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Abstract Category: DNP in Policy Leadership

Title: DNP Essentials are Instrumental to Consensus-Building for Effective Health Care Policy Advocacy

Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to highlight DNP leadership in building consensus among nurses for improved health care policy advocacy. Nursing represents a diversity of practitioner groups with interests that may, at times, be in conflict. Leadership is needed to bring these groups together to find areas of common interest for synergy in health policy advocacy efforts.

Objective 1: Describe Initiative for the Future of Nursing recommendations and initiatives to pilot those recommendations.

Objective 2: Describe challenges and tactics used in building alliances for diverse nursing groups.

Objective 3: Understand DNP Essentials that are instrumental for health policy advocacy in the context of building coalitions.

Abstract:

DNP Essentials are Instrumental to Consensus-Building for Effective Health Care Policy Advocacy

Abstract

The Initiative for the Future of Nursing (IFN), established by a Robert Woods Johnson Foundation/ Institute of Medicine partnership, issued recommendations for nursing in creating a health system which is more effective (IFN, 2010). Realization of these recommendations will require involvement by nurses with skills in health policy and advocacy, collaboration and systems leadership. The public, policy-makers, regulators, and the health care community must be involved in bringing about needed changes to current policies based on IFN recommendations. To this end, Regional Action Coalitions (RACs) have been formed in five states, including New York, to pilot recommendations from the IFN. The responsibilities of the New York RAC include:

1. Engage a diverse group of stakeholders from a variety of sectors;
2. Fashion a state-prioritized list of recommendations;
3. Gain media exposure and build visibility/awareness;
4. Inform policymakers and decision-makers on key issues;

5. Outreach to philanthropies, businesses and other entities for on-going support (FON-NY).

In 2010, The New York Patient Nurse Alliance (NYPNA) was formed to improve quality and access to care for New Yorkers by ensuring the ability of nurses to practice to the full extent of their education. The objectives of the organization are to: 1) promote consumer choice of health care provider, 2) promote access and availability of health care, 3) ensure the ability of nurses to practice to the fullest extent of education and scope, 4) advance nursing education and 5) support Alliance members'™ common goals. NYPNA membership includes regulators, executives, educators and several state nursing organizations. Partnership with public interest groups on specific projects to meet the mission and objectives of the Alliance is planned.

NYPNA was created, in large part, due to barriers to effective and efficient nursing care affecting health care delivery in New York State. However, because NYPNA's™ mission and objectives are closely aligned with the recommendations of the IFN, it is well positioned to participate in the activities of the New York RAC pilot. Members of NYPNA have met with New York RAC leaders and are prepared to offer expertise and assistance in implementing IFN recommendations in the state.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) members of NYPNA have drawn on the DNP Essentials related to health policy and advocacy, collaboration and systems leadership (AACN, 2006). These skills were instrumental in shaping our ability to effectively collaborate with a diverse group of stakeholders, generate trust and begin building consensus for a more effective and efficient health care system.

References

AACN. (2006). *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing*. Washington, DC: AACN.

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