



The Institute of Medicine Report: *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*: recommends that nurses, nursing education programs and nursing associations prepare the nursing workforce to assume leadership positions across all levels (Recommendation #7). Above is a picture of nurse leaders supportive of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNAI) on 3/24/15.

Left to Right:

Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN, IDFP/Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) Manager

Amie Wiltse RN – past Student Nurse Association of Illinois Board member

Toni Hughart RN – past Student Nurse Association of Illinois Board member

Pamela S. Robbins, MSN, RN, ANA-Illinois Legislative Chairperson

Mildred Taylor, DNP, RNC, IDFP Board of Nursing Member



Retraining the Brain, think Health Economics when Strategizing Redesign

What skills in leadership, decision making and communication are important for being a member of a board of directors? Do nurses possess organizational knowledge that impacts quality of care? Should nurses be full partners with physicians and other health professionals in redesigning health care in the United States? These questions were the focus of the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) leadership webinars on 6/24 & 7/15/15.

Presenter and host of each webinar was Pam Robbins, MSN, RN, ANA-IL Legislative Chair and Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition Leadership Sub-Committee Chair. During the June 24 webinar, Carmen C. Hovanec, MSN, RN, Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) Board member and Director of Health Education Services at SPC Educational Solutions spoke about being recruited by the new hospital chairman to apply to serve on the hospital board of directors. She also talked about her community and professional activities, including quality improvement background, serving in leadership capacities in her children's school and on professional nurse

association boards, prior to serving on a hospital board. She discussed how she has been able to impact quality care during the last five years as a board member.

Pam Robbins' literature review included the fact that nurses remain largely overlooked for board positions, the highest level of organizational leadership. A recent survey of more than 1,000 hospital boards (AHA 2011) found that 6% of board members were nurses, while 20% were physicians. Pam challenged nurses, who have unique skills and expertise, to "lean in" and serve on a not-for-profit board. Both Pam and Carmen discussed the work needed to maintain preparedness on a board of directors. Nurses must be familiar with health policy, financing and research evidence related to the economic value of nursing.

The July 15 webinar featured Lawrence Prybil, PhD, LFACHE, Norton Professor in Healthcare Leadership, Associate Dean College of Public Health, University of Kentucky and author of *Nurses on Boards: The Time Has Come* (Nurse Leader 2014, Prybil, Dreher & Curran), Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor University of Buffalo, Specialist in informatics and health outcomes research and Pam Robbins, MSN, RN. It seems clear that nurses on boards would provide a unique and essential perspective. Nurses are relevant to healthcare reform objectives, which include the "triple aim": better health, better care and better value.

Dr. Hewner was awarded an AHRQ grant to study care transition, and shared the importance of research data to quantify the value of nursing services and the cost savings in care coordination. Dr. Hewner's described the risk management care model, which shares patient health status information among caregivers in multiple care settings. Her presentation included the benefits already seen only 6 months into the 2 year AHRQ study.

Dr. Prybil's presentation summarized several of his research studies on hospital governance, identified strategies to assist nurses to move into governance seats, shared some realities that have impeded nurse membership on boards and focused on how boards can bring about change. The review of literature 2005-2015 included nurses and physician engagement in health system governance. Because of long-standing traditions in the health field and pressures from the IRS *and* other authorities to ensure that a large majority of board members are "independent", a substantial portion of nonprofit board leaders are reluctant to appoint *any* organizational employee other than the CEO as a voting member of their health organization board. Dr. Prybil echoed what Carmen Hovanec said, that often it is someone on the board who successfully advocates to have you appointed. To view the recording: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5937351063231415298>

These webinars are part of the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) activities in support of leadership development. IHAC is an active member of the Center to Champion Nursing in America, which recently convened the Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC). NOBC is a group of 22 national nursing and other professional nursing organizations working together with the goal of improving the nation's health through the service of nurses on boards of directors. The NOBC aims to put 10,000 nurses on boards by 2020.

<http://campaignforaction.org/news/join-effort-get-10000-nurses-boards-2020>

