

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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April 2009

Washington State Legislative Update

By Louise Kaplan

The current Washington legislative session is scheduled to continue until April 26, 2009. There are critical dates that affect whether a bill will progress or not. March 30 was the date to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees. April 6 was the last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees. April 17 is the last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

ARNP legislation – SB 5798 which would have allowed ARNPs to prescribe medical marijuana failed to be voted on prior to the cut off date for bills to be out of their house of origin so it died. **HB 1071**, legislation that will allow ARNPs to provide a variety of services to psychiatric patients who are in state funded programs has passed out of the House and is eligible for a vote in the Senate. **SB 5891**, legislation creating a “medical home” reimbursement demonstration project that includes ARNP practices passed out of the Senate, and the House Health Care and Wellness Committee. It was referred to the Ways & Means Committee where it must receive favorable passage before the fiscal committee deadline of April 6th. **HB 2014** requiring that all prescriptions, not just those written for Medicaid fee-for-service clients, be tamper proof was passed by the House and is now in Rules Committee in the Senate where a decision will be made as to whether it should receive a vote by the full Senate. **SB 5588**, a bill that would have ended the availability of malpractice insurance for nurse midwives in rural areas fortunately died in committee but it is essential to be vigilant in assuring that this proposal not be resurrected.

The Budget

The main focus of the last part of the legislative session is the state budget. The week of March 30 both the Senate and House released budget proposals. With a projected \$9 billion shortfall, many cuts to health care are being considered. These cuts are likely to have significant adverse effects especially for people who are the most vulnerable and need more access to care rather than less. Some of the programs at risk include:

Nursing education funding – Higher enrollment in nursing programs is needed to counter the nurse shortage. Legislators need to fund nursing education to as-

sure designated enrollment slots for nursing students, increased nursing faculty funding, and additional appropriation towards nursing scholarships.

Public health funding – cuts have already forced public health departments to close clinics and reduce the public health nursing workforce. Cuts to vaccine programs are being considered as well.

Funding for the health safety net – State funded programs for low income individuals and families are threatened to be reduced beyond cuts that have already been made despite some money for Medicaid being sent to the state through the federal stimulus package.

Health Care Reform – The Senate passed SB 5945 to set the goal of achieving quality, affordable health care for all Washingtonians by 2012. The bill is now being considered by the House. Although President Obama has made health care reform a top priority, the Clinton presidency reminds us that it is important for states to be moving forward with reform efforts on the event that federal legislation fails.

Louise Kaplan is AUWS' current Legislative Chairperson and a member of the Legislative and Health Policy Council for the Washington State Nurses Association.

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Region 10 Meeting

By Louis Kaplan

Representatives of ARNPs United of Washington State attended the annual invitational meeting of Region 10 of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) held March 14, 2009 in Boise, Idaho. Representatives from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho attended. The nurse practitioners present represented a range of backgrounds including clinical practice, nursing education, a doctoral student, and a former legislator from Idaho. One NP from Alaska, Deborah Kiley, is on the Board of Directors of AANP and is a candidate for President. Attending from Washington State were Cindy Meineke, AANP state representative, Jerry Green who is running for AANP state representative, Roxanne Spring representing the state chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives, Lorna Schumann, who writes test questions for AANP's certification examination, Deborah Smith, President of AUWS, and Louise Kaplan, Legislative Chairperson of AUWS and a member of the Legislative and Health Policy Council for the Washington State Nurses Association.

The meeting began with a briefing on federal NP issues by Jan Towers who is AANP's policy director. The new Obama administration has made health care a top pri-

ority although there are some proposals that exclude or negatively affect NPs.

Access to care and reimbursement are top priorities for Obama's health care reform. NPs were included in health care summit meetings. The delivery of care by NPs is seen as an important way to improving access and cost effective care. It will be important for NPs to watch for any proposals that limit NP autonomy or the ability to participate in new programs. For example, the stimulus package includes nearly \$20 billion for health information technology however NPs were excluded from receiving grants to implement electronic medical records. The stimulus bill did include funding for NP education and jobs.

The "medical home" is a concept promoted at the national level by family practice physicians. It is a concept that has been used for many years but legislation is targeted at enhancing reimbursement to physician practices that serve as the "medical home" for patients. The bill calls for demonstration projects. National NP groups have vigorously lobbied for the inclusion of NPs in the legislation without success. NPs have also lobbied for the name to be changed to "health care home", again without success. There are some physician groups that are now supporting inclusion of NPs in the medical home demonstration projects but the objection of the American Academy of Family Practice has blocked changes to the bill.

There are many challenges for NPs who wish to be mobile from state to state which creates barriers for consumers. Without NP 'compacts', or interstate agreements, NPs must meet each state's requirements for licensure. Compacts, however, are difficult to create since scope of practice varies dramatically among the states in terms of mandates for physician supervision or collaboration and in prescriptive authority. A model is being formulated with consideration to the two major points of variability in comparing APRN practice from state to state.

The meeting attendees discussed state level challenges and successes.

