CENTER FOR ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
American Nurses Association
WELCOME

As you review the 2017 annual report, we encourage you to read the tremendous contributions and impact that the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights (CEHR) has made in the past year. The CEHR supports the work of the American Nurses Association (ANA) Ethics Advisory Board, a volunteer committee of 12 ANA members from across the country. The CEHR’s policy influence is paramount to ANA in advocacy efforts regarding ethics and human rights. This annual report provides a glimpse into the influence of the CEHR in nursing, ethics, bioethics, and health care.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

- Promulgate in collaboration with ANA constituents, a body of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, designed to address issues in ethics and human rights at the state, national and international level;
- Develop and disseminate information about and advocate for public policy to assure that ethics and human rights are addressed in health care; and
- Assure that short and long-range objectives regarding ethics and human rights will be addressed within the Association, and expressed to appropriate bodies external to the Association.

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YEAR OF THE HEALTHY NURSE

ANA Designated 2017 as the Year of the Healthy Nurse. The Center for Ethics and Human Rights (CEHR) was closely involved with many events surrounding this theme. The CEHR hosted a webinar on Moral Resilience found here and developed twelve Code of Ethics "Tips" each month to support the healthy nurse monthly theme.

SAMPLE MONTHLY "TIP": SLEEP
The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements provides ethical guidance for all registered nurses in all settings, but also provides guidance for the individual care of the nurse. Interpretive Statement 5.2 of the Code states that "Nurses should model the same health maintenance and health promotion measures that they teach and research, obtain health care when needed, and avoid taking unnecessary risks to health or safety in the course of their professional and personal activities." Nurses should commit to eat a healthy diet, exercise, and get sufficient rest in order to balance a satisfying work environment with individual health and well-being. As we strive for a Healthy Nurse Healthy Nation™, all nurses in all roles have a duty to take the same care for their own health and safety, and to foster an environment that is conducive to this balance.

The CEHR hosted the month of October, designated for moral resilience, workplace violence, immunization, and infection control. Click here to learn more.
Social Media

Social media can rapidly drive momentum on critical issues in nursing, human rights, ethics and social justice. In 2017, The CEHR created a Twitter account @ANAEthics to stay engaged and to inform nurses about current ethical issues in health care. @ANAEthics had over 1,000 tweets, 269,000 Twitter impressions, with an average of 741 impressions each day.

The CEHR participated in the first ever “dual” Twitter chat with the American Medical Association focusing on #ProviderWellness. This chat was incredibly successful with over 150,000 Twitter impressions. Visit Storify archive https://storify.com/AmerMedicalAssn/providerwellness-twitter-chat

Blog Presence


Media Responses

The CEHR is often contacted to respond to burgeoning ethical dilemmas in nursing and healthcare. Please see the 2017 media inquiry responses below.


The Center for Ethics and Human Rights' Ethics Inbox receives approximately 6-7 ethics inquiries per week. The CEHR responds to a myriad of complex ethical issues raised from individuals from around the world.

![Ethics Inbox Inquiries 2010-2017](chart)

![2017 Ethics Inbox Inquiries Per Month](chart)

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2017 Ethics Inbox Inquiries

- Student inquiries: 54
- Advocacy: 38
- Position statements: 37
- Practice: 36
- Complaints: 34
- Contact/interviews: 18
- Ethics: 14
- Conferences: 11
- Violence/bullying: 11
- Code of ethics: 10
- Staffing: 10
- Copyright permission: 9
- Social justice: 5
- Legal requests: 5
- ANA opposition: 5
- Social media: 5
- Nurse title: 5
- Termination: 2
- Policy: 2
- LPN: 2

# of Inquiries
Breakdown of Position Statement Inquiries

- Assisted Suicide: 14%
- Human Trafficking: 3%
- Capital Punishment: 22%
- LGBTQ: 8%
- Gun Violence: 3%
- SUD: 5%
- Human Rights: 3%
- Stem Cell: 3%
- Natural Disaster: 5%
- Moral Resilience: 3%
- Pain: 5%
- VSED/EoL: 5%
- Medical Marijuana: 8%
- Pregnant Women w/SUD: 8%
- Restraints: 3%
The CEHR and Ethics Advisory Board have begun a new column in American Nurse Today titled From the Ethics Inbox. There are featured responses to some of the most challenging inquiries that are received. Seven columns were featured in 2017:

