



The Illinois Center for Nursing Moving Forward

The Illinois Center for Nursing's (ICN) central challenge: to optimize ICN's influence as the leader for nursing workforce development that impacts quality healthcare policy, practice and education in an era of change. Annual elections were held, and the ICN Advisory Board elected a new Chairperson, Maureen Shekleton, PhD, RN, DPNAP, FAAN and a Vice Chairperson, Donna Meyer, MSN, RN.

The ICN Board continues to focus work in the following areas:

- Increase visibility and communicate the value of the ICN
- Foster key strategic partnerships to facilitate the work of the ICN
- Collect, aggregate and analyze current and new data to better understand Illinois nursing workforce needs

The ICN Board's marketing team (C. Hovanec, M. Prater, M. Lebold) are in the process of completing the first informational brochure highlighting ICN's achievements. The team evaluated state nursing workforce center information (<http://www.nursingworkforcecenters.org/>), along with current Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) resources to create the brochure design. The brochure will be used to support ICN outreach, including providing education to the General Assembly and others. The ICN works to enhance the delivery of quality health care services by providing ongoing strategies and initiatives supporting the nursing workforce in Illinois. The ICN marketing team's next project is to review the ICN website, evaluating designs that are interactive and formatting pages to highlight recent projects.

The ICN partnership team continued outreach activities by participating in the Small Business Advocacy Council annual event: *Empowering and Connecting Small Business*. The event was held at Block 37 in Chicago on October 30, 2014. The networking event included over 100 exhibitors and standing room only education sessions where small business owners could learn practical skills to grow their business, including negotiations, marketing, employee management and more. The IDFPR/ICN information booth in the exhibit area was supported by M. Bromberg, D. Jimenez, P. Haley and L.B. Roberts. ICN answered licensure, education and other questions, along with distributing brochures and providing information to approximately 5,000 attendees.

The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC), is another partnership which ICN co-chairs with the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders (IONL) and ANA-IL. IHAC is currently focusing on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) State Implementation Program (SIP) grant activities. The 2015 SIP grant deliverables include education forums, opportunities for stakeholders to come together to discuss and share ideas for shaping the Illinois healthcare workforce of the future and to identify potential opportunities for collaboration. An adequate supply and distribution of nurses is an essential component of an effective health care system. ICN will examine the adequacy of the nursing workforce at both the state and regional levels and provide projections of the future nursing workforce under a number of scenarios.

The ICN Advisory Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of the months of February, April, June, September, October and December, and meets by videoconference in the IDFPR offices in Springfield & Chicago, 10am-2pm. The next meetings are: April 8 and June 10, 2015. ICN meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates are posted on the ICN website, tab: About the Advisory Board <http://nursing.illinois.gov/aboutboard.asp> and are also located on the Division of Professional Regulation web page, on the right side, section: Division Features: <http://www.idfpr.com/DPRdefault.asp> , tab: FY15 Committee/Board schedules.

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, <http://nursing.illinois.gov>