

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

April 2008

Passage of our "72 Hour" Bill! Legislative Update *And A Goodbye*

by Heather Bradford

Another year, another bill passed by AUWS. How exciting! I know it hasn't always been this way, but I feel lucky to have witnessed so many legislative successes in such a short time. On March 5th, Senate Bill 6267 (which eliminates the 72 hour limitation on dispensation by ARNPs of controlled substances) made its final passage through the House, and now the bill is headed to the Governor's desk for her signature. Watch for a bill signing photo on our website soon (www.auws.org). Our bill was quickly out of the blocks during this short (60 day) session-- it was heard by both the Senate and House Health Care Committees on the first day of session, and passed out of the House unanimously. It then hit a stumbling block in the Senate when Senator Linda Evans Parlette (R-Wenatchee), a pharmacist, decided we did not need unlimited dispensing for Schedule II drugs because these do not come in samples, and offered an amendment that would continue the dispensing limitation on Schedule II meds. We circumvented that move via several phone calls and emails from ARNP constituents, effective lobbyist efforts by Tammy Warnke, and strong leadership from our legislator sponsors. The bill passed out of the Senate 44-2 (3 excused) unamended and then moved to the House, where it passed 95-1 (2 excused). We now have **full prescriptive authority in WA State with no exceptions**, and can look forward to reading the 2008 Pearson Report published in *The AJNP*, which ranks states based on scope of practice and patients' access to care by nurse practitioners (see the June 2007 issue of *ARNP Care* to read more). We believe we will now be tied for first with Arizona's NPs!

Other legislation of interest to ARNPs:

1. **Passage of the Psychiatric NP Bill:** Senate Bill 6739 grants authority to psychiatric ARNPs to specifically and directly manage the care of patients who are involuntarily detained in hospitals and mental health treatment centers. This bill will allow evaluation and treatment centers to use psychiatric NPs when legally mandated evaluations and documents are required (which is already within their scope of practice but has been limited to physicians). This was AAPPN's main legislative agenda item.

2. **Passage of the Primary Care Shortage Bill (with funding in the budget):** House Bill 2549 addresses the shortage of primary care providers in WA State by establishing "medical home" pilot projects in small primary care practices, as well as funding research on medical home reimbursement. AUWS joined a

coalition of health care and business organizations in promoting this legislation.

3. **Passage of Safe RN Staffing Bill:** HB 3123 requires hospitals to establish a nurse staffing committee composed of at least 50% direct care nurses. This was one of several bills on WSNA's legislative agenda.

4. **Passage of the Children's Safe Product Act:** HB 2647 gives Washington the nation's strongest toy standards for lead, cadmium and phthalates, chemicals that can cause developmental defects.

And now for Goodbyes: as Legislative Chair, it has been my privilege to work with ARNPs across the state and to participate in the legislative process firsthand. This experience began after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania and then moving to Kirkland, WA in early 2002. I joined the AUWS Legislative Committee that year and became Co-Chair with Marty Couret in 2004, and then Chair in 2007. After 6 legislative sessions, 6 Nurse Legislative Days in Olympia, over 50 visits with legislators, and 5 bill passages, I feel a good balance between what I have given and received through these years. I am exhausted by the amount of work it has taken, but have grown professionally and learned so much about the political process. So I think it is a good time to step aside and let someone else take the reins.

I am therefore delighted to announce that Louise Kaplan, ARNP, PhD, from Elma, WA, will be assuming the role as Legislative Chair on July 1st, 2008. She comes with extensive experience in legislative and health policy work, and already has developed excellent relationships with many legislators in Olympia. I will let her introduce herself when she officially begins, but be assured that ARNPs in WA State are in good hands. I will continue to serve AUWS as Vice President of the Board of Directors, and will "mentor" Louise as she takes over the Leg Chair role for the next legislative session, although in many ways, she has been the one mentoring me all along.

Thank you for all your lobbying efforts these past six years – we accomplished a great deal and couldn't have done it without you. Look out Arizona, here we come!

From Immunization Action Coalition

2008 pocket -sized laminated Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules are now available from The Immunization Action Coalition of Washington. To order, contact: debbien@withinreachwa.org

Stories Wanted

My name is Sue Heacock and I am a Registered Nurse from the State of Florida. I am in the process of writing a book and would appreciate your assistance!

My goal in writing this book is to remind nurses why we are so special, to increase retention of great nurses, and to attract other quality people to the profession. I need stories from nurses to nurses. The following are the requirements: stories should be 5 paragraphs or less, humorous and/or inspirational, and exhibit the heart of nursing. The author must include his/her name, practicing city/state, and an email address for future contact. All stories can be emailed to me directly at imsueh@yahoo.com. I will review all stories received and select the best to include in my book. Nurses submitting stories chosen for publication will be contacted individually for consent.

