

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Vol. 20, No. 3

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

March 2009

Legislative Update

By Louis Kaplan

The 2009 Washington State Legislature is considering a wide range of health care bills. There are some important deadlines that will affect the viability of these bills. One of the most important occurs on March 12, 2009. This is the date by which a bill must be passed in the house of origin in order to be considered by the opposite chamber. Any bill that has not passed by the full House of Representatives or the Senate by March 12 is effectively dead for the session.

AUWS has been actively supporting and monitoring legislation that will affect our practice. Some examples of these bills include SSB 5826 which requires tamper-resistant prescription pads, SHB1071 which grants authority to advanced registered nurse practitioners, working in mental health care, to recommend and provide certain treatment, SSB 5588 that is mainly about administering, suspending, and eliminating boards and commissions but has a provision that will affect the availability of malpractice insurance for some nurse midwives.

The major piece of legislation the Legislature must deal with is the biennial budget. As a result of the significant shortfall in revenues, there is a projected \$8 billion gap in funding that needs to be addressed. All programs are subject to cuts and the Basic Health Plan may be cut by 42,000 people over the next two years. This will have a major impact on access to care. The decrease in enrollment would occur by allowing one person in for every six who leave. It is likely that the sickest people will want to be on the plan and drive up costs. The addition of 42,000 people to the ranks of the uninsured will also place a strain on the already thinly stretched 'safety net'.

AUWS will continue to monitor legislation and advocate for advanced practice nurses as well as consumers and access to care. Input into budget negotiations will be vital.

Louise Kaplan, ARNP is the Legislative Chairperson for ARNPs United of Washington State.

Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Vacancy

The Department of Health is accepting applications to fill six upcoming vacancies on the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. Five positions are for Registered Nurses and one is for a public member. The Governor is looking for public-spirited individuals willing to study nursing issues and make decisions in the best interest of the public.

The DOH seeks diversity in their commission members and recognizes the value diversity brings in understanding and serving the people of Washington State. There is a need for candidates with diverse backgrounds and those who provide geographic representation throughout the state.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission consists of fifteen members appointed by the Governor. This membership is as follows: 7 Registered Nurses, 3 Licensed Practical Nurses, 2 Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and 3 public members.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission meets approximately six times a year. Historically, these meetings have been scheduled on a Friday in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. The Nursing Care Quality Assurance commission operates under legislative mandate to protect the health and safety of the public and to promote the welfare of the state by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers under their jurisdiction.

If you are interested in applying for this appointment to the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission an application can be obtained electronically at <http://www.governor.wa.gov>, or by calling the Governor's Office at 360.902.4111. If you have any questions about serving on the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, please contact Terry West: Deputy Executive Director at 360.236.4712.

Crisis is a Great Time for Change

By Marty Couret and Luana Joslin-Lester

Our national health care system is in crisis. We just had the most historic election of our lifetime. The promise was made to fix our broken health care system. Policy changes are coming. Needs have been defined; from better access to lower insurance cost and provision for universal health care. Medicine is not what it used to be! Health care delivery has changed.

To say that primary care reimburses poorly would be an understatement. It is difficult to make payroll if a business takes Medicare or Medicaid insurance. Coincidentally, it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify a \$174,000 median salary for a physician. Fewer MDs are going into primary care. This in turn makes them some of the most sought after "specialists" in healthcare. NPs, by comparison, look like a bargain. Most NPs are primary care providers with a median salary running \$88,000. But in order to do the job, you need to have all the tools.

I tell my patients "If the medication is working there are no reasons to change it". However, if there is a

pressing reason or a crisis, it is a good idea to make a change. Healthcare is at the threshold of that crisis. The oracles have predicted it. The medical economic prophets can see it. And the CFOs can feel it. Now is the time for nurse practitioners to make a change.

Washington state nurse practitioners have been independent providers with prescriptive authority since the late 1970s. They have had full schedule II-V prescribing since 2004. They have had complete autonomy treating injured workers since 2003. And yet many health care institutions still restrict ARNPs.

In an attempt to be on the forefront of change one employer in the greater Seattle area has instituted some big changes in favor of nurse practitioners.

