

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

January 2009

AUWS Board of Directors

This month the ARNPs United of Washington State Board of Directors welcomes our new members and would like to thank our outgoing Board Members for their years of service to the ARNP community.

Incoming Board Members:

Deonne Brown-Benedict, FNP
Laura Hahn, FNP
Patti Krafft, FNP
Nancy Lawton, FNP
Angie Miller, CNM

Outgoing Board Members:

Heather Bradford, CNM
Grace Grymes Chapman, FNP
Therese Vafaezadeh, FNP

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Robyn Choffel, FNP
Ann Darlington, CNM
Kristi Farrell, FNP
Louise Kaplan, FNP
Catherine Luria, FNP
Deb Smith, FNP

Staff:

Bob Smithing, FNP, Executive Director
Tracy Kiele, Assistant

ARNP Rule Amendments

The Nursing Commission held a rules hearing on September 11, 2008 to make extensive changes to the ARNP rules. The rules were filed December 11, 2008 and become effective January 12, 2009. You may view a copy of the filed rules at www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/adoptedrules.htm The changes are too extensive to summarize so you should plan on reviewing the changes online. When you are viewing the rules please note that if it has a line through it that means the word or sentence has been deleted. If it has an underline that means the word or sentence is new. There are a few sections where the entire previous section has been deleted and several sections where entirely new sections were created.

Overview of Washington State Budget

Here are the budget highlights from Governor Gregoire, which made cuts to cover an almost 6 billion dollar revenue shortfall. Most of the "available" funds to reduce were in the areas of education and healthcare. However, there were some constraints as there are con-

stitutional requirements regarding basic education and there are federal requirements for the Medicaid program. In her press conference, Gregoire reiterated a no new taxes approach.

The House & Senate will each introduce their respective operating budgets sometime in March. The state revenue forecast for the next biennium is expected sometime in early March, with the deficit continuing to grow even larger than \$6 billion. With the bleak fiscal forecast looming, program funding cuts are eminent.

Health Care Access, assumed federal funds available:

The Governor is relying on \$1 million dollars in federal stimulus funds, including SCHIP authorization. This helped keep intact the DSHS interpreter program, the navigator pilot, adult dental, adult vision, adult hearing, and Medicare Part D co-pays for seniors and disabled persons.

- ☑ \$779 million in increased federal participation (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage or FMAP) for the Medicaid program as part of the anticipated federal economic stimulus package
- ☑ \$152 million in TANF contingency funding
- ☑ Higher federal match for children between 150-200% of federal poverty through the reauthorization of the State's Children Health Insurance program (SCHIP) by Congress
- ☑ Due to reductions in the Basic Health Plan and General-Assistance Unemployable, an additional \$40 million in funds is proposed to go to the Community Health Care Safety Net and additional \$20 million to emergency housing
- ☑ Savings are achieved by increasing the use of generic drugs in state health programs by 20%, consolidating drug purchasing, and reducing coverage for some drugs
- ☑ Medicaid will continue to use state and federal funds to provide more than 300,000 adults with services that include dental, vision and hearing benefits.

Highlights of Cuts and Reductions:

- ☑ Eligibility for healthcare coverage for children under DSHS's Apple Health for Kids to remain at 250% of the federal poverty level. Currently 600,000 kids are enrolled. There will be no expansion to children 300% of FPL as previously planned.
- ☑ 42% reduction in the state Basic Health Plan. In her press conference, the Governor stated that she has asked Steve Hill to implement those reductions by finding ways to do business differently (redesigning

benefits and achieving administrative efficiencies) in addition to decreased enrollment.

- ☐ The General Assistance-Unemployable medical and grants program is eliminated.
- ☐ The Alien Emergent Medical Program (may also be known as the Children's Health Program), which provided health care for non-citizen children is cut back to federal program levels. This program experienced expansion with state funds under the Governor's Cover All Kids Bill SB 5093 (2007).
- ☐ For the Special Commitment Center, there are reductions in contracts for education services and nursing- saves \$5.4 million
- ☐ Elimination of family planning nurses in Community Service Organizations
- ☐ Foster care nurse hotline eliminated
- ☐ A number of pilots administered by DSHS HRSA in mental health, medical assistance, and chemical dependency were eliminated.
- ☐ Funding for drug court through the DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse is reduced.
- ☐ DASA will reduce funding support for adult outpatient, detoxification, and residential services for low-income clients.

