

SAVE THE DATE

2010 RN-AIM Annual Conference and Assembly

“Cultivating a Culture of Safety”
September 23-24, 2010
Okemos Conference Center

September 2010						
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RN-AIM Annual Conference						

Call for Conference Poster Presentations

In addition to conference detail, at the RN-AIM direct link below, you'll also find the information and guidelines to prepare and submit your poster abstract for review by the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council. If your abstract is accepted for presentation, additional guidelines and assistance are available from this Council. We encourage all nurses and student nurses to consider developing a poster for the conference. Two, one-year-long RN-AIM memberships will be awarded for the research and practice posters that are chosen by the Council members.

www.RN-AIM.ORG/events_and_meetings/conference.asp

Michigan Nursing Education Council Established

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has established a Nursing Education Council that will help implement nursing education goals in Michigan. The Office of Chief Nurse Executive, Jeanette Klemczak, established the Council in early June 2010. This leadership group will be the driving force behind the transformation of nursing education in Michigan.

The 17 member council which includes nursing educators, nursing practitioners and policy-makers will act as an advisory board to the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive (OCNE) to ensure that recommendations developed by the Task Force on Nursing Education are implemented.

Recommendations include, among others:

- the creation of a nurse residency program in Michigan for all newly licensed graduates,
- high priority focus on quality and safety in all nursing educations programs and
- increasing the numbers of registered nurses educated in the state.

“There can be no more a critical time for the effective work of the Michigan Nursing Education Council” said MDCH Director Janet Olszewski. “We must have a new generation of nurses prepared for practice in a time of massive demand for care of the aging baby boomers.”

The growing nursing shortage is a looming public health crisis in Michigan. There are a total of 156,161 nurses licensed in the state but there will be a shortage of 18,000 nurses by 2015. Increased number of nursing faculty are needed as well, since the average age of current faculty members is 55 years, and many of these individuals will soon retire, leaving a serious shortage of clinical and instructional faculty. In fact, many Michigan nursing schools and colleges report that more than half of their faculty are eligible to retire today.

Chief Nurse Executive, Jeanette Klemczak is quoted as saying “I’m looking forward to working with them to help increase the number of nurses in Michigan and to continue to make quality and safety a number one priority in patient care. This Council will help create a path to bring more national public and private resources to our work in Michigan.”

The Nursing Service Organization Urges “Create a Culture of Accountability”

Be sure to review the latest issue of the “Risk Advisor” from the Nursing Service Organization (NSO). What is being proposed mirrors the strategic goals of RN-AIM and also demonstrates that the Annual Conference and Assembly, September 23-24 at the Okemos Conference Center, is right on target with the national focus on quality and safety of care. This same theme is reflected in the article above regarding the establishment of the Michigan Nursing Education Council.

NSO describes the culture of accountability as including:

- A goal of continuous learning and improvement
- That decisions regarding care are guided by evidence-based protocols
- That performance measurement is essential for assessing outcomes and guiding improvement initiatives
- A climate of management where reporting of errors is encouraged not punished
- Collaboration and coordination among and between all levels of the organization

The article further describes six steps to accountability, including the provision of leadership, emphasis on quality, customer service as a priority, performance management, support for the human dimension and the provision of a supportive infrastructure. Read the entire article and other timely features at www.nso.com.

The Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) Nursing Section Seeks Your Help

Mary Lagerway, Chair of the Public Health Nursing Section of MPHA, is seeking assistance in supporting students in community and public health agencies experiences. Over the past several months the Section has been discussing ways of helping nursing students to obtain the experiences they need in community and public health. Mary asks, “As experts in the field, would you be willing to share what has worked for you in developing partnerships with nursing schools and making best use of both your and the student’s time; What barriers have you encountered in accomplishing collaborations and partnerships?”

Dr. Lagerway, PhD, RN, a faculty member at the Bronson School of Nursing, Western Michigan University, asks that individuals respond by mid-July regarding your experiences, particularly positive initiatives. The responses will be collated and the results shared. Her e-mail is mary.lagerway@wmich.edu.

Nurses are Urged to Contact Senators and Representatives Regarding Extending the Temporary Increase in Medicaid Funding

Michigan faces an estimated shortfall of \$1.8 billion in its fiscal year 2011 budget, furthering the deep cuts in health services if legislators fail to address the need for new revenues by modernizing the states’ current tax system to match our economic realities. State lawmakers currently rely heavily on federal stimulus funds to prevent even greater budget cuts. The federal funds included an increased match for the state Medicaid programs, but this increased is scheduled to end on December 31, 2010. While Congress has instituted proposed legislation to extend the temporary increase, momentum has stalled as the Congressional leadership works out the differences between the bills in the House and Senate.

Nurse and other health professionals are being urged to contact your personal U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow to move quickly to pass the American Workers, State and Business Relief Act of 2010, which includes a provision to extend the increased Medicaid funding to state for six additional months.

Michigan, as other states, is experiencing major increases in the numbers of individuals seeking Medicaid support. In a time when unemployment still sits above 10% virtually statewide, the extension of this important legislation is crucial. Contact your Representative and our Senators today. They all have local office numbers that make it easy for you to register your concern for fellow citizens in need.

Another Resource Regarding Health Legislation and Policy

HealthLink is the Michigan Department of Community Health newsletter from the Bureau of Health Professions, and has information of interest to nurses as well as other licensed professional groups in Michigan. Licensing issues related to professional development of individuals, changes in fees for nursing licenses, the numbers of licensed individuals in various professions and information about online licensing/registration are all included. Visit the site at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense.

Initiative on the Future of Nursing Report Released

In December 2009, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation held a national workshop on: The Future of Nursing: Community Health, Public Health, Long-Term Care and Primary Care. The summary of that workshop is now available at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) website. To download a copy of the report visit: www.iom.edu/nursing. And more information on the Initiative on the Future of Nursing is available at the following websites: www.thefutureofnursing.org, www.facebook.com/futureofnursing and <http://twitter.com/futureofnursing>.

And the Musing...

I feel that RN-AIM is such a crucial organization, and I am concerned by how few of our colleagues are members. I am especially concerned that nursing leaders in education and practice have not yet chosen to join us. I know that we are all very busy with a variety of activities and responsibilities, but one of those responsibilities is to our profession as well as to the individuals we provide care for. One of our members, Jennifer Paul, had recruited eight new members to the organization this year. I would challenge each of you to do the same. Maybe you can't manage eight, but we all have to help the organization to grow. The old saw about strength in numbers is true, and we need to continually grow the organization. It is the only nursing organization that welcomes all registered nurses regardless of practice setting and all nursing students throughout the state. Let's make it the preeminent organization for nurses in Michigan.