- Leaving against medical advice (February Vol. 12, No. 2).
- Conflicting roles for a correctional nurse (July Vol. 12, No. 7).
- Altruistic organ donation (August Vol. 12, No. 8).
- What to do when a colleague is impaired (September Vol. 12, No. 9).
- When trauma and multiple stressors take a toll (October Vol. 12, No. 10).
- Workplace violence (November Vol. 12, No. 11).
- Human trafficking (December Vol. 12, No. 12).
SOCIAL JUSTICE

In 2017, nurses have been thrust into the forefront of several human rights and social justice issues. The CEHR has responded to threats to LGBTQ communities "ANA Statement in Support of Equality and Human Rights for the LGBTQ Community", the presidential ban to halt refugee admission and block citizens of Muslim-majority countries "ANA President Responds to Executive Order on Immigration", the decision to rescind the executive action for those individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and signed the Pledge Against Torture in collaboration with the Physicians Human Rights group. As a result of these advocacy measures, a new webpage dedicated to Social Justice is located on http://www.nursingworld.org/SocialJustice.

Amicus Briefs & Legal Advocacy
The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statement 9.3 obligates the nursing profession to advocate for social justice and the protection of human rights. In accordance with this obligation, the American Nurses Association (ANA) joined several legal amicus or "friend of the court" briefs to support and protect the human rights of vulnerable populations. In June 2017 ANA, along with several other health professional organizations, joined a U.S. Court of Appeals Amicus Brief in Fulcher vs. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to advocate for veterans to have access to clinically effective sex reassignment surgery to treat gender dysphoria. ANA also joined an U.S. Court of Appeals Amicus Brief in Loertscher v. Schimel et al., (Case 3:14-cv-00870), to advocate for pregnant women with substance use disorder. The CEHR position statement on Non-punitive Treatment for Pregnant and Breast-feeding Women with Substance Use Disorders was noted in the brief.

ANA joined a Supreme Court amicus brief in Gloucester Cty. Sch. Bd. v. C.G., to advocate for the human rights of a transgender boy in Virginia who is barred from using the boys’ restrooms at his high school because he is transgender. ANA joined two similar amicus briefs in Board of Education of the Highland Local School District v. Jane Doe (Docket No. 16-4117) and Doe et al v. Boyertown Area School District et al (0:17-cv-03113) in support of transgender students in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Lastly, ANA also joined several health professional organizations in a Supreme Court Amicus Brief in Trump et al v. National Refugee Assistance Project; Docket number: 16-1436, 16-1540, which was in opposition to Executive Order 13780, which placed limits on travel to the U.S. from certain countries.
MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The CEHR strives to create new approaches to increase direct relationships with all registered nurses and deliver the most relevant content to the nursing profession.

ANA "Day of Ethics" conference
In March 2017, the CEHR hosted an annual "Day of Ethics" conference at the ANA Annual Conference in Tampa Florida. Attendees were welcomed by nationally renowned nursing ethics speakers where they learned how to contribute to a culture of ethical practice, how to teach ethics in simulation, and how to strengthen ethical competence in everyday practice.

Ethics Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Donna Casey

Membership Assembly
In June 2017, the CEHR hosted two duplicate webinars during the ANA Membership Assembly on Assessing the Ethical Climate. This discussion with ANA members was designed to assess the ethical climate of current nursing practice, determine the motivation to seek ethics content, and resources to guide nurses in practice. Members were challenged to think about ethics, ethical awareness, competence, and ethics resources. 113 participants registered to attend. The outcomes were beneficial to inform the work of the CEHR and were published in the August 2017 edition of American Nurse Today.

Moral Resilience Professional Issues Panel
The CEHR hosted a professional issues panel to explore moral resilience in nursing practice. The American Nurses Association Professional Issues Panel on Moral Resilience finalized the Call to Action: Exploring Moral Resilience Toward a Culture of Ethical Practice. This call to action identifies promising areas for building individual capacities for moral resilience, and specific recommendations for nurse leaders and organizations toward fostering a culture of ethical practice. In addition, it includes a robust list of promising solutions across the country implemented to build individual and organizational capacities for addressing the detrimental impact of moral distress and other forms of moral suffering. ANA is grateful for the tremendous work of the Professional Issues Panel on Moral Resilience for the commitment and dedication exhibited to establish goals to strengthen moral resilience and a culture of ethical practice. For more information visit http://nursingworld.org/ExploringMoralResilience
Articles


Presentations

Godfrey, N. (2017). Innovations, Quality and Safety in Nursing Education and Practice


Stokes, L. (March, 2017). The Role of Nurse Practitioners in Medical Assistance in Death: An International Perspective. UNESCO World Conference Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law


The Ethics Advisory Board Ethics Education Subcommittee (EES) aims to increase consumer awareness of the value of nurses by strengthening the ethics content within nursing education. Using the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements as a framework, the EES is completing revisions and recommendations to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials documents. Please review the status of revisions below.

