

Congratulations and Thanks

Congratulations are in order for Gay Landstrom, MS, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Trinity Health on being named by Governor Granholm, to the one nursing seat on the Michigan Certificate of Need Commission. Gay has attended her first meeting and we know she will represent nursing and RN-AIM with distinction. Congratulations, Gay, this is a well-deserved recognition of your leadership and skills.

And...many thanks to Phyllis Brenner for representing RN-AIM on the planning committee for the Institute for Professional Nursing (IPN) meeting which was held in January 2010. The conference was very successful and IPN and RN-AIM shared the revenues. RN-AIM recently received a check for more than \$1,350.00 for our portion of the revenues. Thanks Phyllis, for all you do and have done for RN-AIM.

2010 RN-AIM Annual Conference and Assembly
www.rn-aim.org/events_and_meetings/conference.asp

Save-the-Dates

This year's theme is: **"Cultivating a Culture of Safety"**
Scheduled for: **September 23-24, 2010**
Okemos Conference Center

Several exciting presentations will highlight the conference including:

- ✚ a presentation by a hospital risk manager on "Making Your Practice Safer"
- ✚ a keynote by Michigan's Chief Nurse Executive, Jeanette Klemczak
- ✚ a panel with the Chairs of the Board of Nursing, and COMON (Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing) and the Center for Nursing Excellence discussing their perceptions of the future
- ✚ a number of clinical sessions addressing various areas of practice.

Call for Conference Poster Presentations

Don't forget to visit the website for the information you need to prepare your poster abstract for review by the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council. The guidelines they have developed will help you to prepare and submit your abstract for review. 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 RN-AIM memberships will be awarded for the research and practice posters that are chosen by the Council members.

Comparison of Michigan Critical Health Indicators Report: Healthy People 2010 Targets

The Michigan Department of Community Health has released the report on the Critical Health Indicators and Healthy People 2010 Targets. This report addresses the information gleaned from each of the reports and compares how Michigan citizens fare regarding the health indicators that the state chooses to follow and the results related to the federal Healthy People 2010 Targets that all states address in their health plans.

The report contains a summary of Michigan's standing nationally regarding the full series of health indicators, the latest year's data, the Healthy People Target, the Michigan findings, and average/mean for the country and whether target objectives were met or not met. Then each target is presented in several formats to demonstrate the summary data. The report can be found online at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

NEWS Briefs . . .


Need to get somewhere . . . The American Public Health Association (APHA) has released a new publication titled "The Hidden Health Costs of Transportation." This report discusses how our current system of transportation contributes to the soaring health care costs and impedes progress toward improving health care. The report identifies how transportation policies could also have a positive effect and increase the health of the public by providing walking, bicycle and transit use as cost-effective ways to integrate more physical activity into the daily habits of transportation users.

If you don't like your diagnosis . . . an article I recently read suggests changing where you live. The article addresses how physicians in some parts of the country are more likely to tell Medicare patients that they are sick than in other parts, a finding which researchers say could begin to explain the regional differences in health care spending.

Smoking bans . . . Dr. Mouaz Al-Mallah, co-director of the Cardiac Imaging Research at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit was recently quoted in Health Day News regarding how comprehensive smoking bans could affect the number of heart attacks suffered by Americans. If all states banned smoking in restaurants, offices and other public spaces, it is estimated that the total of heart attacks would decrease by 18,000 within the first year.

Keeping Up with Current Trends and Issues

There are several websites that you should be visiting regularly to stay informed about advances in nursing and other health care related issues. I encourage you to look at the following sites and add them to your favorites (or bookmark) them for periodic review. They include:

 **RWJF Publications – The Quality Report** The latest issue contains an update on the effort to Align Forces for Quality (AF4Q) and change the way consumers think about their health care and improving the quality of health care for all Americans. Other articles address using Medicare data for performance measurement and public reporting,

variation in joint replacement surgeries and a book review on Palliative Care and Serious Illness. www.publications@rwjfmil.org/quality

- ✚ **The Rural Monitor** – Provides a variety of health care related articles on rural health issues including the use of advanced practice nurses to address health care gaps in rural areas, distance technologies to help rural nurses to pursue advanced degrees and educational partnerships among states to enhance nurses' skills and encourage retention. www.raconline.org.
- ✚ **MCMCH (Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health) – Friday Notes.** A weekly compendium of legislative and health related updates regarding maternal and child health data, funding concerns and a variety of clinical issues related to this population. www.inf@mcmch.org.
- ✚ **Another RWJF Publication – Sharing Nursing's Knowledge** The current issue contains articles on the job market for new graduates, the California Nurse Ratio Law that is saving lives and improving nurse morale, the naming of the first Latino Dean of a Nursing School and an ongoing feature titled "In Their Own Words," discussing on the imperative for nurses to play a key role in shaping health care policy, the return of retired nurses to practice, and contributions of nurse practitioners and more. www.publications@rwjfmil.org/sharingnursingknowledge.
- ✚ **RWJF Publications – another gem titled "Advances"** The May 28 issue includes articles on the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, the immediate effects of health care reform, addressing bullying through the use of "Playworks Coaching" programs and geographic variations in health care. www.publications@rwjfmil.org/advances.
- ✚ **PPN (Promising Practices Network Update) Newsletter** The May issue includes expert perspectives on Head Start, childhood obesity, nutrition and physical activity and three pages of research briefs on children, families and communities. www.ppn-news@rand.org.
- ✚ **Consumer Connection – Linking Consumers with Health Care News and Information.** A publication of the Michigan League for Human Services, this monthly newsletter addresses issue of current concern to health care providers and advocates. The May Issue focuses solely on the new Health Care Reform Bill: What it Means and Does Not Mean. It describes what will happen in 2010, 2011 and 2014 that will change the face of health care, includes information about funding and an extensive bibliography of articles concerning health care reform. www.milhs.org. This publication is supported by the Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition.

And the Musing . . .

The title of the Annual Conference to be held on September 23-24, 2010, at the Okemos Conferences Center is "Creating a Culture of Safety." If you're wondering about the focus of the conference, a recent article published in Health Leaders Media encourages bedside nurses to become patient safety champions. Liz Carlton, RN, MSN, CCRN, Director of Quality, Safety and Regulatory Compliance at the University of Kansas has designed a Quality Safety Investigator Program as a way to more actively involve bedside nurses in focusing on the quality and safety of their practice. The article further states that empowering nurses to become leaders in patient safety can have positive effects not only on the patient population quality of care, but on staff satisfaction levels. So get ready for a conference that focuses on just that...and plan on joining us in September and become a safety champion.

