



News Update—November 2008

Report from the Mid Year Meeting

The ASTDN Mid-Year Business Meeting was held Thursday, October 28th, at the Marriott Harbor Hotel in San Diego, concurrent with the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting. The President and the Executive Director gave a short business update. Members were reminded that final comments are due on the Health Equity paper. Guest speaker was Mary Dickow of the University of California at San Francisco, who provided information about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellowship Program. Several of the graduates and fellows who attended underscored the immense value of this program to public health nursing executive leadership. Members are encouraged to apply. Information about the program and application instructions are found later in this news update.

Executive Director's Report

Networking, Linkages, Relationship Building-

- The President and Executive Director (ED) have been invited to an orientation and relationship-building meeting with ASTHO President Paul Jarris and his staff. Arrangements are being made to visit in early December.
- A close-out conference call was held with Pat Drehobl and Beth Stover of the CDC. Several good suggestions were made with regard to partnership building and broadening the scope of ASTDN's interests. All outstanding audit items were forwarded, as requested.
- The President and the ED met with Ron Bialek of the Public Health Foundation while at APHA to discuss potential partnerships. The Foundation has relationships with several of the ASTDN member states. They were recently awarded a Cooperative Agreement for Workforce Development.
- Copies of the ASTDN PHN Leadership brochure were mailed to each of the State and Territorial Health Officials. Separate letters were prepared and signed by President Teresa Garrett, with one version for those states or territories with a Chief Nursing Officer and the other version for those entities that do not have a Chief Nursing Officer.

Resource and Infrastructure Development

- Potential Funding-RWJ Foundation has posted an opportunity under "Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative Call for Proposals." We are exploring whether this could be an opportunity to go further with some of the research conducted under the Cooperative Agreement, including the PHN-to-Population Ratios and the informatics project.

- Results of Past Attempts-The ED was contacted by the Carruth Wagner MD Foundation and by Johnson and Johnson with negative responses to our funding requests. Johnson and Johnson staff pointed out that their support for nursing leadership is through their nurse executive training program at University of Pennsylvania. ASTDN members are encouraged to apply. Candidates must be recommended by the CEO of their organization.

Liaison and Membership Activities-A monthly update procedure was implemented this month through the Communications Coordinator. Feedback has been positive. Comments are welcome and should be sent to Glenda Kelly, Communications Coordinator with a copy to the ED.

Official members has been asked to nominate potential new members from the ranks of state middle management and from top ranks of public health nursing leadership in local health departments.

Organizational Initiatives-

- Public Policy Workgroup-The ED transitioned chairpersonship of the Public Policy Workgroup to Zenobia Harris of Arkansas and Diana McMaster of Washington State. Members should begin to send issues of concern to these two new co-chairs
- Health Equity Paper-The edited version of the Health Equity position paper has been distributed to the Board for their comment and consideration. The ED has asked to place the issue on the November mid-year meeting agenda.
- PHN Leadership Brochure- 75 copies of the brochure were distributed at the APHA at the Quad Council session and the ASTHO booth.

By-Laws Committee Report

The By-Laws Committee has been working to revise current ASTDN by-laws to align them with the organization's approved strategic plan. The overarching goal of the revisions is to strengthen and foster the growth of the organization as a whole. Major changes will be to the purpose and functions category and the membership category. The first draft of the revised by-laws was disseminated October 17, 2008. The draft was discussed at the October 19, 2008 Executive Board Meeting. Discussion mainly focused on types of membership, officers and voting privileges. The By-Laws Committee also submitted to the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommendations for dues increases to categories that will remain, as well as recommendations for dues for newly created membership categories. Comments from the Executive Board Members are to be sent to Clair Millet at cpmillet@dhh.la.gov by November 7, 2008. The By-Laws Committee will meet prior to the next Board meeting to discuss recommended changes and review comments. The updated draft will then be sent out for discussion on the November 21, 2008 Executive Board conference call. With Board approval, the draft will be sent out via the ASTDN ListServ for review and comment. Subsequently, the membership will vote to approve the final draft revisions at the annual meeting in May 2009

Executive Committee and Standing Committee Reports

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting and standing committees are available on the ASTDN website. www.astdn.org click on the "Reports" at the top of the page

Joy Reed Inducted into The American Academy of Nursing

Congratulations to Joy Reed EdD, RN, ASTDN representative from North Carolina, for being inducted into the American Academy of Nursing, as one of the 2008 new Fellows. Joy was nominated for this honor by two current Academy Fellows and was selected by the Academy's 15-member Fellow Selection Committee for her outstanding achievements in the nursing profession.

The Academy is constituted to anticipate national and international trends in health care, and address resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. Not only is the invitation to Fellowship recognition of one's accomplishments within the nursing profession, but also affords an opportunity to work with other leaders in health care in addressing the issues of the day. The Academy's mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.

Joy is a graduate of the Duke University School of Nursing; she received her master's degree from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her doctorate from North Carolina State University. She has been Head of the Public Health Nursing & Professional Development Unit within the North Carolina Division of Public Health since June, 1995. She was a member of the inaugural class of Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows.

Joy was president of ASTDN twice and chaired the Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations. She led the Quad Council in the development of a set of public health nursing specific competencies based on the core competencies for all public health workers developed by the Council on Linkages. She also chaired the American Nurses Association committee to revise the *Scope and Standards of Practice: Public Health Nursing*. She served on and then chaired the ANA committees to do the last two revisions of the *Scope and Standards of Nurse Administrators*. She is the recipient of the 2008 Pearl McIver Award from the American Nurses Association

Congratulations, Joy-We are very proud of you!!!