My personal favorite from my career is a story from my first day as a school nurse several years ago. I was being shown around campus by the headmaster. A first grader came running up and asked the headmaster who I was. She introduced me and the student said: "Thank God. I fell down yesterday and cut my finger. I think I have rabies now." He looked at me with bright blue eyes and asked me if I could take the rabies away so he didn't make his dog sick!

New Child Mental Health Consultation and Education Program

by Robert Hilt

It is estimated that 19% of all child primary care visits have a behavioral health focus (Gardner & Kelleher 2000). Washington does not have enough mental health specialists to meet the current care demand, for instance we have less than 1/2 of the minimum number of child psychiatrists believed to be needed for adequate service access (Thomas and Holzer 2006). Access is particularly poor in the rural areas of the state. Primary care providers thus find themselves asked to provide mental health services for children without backup and without the benefit of their own specialized mental health training. This need for assistance was heard by the state legislature, leading to the creation of the Children's Behavioral Health Partnership (CBHP) from a bill sponsored by Rep. Dickerson. CBHP is a joint venture of DSHS, the U. of Washington, and Seattle Children's Hospital that will provide consultation and education services in child mental health for Washington's primary care providers.

The Partnership is now entering its "pilot" phase, with the intention that aspects of services that are well received and effective will be later put into a single statewide program. One of these pilot programs is called the

Partnership Access Line (PAL). This will involve a toll free number given to all primary care providers in DSHS Region 6 (Clark, Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, Whakiakum counties). Primary care providers in that region can call whenever they have any type of mental health question and get connected quickly to a child psychiatrist. When there are questions that cannot be answered over the telephone, rapid consultation appointments for Medicaid clients will be available with Children's Hospital child psychiatrists who work with this program. PAL will work to provide local appointments with telemedicine if that is preferred by the family. PAL will also provide a mental health care guide, practical reference documents, and a team social worker who will assist offices in negotiating the process of finding local specialty services. This program is scheduled to start in late spring.

As a Medicaid program, CBHP will focus on looking at program outcomes with the state's Medicaid clients. A research group will also look closely at how providers and families feel about these services, and at changes in primary care providers' self assessed knowledge and comfort with mental health care provision over time. The legislature will look at the early initiation phase of this program during the 2008-2009 legislative session and decide on next steps that should be taken. We hope that those providers with opinions about this outreach effort will participate by letting their views be known to their legislators later this fall.

Washington Patient Safety Coalition Survey

The mission of the Washington Patient Safety Coalition, www.wapatientssafety.org, is to decrease errors and improve safety for everyone receiving care in Washington. Errors associated with medications of all kinds are a major preventable contributor to injuries: providers who do not have current and complete information about their patients' use of all medications (prescription, over the counter, herbals, vitamins, and supplements) cannot effectively prevent unwanted drug-drug interactions; patients may erroneously take discontinued or outdated medications or inadvertently use unsafe combinations. As part of our work, we seek to increase the use of medication lists by consumers and patients to decrease errors; this will also support hospitals' efforts in inpatient medication reconciliation.

In order to be most effective, we need to understand the actual practice in Washington; we have designed a brief survey that asks about your experience with consumers and medication lists. Please help us by taking five minutes to complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ChdDhOHR_2bNaZ40nWvOYKXw_3d_3d. A link to this address is on the www.auws.com. Please respond by April 30, 2008. After

that the survey will be over. Your responses will be anonymous unless you opt to identify yourself in the final question. Thank you for your help. If you have any questions about this project or the survey, please contact: Miriam Marcus-Smith at 206.682.2811 ext. 11 or msmith@qualityhealth.org

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA – Cardiothoracic Surgery ARNP

Fantastic opportunity! Seeking full time cardiothoracic surgical ARNP to become an integral member of our adult cardiothoracic surgery team. Responsibilities include first assist in the operating room as well as pre and postoperative patient care in hospital and office. Ideal candidate will have 3+ years of cardiothoracic surgical experience including cardiothoracic first assistant experience. Endoscopic vessel harvesting experience preferred. Guaranteed salary, a full array of benefits and a great location makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Please reference opportunity #616-780

Full and Part-time FNP - Tacoma, WA

MultiCare Express, a part of MultiCare Health System, is a retail based practice located in area pharmacies. The express clinic will offer high quality care for simple illnesses such as sore throats, URI, UTI, sinusitis with point of care testing and some common immunizations. This is a great opportunity to practice autonomously in a unique setting. Master of Science degree in nursing and national certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner is required. MultiCare Health System offers competitive compensation/benefits as well as flexible full-time and part-time schedules. For more information please contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #643-798-800

Tacoma, WA – ARNP – Adult Medicine

Internal Medicine group seeks a full-time Adult Nurse Practitioner to work in a collaborative practice providing comprehensive primary healthcare in all aspects of internal medicine. Position offers a great opportunity for the NP to provide care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities if desired. Candidates must be eligible for licensure & certification in Washington State. Excellent compensation, benefits, and group stability makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #680-840

Nurse Practitioners Wanted

Support the mission of Planned Parenthood of Western Washington (PPWW) by joining our talented & dedicated medical team. You may be eligible for a sign on bonus!

