



## Newsletter - August 2015

### A Message from the Director



I am thrilled to present the inaugural issue of the PA Action Coalition Newsletter. As many of you know, Pennsylvania's Action Coalition underwent significant changes this year—moving our office to Philadelphia, refining our organizational structure, and naming new leaders in officer roles on our [Advisory Board](#) (formerly known as the steering committee).

Since January, I have had the opportunity to sit down with many of you and learn about your ideas for this Coalition, your commitment to advancing the Future of Nursing report, and your passion for improving health and healthcare in Pennsylvania. The energy and drive I saw was inspirational, and I know it is those qualities that will help us advance the goals set forth by the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) foundational report, *Future of Nursing: Advancing Health, Leading Change*.

I hope this newsletter will help us all share the exciting work happening in our state around the IOM. I encourage you to email [paaction@ncc.us](mailto:paaction@ncc.us) and tell us

about new activities and opportunities to advance a healthy Pennsylvania through high-quality, accessible, and safe nursing. Although we will send this newsletter every other month, you can always stay up-to-date by following us on Twitter (@paaction), liking us on Facebook (facebook.com/paactioncoalition), and visiting our new website at [www.paactioncoalition.org](http://www.paactioncoalition.org).

Thank you for all the work you do to advance the Future of Nursing for a healthy Pennsylvania.

Best,

Sarah Hexem  
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## **Leadership Opportunities**

### ***Opportunity for Breakthrough Leaders in Nursing***

The *Campaign for Action* is currently accepting nominations for the 2015 *Culture of Health: Breakthrough Leaders in Nursing* awards. This program honors nurse leaders who are actively working toward building healthier lives and communities through their combined work and interest in their respective state Action Coalition. Nominees must be licensed registered nurses who are either actively involved with one of the *Campaign for Action's* 51 state action coalitions or are interested in becoming engaged with an action coalition. They must also be working with diverse populations to help people live healthier lives and build healthier communities.

The 10 nurses selected will receive national recognition at the *Campaign for Action* national summit in Washington D.C., December 9-10, 2015 along with

an RWJF-funded scholarship from the Center for Creative Leadership. Visit the *Campaign for Action* website for more information on the *Breakthrough Leaders in Nursing* award and to nominate an individual.

Nominations are due by **August 21**. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

## **PA Action Coalition News**

### ***National Nurses Week Event: The American Nurse Screening***

The PA-AC, in collaboration with the *Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action* initiative, kicked off the 2015 National Nurses Week with a screening of the award-winning documentary **The American Nurse** (DigiNext Films). The film highlights five American nurses from diverse specialties and explores important topics such as aging, war, poverty, and prisons and their impact on today's healthcare environment. The screenings, which took place in Allentown and Camp Hill, drew nearly a hundred individuals to the big screen in a celebration of nurses and nursing. If you attended the screening and still want to apply for Continuing Education credits, you can get more information [here](#).

Special thanks to Kristen Bishop who organized the showing in Camp Hill, DeSales University for partnering with us at the Allentown screening, and the Lehigh Valley Health Network for donating the beautiful coffee table book, *The American Nurse*, on which the film is based. You can see pictures from the event by clicking [here](#).

### ***RWJF awards second round of funding to PA Action Coalition***

The Pennsylvania Action Coalition received its second two-year grant through Future of Nursing State Implementation Program (SIP) of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). RWJF's \$7.65 million dollar initiative helps states prepare the nursing profession to address our nation's most pressing healthcare challenges, which include issues relating to accessibility, quality, and cost. Pennsylvania is one of 18 states receiving their second two-year

grants of up to \$150,000 and one of 33 states now receiving RWJF support through SIP.

Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, RWJF senior adviser for nursing and director of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*, states, “These grants have proven a wise investment and we are confident that this additional support will lead to even more advances.”

Pennsylvania is immensely grateful for the continued support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as well as the numerous organizations that pledge to match these funds: Masimo Foundation, UPMC, UPMC Health Plan, and Geisinger.

#### ***New leadership for the PA Action Coalition***

Effective January 1, 2015, the PA Action Coalition moved its headquarters to the National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC). The Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA), the founding nursing co-lead organization for the Coalition that previously housed the PA-AC, continues to sit on the Advisory Board and remains an important voice for the nurses of Pennsylvania. Tine Hansen-Turton, MGA, JD, FCPP, FAAN, the CEO of NNCC, now serves as the nursing co-lead representative.