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**District of Columbia Ethics Consortium**

The CEHR has joined the Washington, D.C. Clinical Ethics Regional Consortium. The Consortium partners include Children’s National Pediatric Ethics Program, John J Lynch Center for Ethics, George Washington University Hospital, Georgetown University Hospital/ Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, VA National Center for Ethics in Health Care, Providence Health System, and American Hospital Association. The consortium assesses ethical issues relevant to health care providers in the District of Columbia and provides education and expertise to its constituents.
The CEHR was a recipient of the 2017 American Societies of Bioethics and Humanities Cornerstone Award. The Cornerstone Award recognizes outstanding, enduring contributions by an institution that has deeply enriched and/or helped shape the direction of the fields of bioethics and/or the medical humanities. The CEHR was nominated for over 25 years of providing nurses with a better understanding of ethical issues in practice in a rapidly changing landscape.

The call for nursing to address ethics issues started with a recommendation to provide guidance to help nurses grapple with such issues as HIV/AIDS, privacy, confidentiality, and end-of-life issues. The CEHR has been visible during the peak of national crises, including in the wake of Ebola, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina. During the height of the Ebola crisis, the CEHR provided ethical guidance to millions of nurses and reaffirmed its position on assuming professional risk and responsibility in practice.

Most notably, the CEHR fiercely advocated for a military nurse who refused to force-feed a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay and was facing court martial and discharge due to the nurse’s actions. ANA was vocal about its belief that the U.S. government’s policy and practice should respect, not punish, health professionals who act in accordance with their professional and ethical duties. In 2015, the revised Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements was published, which was the first update in 14 years. ANA designated 2015 as the “Year of Ethics”, and the yearlong campaign highlighted and unified nurses across the country through webinars, op-eds, continuing education resources, and an Ethics Symposium. In the Gallup poll on trust in the professions immediately following ANA’s Year of Ethics campaign, nurses climbed 5 points over the previous year, tying their historical high point and clinching this honor for a 14th straight year. The CEHR continues to advocate for social justice and the protection of human rights. In 2016, the CEHR took a valiant step and revised ANA’s position on capital punishment. As a result, ANA has become one of the first health care professional organizations to take a strong stance, not only on provider participation in the death penalty, but opposition of the death penalty outright. At the core of its mission, the Code of Ethics for Nurses drives the CEHR’s responsiveness to the nursing profession and addresses the fundamental duty to improve the quality of care for all persons, patients, families, communities and populations.
After nearly 20 years of service, Laurie A. Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN, retired from her role as director of the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights at the end of 2017. Martha Turner PhD, RN-BC, Col. USAF, NC (ret), FAAN served as the Assistant Director of the CEHR for over 10 years until her retirement in March 2017. ANA commends Drs. Badzek and Turner for their dedicated service, which involved significant contributions to nursing ethics, including:

- Provoking dialogue regarding nurse’s moral obligations and risks associated with practice during national events such as the Ebola crisis, Hurricane Katrina, and the aftermath of September 11, 2001.
- Fiercely advocating for the moral rights of nurses, including military nurses, demonstrated by testimony to the Department of Defense on military nurses ethical obligations and providing support for a nurse who refused to force-feed a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay.
- Instituting a compendium of ethics policy and positions, testimony, and publications.
- Supporting the development and publication of Essentials of Genetic and Genomic Nursing: Competencies, Curricula Guidelines and Outcome Indicators.

The American Nurses Association is pleased to name Liz Stokes, JD, MA, RN, as its new director for the Center for Ethics and Human Rights. Stokes is the fourth director of the center, following Badzek, Colleen Scanlon, JD, and Gladys White, PhD. In her new role, Stokes will continue to support the work of the ANA Ethics Advisory Board and advance the mission of ethics and human rights to improve the quality of care for all patients and families.

**Pictured from left to right: Dr. Martha Turner, ASBH President Amy Haddad, Dr. Laurie Badzek and Liz Stokes**