



The Illinois Center for Nursing Moving Forward

The ICN Advisory Board, under the leadership of Chairperson Maureen Shekleton, PhD, RN, DPNAP, FAAN and Vice Chairperson, Donna Meyer, MSN, RN, invited IDFPR Secretary Bryan A. Schneider to the April Board meeting to discuss nursing workforce development that impacts quality healthcare policy, practice and education in this era of change.

The discussion focused on the ICN strategic plan beginning with the 2014 RN Workforce Survey report which shows that the RN workforce in Illinois shares many characteristics of our national RN picture. We are an aging workforce, 40% of the respondents are ages 55-65+ and one-third of this group indicates intent to retire within the next five years. The vast majority of RN educators who responded are also concentrated in the older age group. Of particular concern are the small numbers of nurses in the younger age cohorts (25-35 years) who are entering PhD programs. There are concerns of maintaining the educational pipeline to continue to prepare the nursing workforce.

Additional discussion included a brief historical review of the creation of the IL Center for Nursing in 2007 as part of the IL Nurse Practice Act and past accomplishments. Current projects, such as the 2015 LPN workforce survey which completed data collection January 31, 2015, outreach activities in the nursing and healthcare communities, were also reviewed. Future projects, such as revision of the ICN website, distribution of the informational brochure and potential initiatives were also touched upon. 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 Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) is a 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. One project of the SIP grant is asset mapping of Advanced Practice Nurses licensed in Illinois, and once that data is obtained to hold forums presenting this information. The first forum was held March 3, 2015 in Springfield, IL – an education event for legislators. Each legislator received a folder entitled: “Nurses Role in Improving Healthcare”, which shows the many nursing roles, levels of licensure, and examples of nurses working together to improve the culture of health in IL. Thirteen nurses associations, including ICN, participated in the development of this legislative toolkit and were active participants in the March 3, 2015 event.

ICN was represented at the following events:

- 2/27/15 Chicago Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association Annual Black Nurses Day Program, Apostolic Faith Church, Chicago, IL
- 3/7/15 Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNAI) Leadership Conference, University of Illinois- Chicago College of Nursing, Chicago, IL
- 3/19/15 CAEL (Council for Adult & Experiential Learning) focus military transition to health care careers, quarterly meeting
- 3/24/15 Student Nurses Association of Illinois Political Action Day, Springfield, IL

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: September 9, 2015 and October 14, 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>



Picture on the left:
Maureen Shekleton, ICN Chairperson with IDFPR Secretary Bryan A. Schneider



Picture on the right:

L-R:

Donna Meyer, ICN Vice-Chairperson

Maureen Shekleton, ICN Chairperson,

Board members:

Carmen Hovanec

Donna Hartweg

Marsha Prater

(Not all members of the ICN Advisory Board were available for this picture)

The Illinois Center for Nursing Advisory Board Members,

- Maureen Shekleton, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chairperson
- Donna Meyer, RN, MSN, Vice-Chairperson
- Julie Bracken, MS, RN, CEN
- Kathleen Delaney PhD, PMH-NP
- Donna L. Hartweg, PhD, RN
- Corinne Haviley, RN, MSN, PhD
- Carmen C. Hovanec, MSN, RN
- Janet Krejci, PhD, RN
- Mary Lebold, EdD, RN
- Marsha A. Prater, PhD, RN
- Deborah A. Terrell, PhD, FNP-BC, RN