

**ANA / CMA Annual Lobbyist Meeting  
Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC  
September 20 - 21, 2007  
Meeting Summary**

**Discussion**

Call to order

The 2007 annual ANA / CMA Lobbyist Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at by co-chairs: Michael McCann RN, Director for Legislation & Public Policy, Georgia Nurses Association and Steve McElroy, Executive Director, West Virginia Nurses Association followed by a review of the agenda, meeting materials and introductions. States represented and number from each included: Alabama (1), Alaska (2), Arizona (1), Connecticut (1), Delaware (2), Florida (1), Georgia (1), Illinois (2), Iowa (2), Kansas (4), Louisiana (1), Mississippi (1), New Jersey (1), New Mexico (1), New York (1), Oregon (1), Rhode Island (2), South Dakota (1), Texas (1), Virginia (3), Washington (1), West Virginia (1), and Wisconsin (1).

History of the meeting

ANA staff, Janet Haebler delivered a brief power point presentation on the history of the ANA / CMA Lobbyist Meeting and resultant Nationwide State Legislative Agenda. The meeting was intended for those individuals, in whatever position held with the CMA, who are responsible for lobbying to come together and strategize on advancing issues of mutual concern. The power point presentation is attached.

**Action Taken / Needed**

A moment of silence was held in memory of Sue Whittaker, former Associate Director for ANA's State Government Affairs program, who died one year ago (10/5/06), in recognition for her many contributions.

On day 2, September 21<sup>st</sup>, two minutes of silence was observed in recognition of the Universal Day of Peace

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants reaffirmed the original intent for meeting and who shall attend. It is for those who lobby in the states to discuss strategies and should be restricted from volunteers (unless registered to lobby).

## Meeting Summary -2-

### Discussion

#### CMA Sharing

Although variations between state legislative and regulatory initiatives and challenges exist, the common themes which emerged as states presented issues for their state include: medicine versus nursing in protecting or seeking to recognize APRN scope of practice; mental health parity; school nurse delegation; UAPs in role of med techs; and health care reform. Several expressed frustration that states are appropriating funds for nursing scholarships and loans but without sufficient faculty, this support is futile.

#### CMA Lobbyist Survey

CMA Lobbyist Survey Findings were referenced on the Issues and Resources book provided and as had been sent out via LobbyNet, signifying that the majority of CMAs indicated their top three issues are APRN barriers and threats to practice, safe staffing, and providing a qualified nurse for every school.

#### A State Perspective: APRN Threats and Barriers to Practice

Susan King RN, Executive Director, Oregon Nurses Association and Michael McCann RN, Director for Legislation & Public Policy, Georgia Nurses Association each delivered presentations as to experience in their state. Legislative gains were outweighed by misinterpreted statutory language and the state medical society's regulatory influence; ie, APRN protocols must be approved by the Board of Medicine.

### Action Taken / Needed

Three workgroups were created to address priority issues identified by the survey: APRN threats and barriers, safe staffing, & providing a qualified nurse for every school. Each workgroup completed an action plan which will be used to drive activity going forward. Action plans will be sent separately with follow up conference calls scheduled to address next steps.

## Meeting Summary -3-

### Discussion

### Action Taken / Needed

#### A State Perspective: APRN Threats and Barriers to Practice (cont.)

OR – independent authority was gained in the late '70's with few barriers as a result. Recently introduced legislation, which ultimately died in Ways and Means, included a provision whereby those recognized as independent practitioners would be subjected to scope of practice reviews by the Board of Medicine. It was amended and became a voluntary process before its death. It was determined that the intent did not include nursing and was therefore not as threatening as perceived by some.

Lessons learned: State experiences can vary greatly, influenced by relationships with stakeholders and legislators; and history.

#### A State Perspective: Safe Staffing

Sue Clark RN, Lobbyist, Illinois Nurses Association and Anne Tan Piazza, Grassroots Specialist, Washington State Nurses Association each delivered presentations as to experience in their state.

IL – was successful in enacting staffing legislation this summer that is in part modeled after ANA's principles for safe staffing. It calls for ratios that are adjusted by a committee including direct care nurses based upon patient acuity. INA attributed its success to working with the hospital association, which hated mandated ratios but were able to discern the advantage to having them adjusted with nursing expertise using patient's needs. INA was also able to activate it's grassroots network. The regulations have yet to be promulgated and enforcement will be a significant piece to be addressed.

IL's bill and talking points were included in the Issues and Resources book.

## Meeting Summary -4-

### Discussion

### Action Taken / Needed

WA – is attempting to collaborate with unions to advance legislation requiring the state health department to set minimum staffing standards associated with hospital licensure that includes staffing committees in hospitals, composed of 50% direct care RNs who establishing staffing for each shift and each unit. Transparency would be achieved using data collection and reporting semi-annually on patient outcomes and associated staffing for quality indicators such as urinary tract infections, pneumonia, incidence of falls, and rapid response.

#### Federal Legislative Environmental Scan

Lisa Potetz, Principle, with Health Policy Alternatives Washington, DC provided a general overview of the federal legislative activity thus far with the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress with attention given to SCHIP, appropriations and health care reform.