As the new nursing co-lead organization, the NNCC provides the infrastructural support for the overall PA Action Coalition. The NNCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advances nurse-led healthcare through policy, consultation, programs, and applied research to reduce health disparities and meet people’s primary care and wellness needs. Pennsylvania has the largest number of nurse-managed health centers in the United States. NNCC has also served on the PA Action Coalition Advisory Board since its creation and was also the fiscal intermediary for the PA-AC’s funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To learn more about NNCC, click [here](#).

The PA-AC's non-nursing co-lead organization, Masimo, joined the Coalition in the summer of 2014, represented by Chief Nursing Officer Michael Becker, PhD, RN. Masimo is a global medical technology company that develops and manufactures innovative, noninvasive patient monitoring technologies, including medical devices and a wide array of sensors. The Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation, and Competition in Healthcare is a foundation committed to advancing positive change for the benefit of clinicians and patients everywhere. They support efforts designed to improve patient safety and outcomes, promote efficient and cost-effective healthcare delivery, and provide advanced healthcare to people worldwide who may not otherwise have access to lifesaving technologies. Learn more about [Masimo](#) and the [Masimo Foundation](#) by clicking the links.

Lastly, Sarah Hexem, JD is the new director of the PA-AC. Sarah also serves as the Law and Policy Program Director for NNCC, where she advocates for nurse-led care at the federal level, co-directs a national pilot program for nurse-led medical-legal partnerships, and leads several public health law research projects in partnership with the CDC. Sarah graduated *magna cum laude* from Temple University Beasley School of Law and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pomona College.

***PA Action Coalition Advisory Board elects new executive Committee***

In March 2015, the Pennsylvania Action Coalition advisory board elected a new executive committee. The executive committee is in charge of developing the infrastructural and strategic vision for the Coalition as they move forward with goals of implementing the IOM recommendations within the state. The newly elected executive committee members and their organizations include:

Chair: Paula Milone-Nuzzo (Penn State College of Nursing)

Nursing Co-lead: Tine Hansen-Turton (National Nursing Centers Consortium)

Non-Nursing Co-lead: Michael Becker (Masimo)

Governance: Joe Napolitano (The Dorothy-Rider Pool Trust)

Secretary: Sue Hallick (Geisinger)

Finance: Sandra McAnallen (UPMC Health Plan)

For a list of all Advisory Board member organizations, please click [here](#).

## **Spotlight on PA**

### ***PA-AC Advisory Board Chair speaks about the role of nursing in rural health***

The National Rural Health Association invited Dr. Paula Milone-Nuzzo, advisory board chair for the PA-AC and Dean of the Penn State University College of Nursing, to speak on a panel at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Health Conference in April 2015 in Philadelphia, PA, co-sponsored by AARP. The panel, "Caring for Rural Americans: Nurses' Role in Achieving the Triple Aim," presented views on how nursing can improve rural health and healthcare.

Paula also represented the PA-AC at the RWJF-sponsored Rural Health: Finding Creative Solutions Together meeting in Denver, CO June 29-July 1, where she worked with Academic Progression in Nursing (APiN) recipients about how to successfully implement IOM recommendations around education in rural American. Participants considered education, workforce, and leadership as they developed action plans to accelerate rural health initiatives in their states.

Pennsylvania is itself building out initiatives around rural health through nursing. To get involved, email [paaction@nccc.us](mailto:paaction@nccc.us).

### ***PA Action Coalition Member Recognized by Association for Nursing Professional Development***

Pam Meinert, PhD, FNP-BC, RN-BC, Liaison of Nursing Education and Professional Development at the Penn State Hershey Department of Nursing at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, recently received the 2015 Educator/Academic Liaison Practice Award from the Association for Nursing Professional Development Recognition Committee. The award recognizes

excellence in professional development in the areas of education and facilitation for liaisons in academic medical centers, with overall responsibility of implementing the *Future of Nursing* IOM recommendations within their respective organization.

Pam developed the first liaison role for Hershey Medical Center. Between 2009 and 2015, Hershey Medical Center's percentage of nurses with a BSN increased from 50.9% to 67.9%. Within the PA Action Coalition, PA is active in two workgroups—one on nurse residencies and the other on academic progression in nursing. Congratulations to Pam on this well-deserved accomplishment!

