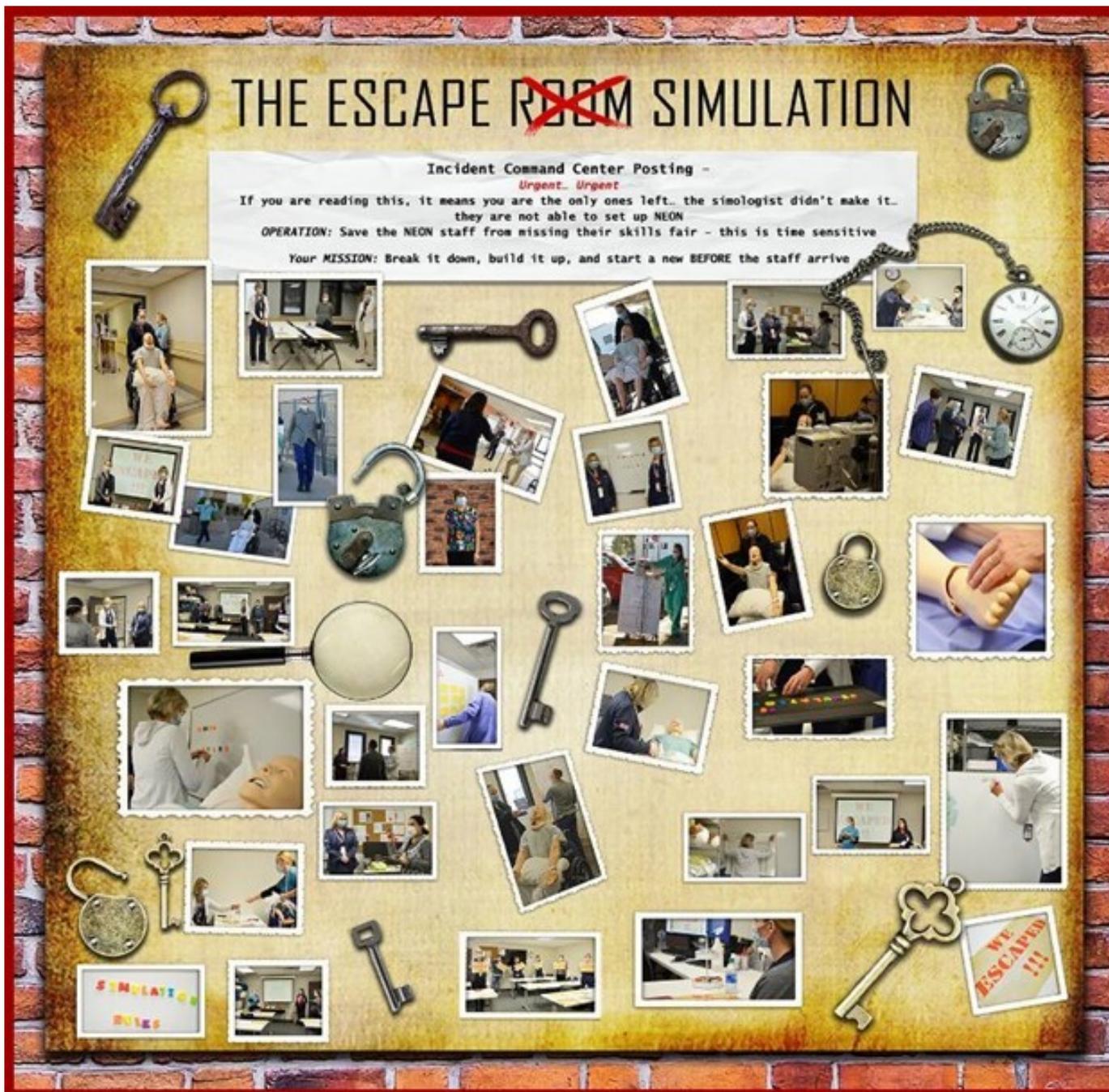
By Jacque Cushard RN
Simulation Center for Innovation Program Director
Phoenix VA Health Care System

Phoenix, Ariz. – Nursing Leadership was called to the "Simulation Command Center (SCC)" on the 4th floor of the main hospital. They were tasked with "escaping the simulation." Their mission was to gather into teams, break down the existing educational skills fair, take the simulation materials and equipment back to the Simulation Center for Innovation (SCI) Lab. The

participants build it back up and all within a speedy time that the New Employees would not miss their New Employee Orientation: Nursing (NEON).

Why was this done? This began as a simple request from Nursing Leadership to demonstrate what the simulator (mannequin) has to offer such as nursing assessments (breathing sounds, heart sounds, pulses and such). The Phoenix SCI Lab received its 2nd national Simulation Certification: Basic Tier award by the National SimLEARN Center in early December 2020. With the prestigious recognition, the SCI Lab is honored to continue to support the needs of the Phoenix VA through dynamic and innovative creative ways using simulation concepts as its foundation. The SCI Lab is available for all disciplines to enjoy. Schedule a visit with us.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).



Meet Fellow Nicole Armitage, PhD, RN



Lygia Lee Arcaro, PhD, RN
SimLEARN National Director, Nursing Programs
VHA SimLEARN, Orlando, Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. – SimLEARN is the Coordinating Center for the Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Clinical Simulation, a 1-year Fellowship supported by the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations. The Dayton VA Medical Center is one of the six sites participating in the program. In this issue meet Fellow Nicole Armitage.

How would you introduce yourself to others?

I am currently a Fellow in the Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Clinical Simulation located at the Dayton VA. I am completing 1 year of study, in the simulation center, to learn all I can about clinical simulation. I have recently retired from the US Air Force (September 2020) where I was working as a Nurse Scientist and a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

What prompted you to choose Nursing as your profession?

I was more interested in the caring side and working with people and that is what brought me into nursing. I have found it to be a wonderful profession and I would highly recommend Nursing to all who are interested.

How does the Fellowship in Clinical Simulation meet a career goal?

While getting ready to retire [from the US Air Force], I continued to want to engage in research and felt I had a gap in my education related to simulation. The Fellowship was a great opportunity for me to learn more, gain more experience with simulation, writing curriculum, and learning about the adult learning experience.

To read the full interview, click [here](#).

Dr. Armitage demonstrating an Intra Osseous insertion on a high-fidelity Mannequin



VA photo by Jason LaFond, Dayton VAMC.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks

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