#### ANA Federal Legislative Briefing

Michelle Artz & Erin McKeon, Associate Directors, ANA Government Affairs delivered a briefing on ANA issues in preparation for legislative appointments by participants. Issues covered included: SCHIP appropriations, Medicaid home health certification, safe patient handling and movement (still trying to get bill introduced), mental health parity, mandatory overtime, and the RESPECT Act in response to the Kentucky River decision. All of these issues can be accessed in the federal government affairs section of [nursingworld.org](http://nursingworld.org).

## Meeting Summary -5-

### Discussion

### Action Taken / Needed

#### ANA Endorsement Process

A review of ANA's process for endorsing both Congressional and Presidential candidates was provided by Carlos Jackson, Senior Political Action Specialist, ANA Government Affairs program. It was emphasized that for incumbent Congressional candidates, key to be considered for endorsement is their track record on ANA issues. The 2008 Presidential process has begun with questionnaires sent to candidates. Only those candidates who respond to the questionnaire will be scheduled for an interview and considered. The time frame associated with the process is somewhat fluid but a decision is anticipated by March. For additional details, members may contact Carlos directly.

#### School Nurse: A National View

Amy Garcia RN, Executive Director for the National Association of School Nurses (NSNA) provided a perspective of the state of school nursing across the nation based upon a recent survey, offering regional differences with a wide disparity in nurse to student ratios. In general, the East coast has fewer students per school nurse than the Midwest. Funding sources were presented along with a discussion of delegation and the current debate in California over diabetes care. The power point presentation can be referenced in the Issues and Resources booklet.

## Meeting Summary -6-

### Discussion

#### ANA Staff Update:

##### ➤ Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR)

Participants were informed that CPR consists of 34 organizations representing a diverse array of health care professionals in response to the AMA Scope of Practice initiative designed to limit patients' choice of health practitioners by restricting others' authorized practice. ANA took the lead in activating this coalition but is now looking to another member to assume that position. For additional information, the website is <http://www.patientsrightscoalition.org/>

##### ➤ Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Professions Act (UEVHPA)

ANA has been working with a coalition for two years to seek passage of this model act crafted by the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). The act allows state governments during a declared emergency to give reciprocity to other states' licensees on emergency services providers so that covered individuals may provide services without meeting the disaster state's licensing requirements. It fills a gap that has existed in spite of the emergency management assistance compact previously adopted by 50 states. The model UEVHPA has been enacted in three states (CO, KY TN) thus far with several more having introduced this year. ANA worked with the coalition to address two areas missing from the model legislation drafted by NCCUSL in 2006: civil liability and worker's compensation coverage. Both have now been addressed and will be added as amendments.

Details about the act and amendments can be obtained at the NCCUSL Website at <http://www.nccusl.org/Update/ActSearchResults.aspx> or by contacting ANA staff Janet Haebler [janet.haebler@ana.org](mailto:janet.haebler@ana.org) or Cheryl Peterson [cheryl.peterson@ana.org](mailto:cheryl.peterson@ana.org)

### Action Taken / Needed

ANA will be reaching out to CMAs in the next year to find ways in which nurses associations can support movement of model legislation in their state.

## Meeting Summary -7-

### Discussion

#### ➤ Safe Cosmetics Campaign

Associated with the 2006 HOD chemical policy resolution, ANA signed on to the safer cosmetics campaign <http://www.safecosmetics.org/>. The lack of regulation of the cosmetics industry in the US prompted ANA's support, given the number of ingredients included in personal care products in the US and which are banned by the European Union. This initiative was a primary focus for ANA this year at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). ANA has received requests from states for model legislation. To date, only CA has enacted legislation, which has been criticized because of its complexity. IL, NY and WA have introduced bills.

#### ➤ Education Advancement: BSN in 10 years

New York and New Jersey have introduced legislation that would require an RN to attain a baccalaureate degree in nursing within ten years of initial licensure in order to retain registration for continued practice in the state. Other states have expressed interest. NY's bill (NJ's is similar) and associated talking points has been included in the Issues and Resources booklet.

There was a suggestion that perhaps this should be a focus of next years' meeting.

### Action Taken / Needed

ANA will send model bill via LobbyNet, once prepared.

ANA will be working on assembling materials for CMAs to use if interested in pursuing this initiative in their state.

## Meeting Summary -8-

### Discussion

#### Next Steps..... 2008

##### ➤ 2008 Nationwide State Legislative Agenda

There were no suggestions of removing any issues from the agenda, but some concern expressed about continuing to add new issues in future without removing something.

##### ➤ Measuring Success

A question had been posed as to how to measure legislative/regulatory success. Most agreed it was either passage of desired legislation/adoption of regulations or keeping something “bad” from happening. It was raised that it may be helpful to have a way of measuring the value of passed legislation.

#### 2007 Meeting Evaluation / Plans for 2008

Comments / recommendations offered verbally at the conclusion of the meeting are reflected in the evaluation summary.

Participants were polled as to format, location and time of year.

There was some discussion as to the name of the meeting and whether some did members did not recognize their ability to attend.

Participants were asked as part of the meeting evaluation to select a preferred time of year for the meeting. Majority will determine.

### Action Taken / Needed

Given the full agenda, this will be raised again in the future to determine the interest / need.

ANA staff will make every effort to honor the majority opinion and requests related the 2008 meeting.

Rose Gonzalez agreed to educate new EDs about the annual meeting’s intent during their orientation.

Dates will be established and sent out via LobbyNet before the end of the year. 2008 meeting co-chairs include Donna Policastro (RI) and Anne Tan Piazza (WA).