Seeking **Clinician** candidates to provide comprehensive reproductive health & family planning services.

WA State NP/CNM/PA-C w/prescriptive authority, current certification & CPR card required.

FT **Marysville** (M-F)

PT **Float** (N Region -

Marysville/Monroe/Everett/Lynnwood/Kenmore);

PT **Bremerton** (Th & every other W)

PT **Tacoma** (M, F, Sa)

PT **University Place** (Tu, W, F)

PT **Everett** (Sa)

Please submit cover ltr/resume to jobs@ppww.org; fax: 206.328.6818; or Mail: PPWW/HR, 2001 E. Madison, Seattle, WA 98122
www.ppww.org EOE

Furnished office space available

Full or part/time, for psychiatric ARNP in historic Edmonds at well-established Christian-based counseling office. Amenities include waiting room, internet, parking, limited zerox/fax. Contact Jackie McCoy 425-774-4673.

Part-time - Seattle, WA

Would you like the satisfaction of working with patients on a weekly basis for an extended period of time? Would you enjoy specializing in an area that reduces medical risks and promotes health? Work with obese patients, conducting medical monitoring, venipuncture, H&Ps: administer/interpret EKGs. ***Needed immediately for Wednesdays, 4:30-7:00pm. \$45.00/hour. \$200 Sign-on bonus.***

Contact: Carol Henderson, 206-284-1518,

carol@aimforhealthseattle.com; 2712 Eastlake Ave. E, Seattle

Part-time - Marysville, WA

Small family practice clinic in Marysville looking for experienced FNP for vacation/relief coverage. Great opportunity for part-time or semi-retired NP looking to pick up additional hours. Good pay, fun staff, and established patients in a small town environment. Need immediately for vacation coverage in May. \$50.00/hour. Contact Virginia at 360-653-3500 or Virginia@grovestreetclinic.com

CE Opportunities

Clinical Pharmacology Series 2008

May 7 – Women's Health Drug Therapy

May 21 - Adult/Geriatric Drug Therapy

June 8 - Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy

Times: 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Location: Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle

For a brochure or more information:

Sheila Keener - 206.543.1047 or our website: uwcne.org

Fifteenth Annual AAPPN Spring Conference April 25 and 26, 2008 Hilton Conference Center SeaTac

Monitoring Medical Co-Morbidities: Primary Care Update for the Psychiatric ARNP

Keynote Speaker: Margaret A. Fitzgerald, DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, FAANP, CSP on Now What? Where you and your APN profession are going?

Followed by:

Diabetes, Dyslipidemia and Hypertension: Assessing and treating the "deadly trio" in the presence of mental health challenges Part I and Part II

Asthma and COPD: Commonly Used Herbal Remedies, Vitamin and Mineral Therapies: Issues of efficacy and safety

Mary D. Moller, DNP, ARNP, BC, CPRP

The Role of Thyroid Hormones in the Management of Mood Disorders
Susan Caverly, PhD, ARNP

Live Literacy for Psychiatric Practice

Sharon K. Jung, ARNP, CNRN Traumatic Head Injury

Register before April 1 to save on registration fees.

Contact: Connie Huffine conhfox@comcast.net or www.aappn.org

10th Annual NW Washington OB/GYN Conference

Friday, April 18, 2008; Hotel 1000

7.8 CEU's available/Mid-Wife Accreditation Pending

\$120 includes breakfast/lunch and syllabus
For further information go to www.providence.org/everett go to physicians - full/half day CME listing
Jeri.Sackett@Providence.org

Practicing Clinicians Exchange (PCE)

Up to 13.5 FREE CME/CE Credits
June 21, 2008. Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport
PCE is a national CME/CE program designed to meet the specific educational needs of nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs). New topics in primary care include HPV vaccine, herpes zoster, dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, restless legs syndrome, and more. Earn up to 13.5 complimentary CME/CE credits by participating in a 1-day live symposium and completing the home study activity. Breakfast, lunch, and parking will also be provided FREE OF CHARGE. Visit our Web site at www.practicingclinicians.com to register for an interactive symposium near you. Reserve your seat today as space is limited.

Ad Information

Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later than this on a space-available basis. Position Available Ads of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. Continuing Education Announcements of less than 65 words are \$70, of 66 to 130 words are \$105, or 131 words or greater are \$130. Continuing Education Announcements are per offering for up to three (3) consecutive insertions. New Product Announcements per product for one insertion of 130 words or less are \$75. Ad Inserts are \$550 for one issue. All ads are subject to space

limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to ARNP Care, 10024 SE 240th St, #102, Kent, WA 98031. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.852.7725. Email care@nurse.net.

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