Highlights of Some Rate Reductions:

- ☐ DSHS mental health division will reduce rates for both Medicaid (1.73%) and nonMedicaid (7.5%) to regional support networks
- ☐ Rates paid to hospitals, excluding psychiatric hospitals, are reduced by 4 percent for inpatient and outpatient services.
- ☐ Healthy Options plans will absorb a 1% rate reduction
- ☐ There are cuts to nursing homes for Medicaid clients, such as a reduction in nursing home reimbursement rates at a net 5%.
- ☐ In long-term care, program reductions include provider rate changes (saves \$60 million) and about one-third of the people who receive in-home care from home care agencies will be required to use an individual provider rather than more expensive agency services

Higher Education in General, with highlights for nursing education

- ☐ Overall there is a \$300 million reduction in higher education.
- ☐ Universities experienced a 13% cut compared to community and technical colleges that had a 6% cut. Gregoire's rationale is that the community and technical colleges would be affected more by laid-off workers going back to school.

- ☐ Higher education institutions are given the flexibility to determine how to best implement this reduction. This could mean fewer course offerings, larger class sizes, reductions in faculty positions and fewer support services for students. The Governor suggested that universities and colleges consider reducing enrollment to maintain quality.
- ☐ Universities were allowed to increase tuition by 7% and community colleges by 5%. A lower cap is applied to tuition at the community and technical colleges. On average, tuition can increase by about \$450 per year at the research institutions, \$310 per year at the regional college and universities, and \$125 per year at the community and technical colleges.
- ☐ Financial aid grants for lower-income students increased to reflect higher tuition rates. Incremental changes were made to eligibility and grant amounts for students from families with higher incomes.
- ☐ Health Profession Loan and Scholarship fund: according to DOH, there is no indication that funds have been cut.
- ☐ Incumbent health care worker training grant (part of the community and technical colleges fund) is to receive an additional \$1.5 million added to the \$3 million dollar program.
- ☐ While the Governor's budget reduces state support for public colleges and universities, current enrollment levels are maintained.
- ☐ High demand enrollment slots for nursing in 4 year colleges and universities maintained: These slots are only for the 4 year colleges and universities and that they are clumped into major categories. Medical students and nursing students are under a category called health professions and clinical science. The colleges and universities are given a set target number of graduates in these broad categories based on a five-year average. There really is no penalty for not achieving these targets, but universities and colleges are to aim for these targets to be in alignment with the Governor's mission. The four-year colleges and universities are to achieve these slots within existing funds. So the fund slots that would be allocated to nursing (and medical for that matter), stay the same. The question is whether the reduced funding level would allow a college or university to achieve the same graduation rate. The universities have some discretion to budget their funds appropriately.

Highlights of Cuts And Reductions:

- ☐ The Governor did not authorize any GFS for faculty and staff raises in higher education. Although higher ed may access other funds for raises, because there is a freeze on salaries across state agencies,

most likely higher ed will be consistent and not grant raises.

- ☐ Cost of Living increase under I-732 for selected community and technical colleges suspended for 2009-2011

Public Health

- ☐ The 10 million per year provided in SB 5930 (2007 for performance measure activity) are preserved in the budget.
- ☐ 68 million dollars to local health preserved. However, local public health has experienced a number of other funding cuts and many districts and departments have had to scale back or eliminate programs.
- ☐ Additional funds did go to support enhancements to the Public Health Laboratory in Shoreline
- ☐ Funds remained intact to preserve the state match to receive federal funds for bioterrorism preparedness
- ☐ Funding to local public health from DOH to provide technical assistance to small water systems (Group B) was cut.

Highlights of Cuts and Reductions:

- ☐ The Universal Vaccines program is to end July 1, 2010. By purchasing through the CDC federal Vaccines for Children Contract, the legislature provided DOH funds to purchase vaccines available on that contract for all Washington children through the age of 18. Washington will become what is known as a "VFC only" state, where the state will only supply vaccines to populations covered by the federal Vaccines for Children program. This includes children eligible for Medicaid, are American Indian, uninsured, and underinsured.
- ☐ Recently created programs (mainly through budget proviso) has been cut including a colorectal screening program, lead poison screening, senior falls prevention program, newborn hearing screening follow-up
- ☐ State funds to local family planning clinics reduced by 1 million.
- ☐ For I-1029 passed in November, there are funds in the budget with a phased implementation. The increased background checks will be implemented January 1, 2010 and increased training and certification are delayed 2 years.

Additional Highlights on the Governor's Budget

- ☐ Elimination of 2600 state employee positions. In her press conference, the Governor noted that these positions would likely be in higher education and social and health services. About 1400 to date have been achieved due to the hiring freeze.