New Essentials of Baccalaureate Education Endorsed

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is pleased to announce the endorsement of a new set of competency standards that will enhance the ability of baccalaureate-prepared nurses to provide safe, high quality patient care. At AACN's Fall Semiannual Meeting held October 20, 2008, deans and directors from the nation's senior schools of nursing voted to endorse *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice*, a re-envisioning of the previous *Baccalaureate Essentials* issued in 1998. The revised document was developed through a national consensus-building process and will have a significant impact on how professional nurses are prepared for contemporary nursing practice.

The new *Baccalaureate Essentials* meet the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for the core knowledge needed for all healthcare professionals. Due to the ever-changing and complex healthcare environment, this document emphasizes such concepts as patient-centered care, interprofessional teams, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, patient safety, informatics, clinical reasoning/critical thinking, genetics and genomics, cultural sensitivity,

professionalism, lifespan, and end-of-life care. These *Essentials* apply to all pre-licensure and degree-completion programs, whether the degree is baccalaureate or graduate entry.

The nine *Essentials* delineated in the document underscore the importance of the following themes that are fundamental to baccalaureate nursing education:

- A solid base in liberal education provides the cornerstone for the practice and education of nurses.
- In order to provide high-quality health care, knowledge and skills in leadership, communication, quality improvement, and patient safety are necessary.
- Professional nursing practice is grounded in the analysis and application of evidence for practice.
- Knowledge and skills in information and patient care technology are critical in the delivery of quality patient care.
- Healthcare policies, including financial and regulatory, directly and indirectly influence the nature and functioning of the healthcare system.
- Collaboration among healthcare professionals is critical to delivering high quality and safe patient care.
- Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population levels are necessary to improve population health.
- Professionalism is fundamental to the discipline of nursing.
- Integration of knowledge and skills is critical to practice. Practice occurs across the lifespan and in the continuum of healthcare environments. The baccalaureate graduate demonstrates clinical reasoning within the context of patient-centered care to form the basis for nursing practice that reflects ethical values.

The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice may be downloaded online at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/pdf/BaccEssentials08.pdf>.

Trust for Americas Health Releases Recommendations For Public Health

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released *Blueprint for a Healthier America: Modernizing the Federal Public Health System to Focus on Prevention and Preparedness*. The report provides recommendations for the next administration and congress on ways to improve the health of Americans. More than 150 experts and organizations helped identify gaps and fixes for federal public health agencies and programs through a year-long consensus-building process.

An analysis shows a shortfall of \$20 billion annually—across state, local, and federal government—in funding for critical public health programs in the U.S. The Blueprint calls for establishing a stable, reliable funding stream for public health and provides options for funding mechanisms to make up the \$20 billion shortfall by increasing federal spending by \$12 billion and state and local spending by \$8 billion annually over the next four to five years.

Some highlighted recommendations in the Blueprint include:

- Setting new, realistic short and long-term health goals for the country;
- Investing in disease prevention as a cornerstone of health care reform;
- Ensuring a stable and reliable funding stream for core public health functions and preventive services, such as immunizations and screening, public health emergency preparedness, and promoting physical activity, good nutrition, and smoking prevention;

- Creating an independent, science-driven National Public Health Board;
- Implementing a National Health and Prevention Strategy focused on lowering disease rates, including a strategy to combat obesity;
- Increasing accountability by tying tax-payer investments to improving the health of Americans and improving federal, state, and local coordination;
- Addressing the public health workforce crisis with stepped-up recruitment efforts;
- Clearly defining public health emergency preparedness and response roles and responsibilities;
- Establishing an emergency health benefit for use by uninsured and underinsured Americans during major disasters and disease outbreaks; and
- Fixing the food safety system.

The entire report is available at <http://healthyamericans.org/>

Public Health Nursing Briefs Published

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation publication, *Charting Nursing's Future*, recently published a two-part issue about public health nursing. The publications profiles nurse leaders in policy-making positions who are dramatically transforming public health at the county, state and federal levels. The briefs also examine policy initiatives aimed at building nursing leadership capacity. The briefs feature several ASTDN members and the stories exemplify the amazing work nurses are doing in the country today and serve as an inspiration for the future!

You can get the briefs at

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=35348>

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Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program-Apply Now

Application Deadline: Jan. 15, 2009

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows program is an advanced leadership program for nurses in senior executive roles in health services, public health and nursing education who aspire to help lead and shape the U.S. health care system.

The three-year fellowships allow participating nurses to remain in their current positions while they gain the experiences, insights, competencies and skills necessary to advance in executive leadership positions in a health care system that is undergoing unprecedented change. The program is designed to give nursing and nurses a more influential role across many sectors of the economy.

Several ASTDN members have participated in this program and report that it is a fantastic experience. For more information on applying go to

<http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20481&c=EMC-FA135>

Feedback Needed on - Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

The Public Health Foundation announced the launching of the public comment site for The new draft set of Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, <http://feedback.phf.org/corecompetencies/>. The public comment period ends on December 15, 2008.

Town Hall meetings have been held at three national meetings and comments are now requested through the Core Competencies feedback website. Background information about the Core Competencies revision process can be found by going to <http://www.phf.org/link/competenciesbackgroundpaper.pdf>

Please send any comments or suggestions for the December News Update to Glenda.Kelly@astdn.org

Happy Thanksgiving!!