Idaho NPs threatened to sue Blue Cross Blue Shield for reduced payment of NPs and as a result reduced payment was retracted and NPs now receive 100% reimbursement for their services. NPs received authorization to sign death certificates through a change in the Bureau of Vital Statistics regulation. A member of the ID Board of Nursing is working with the Department of Emergency Medicine to change regulations to allow NPs to sign POST, Physician Ordered Standard of Treatment, forms used to write orders for terminally ill patients, allowing the patient to die at home.

Alaska reported on SB 70, which would allow naturopaths (NDs) to have prescriptive authority. The important aspect of this bill is that the NDs are berating NPs claiming that ND education is superior to NPs and that this is a reason to pass the bill. Dental hygienists are also requesting authority to drill and extract teeth which is not being supported by NPs.

Louise Kaplan proposed that AANP look at including Wyoming and Montana at the next regional meeting as their interests are closely aligned with those of the states in Region 10. She also proposed that AANP create a national policy committee to provide input and support to staff.

Next year's meeting will be in Alaska the first week in March – just before the Iditarod!

Louise Kaplan is AUWS' current Legislative Chairperson and a member of the Legislative and Health Policy Council for the Washington State Nurses Association.

AANP Region 10 Meeting Another Point of View

By Deb Smith

My impression in listening to the Region 10 dialogue is that our Nurse Practitioner (NP) agenda is beginning to change. For years we have been in the mode of educating the nation about NPs and proving our efficacy on many levels. The most recent feedback from the nation's legislators is that Nurse Practitioners are part of the consumer vocabulary and the legislative vocabulary; both parties respect and value NP work. Our new charge and challenge is to respond to the questions:

"What do Nurse Practitioners need in the new health care system?"

"How can nurse practitioners best improve patient care in the new health care system?"

I think that we need to be prepared to come forth with ideas for changing the health care system. Our emphasis on access, cost efficacy, and quality care will speak to key values. I also think that we may be asked to submit a business plan with projected costs, so think about what it really costs you to see patients, the overt and hidden costs.

It seems important to convey to our membership the momentous changes in the national political agenda, as well as the opportunities and challenges we face in the near future. We wouldn't want to miss the chance to represent our patients, our profession, and our chance to mold a better health care system.

Deb Smith is AUWS' current President.

Nursing Commission Going Paperless

The Nursing Commission eliminated paper licenses as of April 1, 2009. The renewal process remains the same.

The only difference is you will not receive a paper license in the mail after you renew. You will still receive a courtesy renewal notice approximately 6-8 weeks prior to your birth date every two years for your ARNP license and yearly for your RN license. This will include the attestation forms for your practice hours and continuing education hours. You need to return the renewal card, renewal fee and forms before your birth date.

Once your license is renewed check on-line at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/> to check the status of your renewal. A paper license will not be mailed to you. The on-line website is a Primary Source Verification. This can and should be used by pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, employers or surveyors.

By going paperless the Nursing Commission is reducing paper, reducing postage costs and reducing the chance of fraudulent licenses. If you have any questions about your renewal, the process or about your license you may contact the Department of Health at 360.236.4700 or www.hpqa.csc@doh.wa.gov.

Classified Ads

Practice Opportunity – Seattle, WA

Are you looking to relocate, start a new business or expand a current one? Shared office space available for Medical Practitioner. We are two independent Family Nurse Practitioners looking for an individual who is to be a part of a community setting. We are located in the West Seattle neighborhood in a fabulous highly visible location. The clinic has 3 spacious & beautiful exam rooms, a warm & welcoming reception area, lab, and internet. We are close to Downtown Seattle, Burien and Tukwila and on the Metro bus line. It is also wheelchair accessible. Rent is b/n 140-145 depending on room size and # of days/week rented. Rent includes reception, support staff, utilities and advertising via website, brochures and more.

Please call if interested 206.937.9722

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 multi-specialty 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"

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, RN's and MA's; 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

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."

Nurse Practitioners

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Join our talented & dedicated medical team! - Sign on bonus up to \$3000!

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

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WA opportunities - PT Float (S Puget Sound area; 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.

Healthy Humor

Three surgeons were finishing their dinners at their exclusive club when the talk got around to their accomplishments. "My greatest challenge was a teenage tennis player who had his right arm cut off in an accident. I performed microsurgery to re-attach his muscles and arteries, and that young man is now the state tennis champion."

"All very well and good," said the second surgeon. "But last year I re-attached the hand of a young violinist who just won an international violin competition."

The third surgeon, who had been listening to the professional boasting, now leaned forward. "Both of you deserve all the credit in the world," he assured them. "But I've got you beat." The two surgeons looked at him in disbelief. "I performed extensive surgery on a cheat and a liar and gave him a winning smile and a firm handshake. Now he's our senator!"

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

West Sound Advanced Practice Association meets the second Thursday of the month. Meetings include networking/dinner/educational session. E-mail Fionafnp@centurytel.net for more information.

Private Practice NP Discussion Group. All are welcome. First topic will be about marketing your practice. Thursday May 28, 2009. 6:30-8:30. RSVP to mwiley@familycareofkent.com so we can order food and drinks.

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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