### ***American Association of Nurse Practitioners elects two PA Nurses to Board of Directors***

The AANP Board of Directors recently elected two Pennsylvania nurses: Joyce Knestrick, PhD, APRN, CFNP, FAANP, of Washington, PA was elected Treasurer and Susan Schrand, MSN, CRNP, of Philadelphia, PA was elected Region 3 Director. AANP is the only full-service national professional membership organization for nurse practitioners of all specialties. See the entire newly-elected board by clicking [here](#).

### ***AARP covers innovative Penn program in new report on Graduate Nursing Education***

A new report issued by the Public Policy Institute at AARP finds that healthcare consumers are now more likely to find highly qualified clinicians due to a little-known provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) authorizing Medicare to pay for graduate-level nursing education. The report, [Improving Access to High-Quality Care: Medicare's Program for Graduate Nurse Education](#), looked at five medical centers nationwide, including Philadelphia's Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

### ***Six Pennsylvania Nursing Students Chosen as Future of Nursing Scholars-***

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently announced the 46 nurses, which included six nurses from Pennsylvania, to be part of the second cohort of the Future of Nursing Scholars program. The scholars are Ashley Ritter, MSN, CRNP (University of Pennsylvania; Supported by RWJF); Sarah Belcher, BSN, RN, OCN (University of Pittsburgh; supported by RWJF); Sarah Frazier Gallups, RN, BSN, MPH (University of Pittsburgh; supported by RWJF); Christine Bader, MS, BSN, RN-BC (University of Pennsylvania; supported by Independence Blue Cross Foundation); Brittany Stark, MSN, RN (Villanova University; supported by Independence Blue Cross Foundation); and Michelle McKay, RN, MSN, CCRN (Villanova University; supported by Independence Blue Cross Foundation).

The program was established to meet the IOM recommendation to double the number of nurses in the United States with doctoral degrees. The overall goal of the program is to support more nurse leaders, promote nurse-led science and discovery and put more educators in place to prepare the next generation of nurses.

The program is supported both through efforts from RWJF and external organizations. In Pennsylvania, the Independence Blue Cross Foundation provides support. Future of Nursing scholars receive financial support, mentoring and leadership development over the course of their PhD program in nursing or a nursing related field. More information about the Future of Nursing Scholars program can be found [here](#).

***PA receives nearly \$3 million in HRSA Health Workforce Awards***

On July 14, 2015, HRSA announced \$94 million to strengthen the healthcare workforce. According to Rebecca Spitzo, HRSA's Associate Administrator for health workforce, the "grants not only strengthen the health workforce but foster partnership and innovation in health profession training and practice." Of the almost \$3 million awarded to PA institutions, about \$2.4 million will support efforts to strengthen the nursing workforce.

One of the newest grantees is Reading Health System, which received a



Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (NEPQR) grant for Inter-professional Collaborative Practice. The project, entitled “Bedside to Home Care Transitions” (BHCT) will enhance delivery of patient and population-centered quality health care, which will integrate a number of nursing-led, evidence-based strategies to provide intensive intervention to high-risk diabetic inpatients. Interventions in this model include Transition Coaching to follow-up outpatient and community care, Motivational Interviewing, and Certified Diabetes Educators that provide inpatient diabetes education. Collectively, the BHCT project provides an innovative approach to ensure the delivery of high quality, continuous diabetes care to high-risk patients from inpatient admission, to discharge, and care transitions to home and community.

To see all of the 2015 HRSA recipients in PA, please click [here](#).

## **Funding Opportunities**

### ***Funding opportunity for schools with PhD programs in nursing***

The [Future of Nursing Scholars program](#) has issued a call for proposals for schools with research-focused PhD programs in nursing that want to be part of developing the next generation of PhD-prepared nurse leaders.

Schools that are either a public entity or tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) are eligible. Proposals are due by September 17.

[Read more about the Future of Nursing Scholars call for proposals.](#)

The **Pennsylvania Action Coalition (PA-AC)** is a statewide coalition of nursing and non-nursing stakeholders endorsed by the Campaign for Action: Future of Nursing (a joint-initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP).

PA-AC works to promote a healthy Pennsylvania through improvements in the quality, accessibility, and safety of nursing. These advances are the result of implementation of recommendations presented by the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) *Future of Nursing* report and through strategic partnerships throughout the state.

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