1. Supervision: This employer has changed the physician supervision of nurse practitioners. Nurse practitioners will now “collaborate” with physicians. This is significant. Most nurse practitioners that work for large institutions in Washington are still under the “supervision” of physicians. Often this supervision is in policy only, but to the risk management people it is critical. The new policy reflects the hospital policy for new physicians. New nurse practitioners will be mentored for the first year they work. After that year, it will be determined if further mentoring is required. Otherwise, they will be deemed independent. Here is the change...the mentor can be a nurse practitioner.

2. Promotion: The organization has made it possible for nurse practitioners to be the medical directors of clinics. This puts nurse practitioners in leadership roles that they might not have been able to attain previously. Of particular interest is that it could put a nurse practitioner in direct supervision of a physician.

3. Monetary incentive: In order to recruit excellent nurse practitioners you have to pay them. At this employer, nurse practitioner median salary comes from Economic Competitiveness Group data and with a variety of bonus criteria. These bonuses are based on patient satisfaction and meeting NCQA requirements for diabetes. Additionally, RVU production can lead to some very nice bonuses for those that are particularly efficient in treatment as well as billing.

Healthcare is in crisis. Crisis is a great time for change. Now is your time to make the small changes that fit with your state practice act. Now is the time to get involved with a national organization and be involved with change. We need to change the Medicare rules that prevent us from admitting to SNFs and ordering home health. NPs are the future of primary care. The future deserves some respect.

Marty Couret, ARNP is a Past-chairperson for AUWS. Luana Joslin-Lester, ARNP is a Past-president of the Board of Directors of Harborview Medical Center.

Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nurses Puts Us All at Risk

Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nurses Puts Us All at Risk was written by Sandy Summers, RN, MSN, MPH and Harry Jacobs Summers and shows how the media perpetuates nursing stereotypes (the handmaiden, the naughty nurse, the angel and the battle-axe), presenting negative images that affect real nurses and their patients. These powerful images fuel the global nursing shortage—one of the world's most pressing public health crises—by weakening nurses' claims to adequate resources for clinical practice, education and research.

Today, 41 out of 45 major characters on the top five U.S. health-related prime-time television shows are physicians. The shows present physicians as the sole masters of health knowledge and the only important staff in hospitals. In fact, Hollywood physician characters often do exciting procedures that nurses would actually perform. Physician characters like House often disrespect nurses with no real contradiction. That fosters more social contempt and makes it seem like no person of substance or intellect would even think of becoming a nurse.

Saving Lives presents irreverent analysis of everything from how health care news is reported, to Grey's Anatomy's handling of nurse characters, to how major advertising campaigns exploit nursing stereotypes. *Saving Lives* explains why these media depictions matter, and offers many practical ideas to help improve nursing's media image and the profession of nursing generally.

President Obama Selects Dr. Mary Wakefield to Be The Next Administrator of HRSA

AACN is pleased to report that Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been named the new head of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AACN and the nursing community at large supported Dr. Wakefield as a candidate for the HRSA position, and we are so pleased to see a nurse advance into this important role within the Obama Administration.

Dr. Wakefield has been a strong advocate for professional nursing education and a leading voice for nursing on the national and state level. She currently serves as associate dean for rural health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of North Dakota (UND) and is also the director of UND's Center for Rural Health. In a nomination letter prepared by the Tri-Council for Nursing (AACN, ANA, AONE and NLN), Dr. Wakefield's impressive background is summarized as follows:

“Dr. Wakefield has expertise in quality and patient safety, rural health care, Medicare payment policy, workforce issues, and the public policy process. During her extensive career, she has cultivated relationships and knowledge that would benefit the mission of HRSA. Dr. Wakefield has served on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; chaired the Catholic Health Initiatives Board of Trustees; chaired the National Advisory Council for the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; served on President Clinton’s Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry; the National Advisory Committee to the federal Office of Rural Health Policy; and co-chaired the Hospital Performance Measures Committee of the National Quality Forum. Additionally, Dr. Wakefield served as a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee that produced the landmark reports To Err is Human and Crossing the Quality Chasm and co-chaired the IOM committees that produced the report Health Professions Education and Quality through Collaboration: Health Care in Rural America. She has also served as Chief of Staff for two United States Senators.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wakefield and celebrating this “big win” on behalf of the nursing profession.

