



State and Partner Report 2006*

State: Oklahoma

Date: 2005

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- Hosted annual 2-day Oklahoma PHN Conference for 500+ community and public health nurses. Keynote speakers were Dr. William Atkinson and Brett Leake.
- Developed and hosted bi-annual ARNP Forum to address issues and concerns of the 50+ nurse practitioners employed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health and to develop a more collegial relationship among the practitioners.
- Currently in the process of developing a strategy to move ARNPs from classified to unclassified positions, within the merit system.
- In the process of moving our PHN orientation program from large binders and VHS films to on-line orientation modules. We hope to make the orientation process more succinct and new-nurse friendly.
- We are exploring the feasibility of changing to an electronic documentation system. Any comments or advice anyone can give me will be appreciated!
- Developed a new position for a Director of Advanced Practice to provide technical supervision to our ARNPs and assess for clinical competencies and provide orientation for new practitioners.
- Proposed 10% salary increase for all nursing personnel and revising job descriptors to allow for career development. We are having a difficult time in recruiting and retaining PHNs nurses (no surprise) due to our non-competitive salary structure.
- Looking at strategies to improve the efficiency and number of home visits of our Nurse-Family Partnership home visitation nurses.



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