- ☐ Negotiated pay raises for state employees are on hold. Nurses in public facilities may be subject to the pay raise freeze.
- ☐ When asked about whether additional funding authority should be granted to by the legislature to local jurisdictions, the Governor replied that not many jurisdictions were exercising current options. She would like to see local government exercise all their options before coming forward and proposing additional tax increases or options.
- ☐ The Governor's budget also notes pending legislation that will consolidate the Health Services Account, Water Quality, Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement into the General Fund. This does not contribute to reducing the deficit, but adds \$1.5 billion into the General Fund. There have been a number of proposals circulating around the legislature by a variety of groups about consolidating funding streams for health.

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA - Full and Part-time FNP

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

Puyallup, WA - Orthopedic ARNP

Good Samaritan Hospital, part of MultiCare Health System, seeks ARNP to join a growing orthopedic and sports medicine group in an office based practice with potential for first assist surgical opportunities. Competitive 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. Refer to opportunity #739-894/895.

Tacoma, WA - Family Nurse Practitioner

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. Refer to opportunity ID#750-908.

Western Washington - Neurological Oncology ARNP

Seeking Oncology ARNP with a Neurological focus to join growing, comprehensive cancer program in the Pacific Northwest. Practice

includes 8 medical oncologists, two advanced level practitioners and 3 radiation oncologists in dynamic setting integrated with a 350+ provider multispecialty medical group. Located on 391-bed tertiary care center, practice includes in-office chemo suites, pharmacy, lab, on-site radiation and 22 bed dedicated inpatient oncology medical surgical unit. Located 30 miles south of Seattle, on the shores of Puget Sound, you'll 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 your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Refer to Opportunity #901. "Multicare Health System is a Drug Free Workplace"

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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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AUWS Notable Successes

- Full prescriptive authority (includes Schedules II-IV controlled substances) with neither a joint practice agreement nor dispensing limitations
- Authority to sign death certificates
- Handicapped parking permit authorization
- ARNP prescription recognition in schools
- Labor and Industries “attending provider” status, with the ability to sign accident report forms and certify time loss for injured workers
- Collaboration with WSNA and the Nurse Practitioner Coalition to sound the “Voice of Reason” in medical malpractice/tort reform debate and legislation
- Continued support of nurse legislators in their work to improve access to care for all

Why Join?

Your dues directly support our lobbyist. Join to connect and stay informed of current NP practice issues.

Your membership and voice are essential to ensure accurate and robust representation. Overall, your participation is a sound investment in safeguarding and advancing ARNP care and our profession.

**Your voice in
practice issues**

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WASHINGTON STATE

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**ARNPs
UNITED**

WASHINGTON STATE

Membership Application Inside

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Mission Statement

ARNPs United of Washington State (AUWS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting ARNP practice by coordinating legislative, educational, and networking activities for nurse practitioners throughout Washington State.

Membership Makes a Difference

AUWS was officially formed in 1992 with the goal of promoting ARNP practice statewide. AUWS takes pride in representing over 4,100 specialty and primary care nurse practitioners in Washington State. Through the work of the legislative committee and Board of Director volunteers, in addition to paid lobbyists, we have successfully advocated for ARNP practice, thus promoting independence for our important profession.

Since 1997, AUWS has initiated legislation and lobbied the state legislature on multiple issues, striving to protect and expand scope of practice while improving and increasing access to quality health care for our patients. Membership revenues are vital for ongoing support of these and other efforts on behalf of Washington State ARNPs.

AUWS, the best investment you can make!

ARNPs Care for the Health of Washington

Membership Benefits

- Professional lobbyist working on legislative issues that influence, shape, and benefit ARNP practice
- AUWS members are invited to become active in leadership positions and legislative committee work
- *ARNP Care*, a monthly newsletter to keep you informed
- Central office maintained to serve as information hub for ARNPs
- ARNPs United of Washington State (AUWS) web site: www.auws.org
- **Membership is tax deductible**

Membership Form

Name
Credentials
Address

Tel Home:
Cell:
Work:
Fax:
Email:

Please Indicate

- Individual membership (\$150/yr)
 * Student membership (Free)
 ** Affiliate membership (\$100/yr)
 Lifetime membership (\$1000)
 Renewal (member #)
 Send ARNP Care via email

*School/Program/Graduation Date

** Affiliate WA ARNP Organization

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Card #

Exp. Date (M/Y)

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Signature

Thank You for your support!

Checks Payable to AUWS.

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