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA - Occupational Medicine ARNP

MultiCare HealthWorks, a division of MultiCare Health System seeks an ARNP to join an established occupational medicine program. Qualified applicants must be flexible, self-motivated, committed to program development and have at least 1 year primary care or urgent care experience. As a MultiCare employee, you will enjoy excellent compensation, benefits and system-wide support. For more information please contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Refer to opportunity ID #777-941. “MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace”

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”

Tacoma, WA – Hematology Oncology PA or ARNP

Awesome opportunity! We are searching for a Hematology Oncology PA or ARNP to join a well established and expanding comprehensive cancer program in the Pacific Northwest. Practice includes 7 medical oncologists, 3 advanced level practitioners and 3 radiation oncologists, in a dynamic setting integrated with a 300 physician centered multispecialty medical group. Conveniently located on the main campus of our 391-bed tertiary care center, the practice includes in-office chemo

suites, pharmacy, lab, on site radiation, plus a 22 bed dedicated inpatient oncology medical surgical unit. Located just 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. Guaranteed salary, a full array of benefits, and a great location make for an exciting practice opportunity. Please email your CV to MultiCare Health System Provider Services at blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Website: www.blazenewtrails.org. Please refer to Opportunity #1007 when responding. “MultiCare Health System is a Drug Free Workplace”

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest Seeking NPs

Join 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.

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

Alaska opportunities - FT/PT - Juneau; PT (M-Th) - Soldotna; PT (M, W, F) - Fairbanks

WA opportunities - PT Float (S Puget Sound area); PT Seattle (Sat); PT Bremerton (Th & every other W); PT Olympia (Tu, Th, F);

FT Puyallup (M-F)

Please apply for any positions at:

<http://plannedparenthoodext.hire.com/index.html>. Questions? Contact jobs@ppgnw.org.

Seattle, WA - Gastroenterology ARNP

Pacific Medical Centers is seeking an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner with 3 or more years clinical practice experience and proven track record of growth, learning, and self-development to work at our First Hill Clinic in our gastroenterology department. Specific responsibilities include: initial and follow up consultations, patient and family education, and coordination of treatment with physicians as needed. Complex and diverse patient population requires compassionate, flexible and self-motivated individual with demonstrated clinical judgment and in-depth practice experience. Requirements include Washington ARNP license and Gastroenterology experience preferred but not required.

Highlights: On-site, state of the art ASC; Solid team of GI physicians, ARNP, RNs and MAs; Built-in referrals; University of Washington affiliated teaching site; Cohesive group of 130 providers, 24 specialties and 9 service locations; Challenging and diverse patient base; Supportive environment; Compensation and benefits package that will support and enhance a lifelong career.

For more information, please contact:

Deborah Akins, Physician Recruiter

Toll Free: 888.901.1122

Email: DeborahA@pacmed.org

Visit our website and apply online: www.pacificmedicalcenters.org

Yakima, WA - Neurosciences ARNP

Central Washington Neurosciences is seeking ARNP to assist physicians with patient care and procedures in a very busy and innovative neurosurgery practice with 3 surgeons. Washington State ARNP license required; neurology and/or surgery experience preferred. We offer a very generous benefits package, competitive salary and sign on bonus. For consideration please apply on line at www.yakimaregional.org.

Central Washington Medical Group

Human Resources

110 South 9th Avenue

Yakima, Washington 98902

FNP Needed

Family Nurse Practitioner needed for busy Urgent Care/Family Practice Clinic on a temporary or permanent basis. Excellent work envi-

ronment, ground floor. Opportunity for potential buy-in. Nurse Practitioner run. \$40.00 hour plus depending on experience. Email resume to clearcourt@hotmail.com or fax to 360-899-5916.

Meetings

Join us! Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners Association is a non-profit organization supporting ARNPs in Puget Sound since 1998. We meet every other month and offer a social hour/networking and a CME talk. Annual dues are \$35/\$17.50 for students. Apply for membership and find meeting information at <http://PSNPA.org>

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.

ARNPs United of WA State

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NP Central

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Subscriptions are \$25 per year, tax included. Ad rate sheet available on request.



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