



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

**CNS SUMMIT
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Welcome and Introduction to NACNS

Melinda Mercer Ray, NACNS

- Welcomed participants to the meeting.
- Gave highlights of NACNS' activities to date this year: Strategic planning, CNS Communiqué, Legislative Toolkits, CNS Educational Standards.

CNS Educational Standards

Patti Zuzelo, NACNS

- Reviewed the process for establishing the *Criteria for the Evaluation of Clinical Nurse Specialist Master's, Practice Doctorate, and Post-Master's Certificate Educational Programs*.
- Public comment period on draft criteria occurred from May 18, 2011 – June 6th, 2011.
- Neutral convener is in review of all submitted comments; incorporation of any substantive changes should be complete by the end of the summer.
- Group discussed amending title and removing direct reference to 'NACNS'.

AACN Adult-Gero Project

Joan Stanley, AACN

- APRN Consensus Model merges Adult-Gero education.
- AACN is facilitating the process, with support from the John A Hartford Foundation, including the development of Adult-Gero CNS Competencies released in March, 2010.
- To date, only 3 programs have merged Adult-Gero education based on an AACN survey conducted in 2010.
- In collaboration with the Hartford Institute at NYU, AACN has developed a series of modules focusing on the transition to the merged model.
- In fall 2011, 75 minute webinars will be available as a free resource to member schools.
- New Adult-Gero exam target date: 2013.

LACE

Panel Discussion

- The LACE electronic platform was the result of a funding commitment by LACE organizations.
- Goal: An electronic mechanism for communication; network for organizations.

- Electronic Platform is up and running; currently supported by 30 organizations each with three accessible accounts.
- There is a public side and private side to this web-based platform.
- An administrative workgroup was designated by participating organizations for the development of the LACE platform discussion groups; this group has been trained and can post documents, discussion questions, schedule meetings.

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)

Lisa Summers, ANA

- ACOs are just one aspect of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- ANA provided an early analysis and draft comments to our members and organizational affiliates to facilitate a broad response from nursing organizations.
- Goal of ACO legislation is to link quality measures (outcomes) to payment to drive positive change in the healthcare system.
- Determining the “economic value of nursing” is a paramount concern when considering the ACO model.
- “Care Coordination” is also an important consideration in the ACO world; the contribution of the CNS role in care coordination must be clearly articulated.
- Information/resources are available on the ANA website.

Specialty Issues

Group Discussion

- Summit attendees voiced concerns regarding:
 - Shrinking specialty populations that are too small to support an APRN exam.
 - Difficulty fitting specialties into the APRN Consensus Model.
 - Lack of accessible data regarding impact on quality of outcomes.
 - State by state compensation variables.
 - Educational opportunities; competition with NP programs.
 - Many organizations are hearing from their members concerning accreditation and licensure issues as the consensus model is being adopted.
 - The groups discussed the need to develop family/lifespan and women’s health/gender specific competencies. While there is no test available for certification in these population areas, it was discussed that a test can not really be developed without the evolution of these competencies. The Summit participants expressed their interest in NACNS taking a leadership role in this work.