



State and Partner Report 2006*

State: NEW YORK

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Contact: Michelle Cravetz

Email: mwc01@health.state.ny.us

Phone: 518-474-6968

Fax: 518-473-2015

Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- NYSDOH continues to work to finalize with proposed changes to the NYS Sanitary Code to add training requirements (15 hours in the 1st year of service) for the Public Health Nurse 2 title. Currently the department is meeting with stakeholders, including the unions, about the requirement. NYSDOH and NYSACHO are looking for curricula and online content that would satisfy this requirement.
- The New Jersey New York Public Health Training Center (NJNYPHTC) convened a series of nursing summits bringing together leaders in public health nursing and nursing education across NYS. Workgroups have been formed: 1.) Assurance of preceptor quality; 2.) Issues from the practice setting related to BSN education; 3.) Quad Council competencies crosswalked with what is being taught in the Schools of Nursing; and 4.) new graduate mentorship. The next meeting is June 7th.
- Research America conducted a poll of 800 New Yorkers and found them to be supportive of public health. The survey results are available at www.researchamerica.org. The material was used to launch **Public Health Works!** A campaign to improve understanding about what public health is and who does the work. A poster featuring local public health nurses will be developed for this campaign.
- Emergency preparedness continues as a major issue for PHNs. The Department's pandemic flu plan is posted on our website (www.nyhealth.gov). Nurses continue to drill with POD and influenza exercises. NYS has enhanced syndromic surveillance. County Attorneys attended an PH Law Emergency Seminar, cosponsored by NYSDOH and the State Emergency Management Office. Local Health Department BT coordinators meet on a regular basis.

Projects/Issues Pending:

- Dr. Ed Thompson (CDC) spoke with local Commissioners and Public Health Directors about accreditation. Local agencies are looking forward to the national blueprint to be released July 06.
- A workgroup has been convened to examine more universal models for MCH homevisiting and their financing. **As more** county health departments drop their CHHA designation, there are more issues with financing home visits to pregnant and parenting women and their infants.
- NYSDOH is exploring formation of a NYSDOH Nursing Practice Group, which will link and support State level PHNs across the various public health programs. The group will serve as a focus for public health nursing issues in the NYSDOH.
- There is legislation pending that would allow the Commissioner to authorize the training of civilians to deliver immunizations and other medical care in the event of public health emergency. Emergency powers also allow for additional disease reporting and submission of clinical specimens.
- There is legislation pending in NY that would allow future RN applicants to complete an Associate Degree or diploma in nursing, but would require the Baccalaureate degree within 5 years of initial licensure. The bill "grandfathers" all currently licensed RNs from ever having to meet the requirements and gives a 4-year lead in time from the passage of the bill to permit students currently in Associate and diploma programs to complete their program and be grandfathered. The RN's license would go on "hold" if the 10-year requirement is not met, similar to action taken when an applicant does not meet continuing education requirements. There is also an opportunity for extension beyond the 10 years for extenuating circumstances, as determined by the licensing agency (State Education Department).

Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- **Workforce Issues**
- Disaster Preparedness
 - There is concern that pediatric and other special populations may not be well served in the current plan.
 - PHNs are now being asked to work with emergency managers in their localities.



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