

# COMON UPDATE

# 2011

RN-AIM 6th Annual  
Conference and Assembly  
September 23, 2011

Linda Taft, RN  
Chair, COMON  
[www.micomon.org](http://www.micomon.org)

# What is COMON?

- Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing
- Represents more than 22,000 nurses in 39 member organizations
- Associate members include the Board of Nursing, Office of the Chief Nurse Executive and the Michigan Center for Nursing for a total of 42 organizations

# Mission of COMMON

- Our mission is to serve as a vehicle that gives all nurses the opportunity to collectively work toward achieving mutually agreed upon goals for nursing in Michigan

# Purpose of COMON

- To provide for the exchange of appropriate information among those interested in nursing
- To provide an organized collaborative voice for nursing on issues of common concern or on issues which impact the practice of nursing
- To promote understanding, cooperation and communication among nursing organizations

# COMON Officers 2011- 12

- Chair: Linda Taft
- Chair-Elect: Charlotte Mather
- Secretary: Carole Stacy
- Treasurer: Jonnie Hamilton
- Past Chair: Dee Tyler

- COMON has 3 types of membership
- Regular: Open to all nursing organizations in Michigan
- Provisional: Open to newly formed (<2 years) nursing organizations in Michigan
- Associate: For those entities interested in nursing issues in Michigan

- COMON membership represents nursing executives, professional societies, educators and nursing programs, ethnic-based organizations, practice-specific associations, advanced practice groups as well as the Center for Nursing, the Board of Nursing and the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive among others

- COMON serves in an advisory capacity to the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive, Jeanette Klemczak
- COMON officers represent nursing in varied external capacities as well:
  - Linda Taft, Chair: Task Force on Nursing Practice (TFNP), Michigan Health Insurance Access Advisory Council (MHIAC), Michigan Area Health Education Center (MI-AHEC) through Wayne State University, and participated in the Michigan Health Insurance Exchange (Regulatory and Policy Workgroup) process
  - Charlotte Mather, President-Elect: MDCH Steering Committee for Infant Mortality in preparation for a statewide summit in Fall 2011
  - Jonnie Hamilton, Treasurer: MDCH Steering Committee for Obesity, in preparation for a statewide summit in Fall 2011, as well as representing COMON at the Michigan Cancer Consortium

# MHIAC

- MHIAC is a workgroup originally formed to address issues related to obtaining affordable and accessible healthcare for the underinsured and uninsured in Michigan.
- With the advent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the group's effort is redirected to assist with outreach and implementation of the ACA in cooperation with community groups, small business owners, insurers, social and healthcare related providers and organizations

# MI-AHEC

- Federally funded grant to WSU in 2010 to create a state-wide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program. In 2011, Southeast Regional Center was opened in partnership with Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority (DWCHA) in Metro Detroit with plans for Mid Central and Upper Peninsula Regional sites as well
- Goal is to increase access to and quality of healthcare in underserved areas via community-academic partnerships for health professions training
- MI-AHEC will work to strengthen recruitment of underrepresented and disadvantaged students into the health professions & improve the knowledge, skills and retention of MI's healthcare workforce.
- Project is multi-disciplinary to include medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacology and social work at entry levels as well as degree-prepared.

- For most of the past decade, COMON's primary focus has been to assist in the formation, implementation and advancement of Michigan's Agenda for Nursing (2006-2010 version). Recently completed updated Agenda for 2011-2015
- In addition, COMON annually selects an Initiative Topic that is significant to nurses and nursing on which to focus it's education and outreach efforts.
- The 2011 Annual Initiative, endorsed by a strong majority of COMON members, is to promote and disseminate the Institute of Medicine's report on *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. For more information on the 2011 Initiative, go to [www.micomon.org/events](http://www.micomon.org/events).
- Past initiatives have included support of the *Back to Sleep* program for infants and the *Safe Delivery* program for newborns

# COMON Goals

- Goal 1: Serve as a vehicle for communication among nurses and nursing organizations that focus on and promote education, collaboration and advocacy
- Goal 2: Revise, support, and disseminate the Nursing Agenda for Michigan
- Goal 3: Promote membership for all nurses in a professional nursing organization and promote COMON membership for all professional nursing organizations
- Goal 4: Develop organizational infrastructure that supports the mission, vision, and goals of COMON, including updated Bylaws and operational resources

# COMON Goals Workgroups

- Workgroup A: Goals 1 & 3
- Developed and produced bookmarks, publicizing COMON's purpose and membership, for distribution to member organizations to utilize in their outreach efforts
- 2011-2012: At each meeting we will highlight 2-3 member groups per meeting to do a short, 2-3 minute, update on their organization in order to give us all a better understanding of their membership, purpose, focus, etc.

# COMON Goals Workgroups

- Workgroup B: Goal 2
- Revised and updated the Agenda for Nursing 2011-2014, focusing on key priorities
- 2011-12: Will be developing guidelines and recommendations for advocacy outreach in the nursing community. Also, planning for a presentation to COMON on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) in the near future

# COMON Goals

## Workgroups

- Workgroup C: Goal 4
- Bylaws reviewed and supported amendment to align terms of officers
- 2011-12: Will be focusing their efforts on securing funding to support the work and goals of COMON both within the nursing community as well as potential outside sources

- Meetings are held quarterly at MPHI-ILC, 2436 Woodlake Circle, Ste 380, Okemos, MI. Observers are welcome to attend
- Next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- For questions or more information please contact: Emily Forrest at (517) 324-8371 or [eforrest@mphfi.org](mailto:eforrest@mphfi.org)