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The Illinois Center for Nursing Elects New Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Congratulations to Chairperson Donna Hartweg, PhD, RN and Maureen Shekleton, PhD, RN, FAAN, Vice-Chairperson. The Nurse Practice Act was changed in 2013 by the Illinois legislators to make the Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) Advisory Board operations consistent with those of other state boards (Public Act 098-0247). With that action, the ICN Chair is now chosen from within the volunteer board members who have been appointed by the Governor, rather than having the IDFPR Nursing Coordinator as a member and chair.

ICN was established by legislation in 2006, Section 75-10, the Nurse Practice Act. The Mission of the Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) is to advocate and ensure appropriate nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Illinois. The ICN Chair from 2006-2013, Michele Bromberg, MSN, APN continues involvement in ICN activities which are in addition to Nursing Coordinator responsibilities to the approximately 200,000 licensed Illinois nurses.

Both Chairperson Hartweg and Vice Chairperson Shekleton have been members of the Illinois Center for Nursing Advisory Board since 2006. During this time the 2007 Illinois Nursing Workforce Survey was completed; the Team Illinois partnered with state regional partners to expand nursing education capacity; the nursing workforce supply-demand data analysis was completed for both LPNs and RNs; Illinois was selected, along with Ohio and North Carolina, to be one of three states participating in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Transition to Practice Research study, a randomized study to investigate the effect of the TTP model on patient safety and quality outcomes; and ICN along with ANA-Illinois and the Illinois Organization Nurse Leaders are the Nursing Leadership of the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition, which is working in partnership with the Center to Champion Nursing in America, on implementation of the IOM Recommendations from the report: *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*.

The ICN is working with industry professionals and educational institutions to ensure that Illinois has a nursing workforce necessary to meet the demands of a growing and aging population. Visit the ICN website, www.nursing.illinois.gov