



July 31, 2009

ICN Nursing Initiative Status Update:

Team Illinois held a first anniversary meeting in June 2009. In addition to the 10 original Team IL members, “home-team” members from ICN, MCHC and Connect SI, Team IL now includes regional partners in Central IL. CCNA/The Center to Champion Nursing in America was launched a little more than a year ago with 18 state teams invited to participate. Illinois was one of the original state teams and has been a resource to many other states on a variety of issues. CCNA now has 30 state teams and continues to move forward in partnership with AARP in local and national efforts to expand nursing education capacity and ease the nursing shortage. CCNA has a new website, www.championnursing.org.

Action Plan Simulation Lab Asset Mapping: ICN distributed the on-line survey to Illinois Schools of Nursing and Medical Schools. Each organization, Illinois Hospital Association, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, and Illinois HomeCare Council, distributed the on-line survey to their membership. Results have been received, and will be shared with participating organizations.

Home Health: An initial stakeholder meeting to explore workforce development strategies for home health and home/community based services in Illinois was held in Chicago, June 29, 2009. Twenty nine organizations, representing government, employers, unions, and consumers participated. The meeting objectives included defining the home health and home/community based workforce, review strategies to improve service and job quality, and exploring models to develop the current and future workforce. Future meetings are anticipated.

Letter to the Illinois Congressional Delegation

The ICN BOD sent a letter to the Illinois Congressional Delegation on Monday, May 11, 2009. The letter recommended support of two federal legislative initiatives to help expand nurse education programs and bring more nurses into Illinois communities:

- 1) The Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development (NEED) Act of 2009 (S.497), sponsored by Senator Dick Durbin. This bill would expand enrollment opportunities by providing grants to nursing schools for the hiring of additional faculty, increasing recruitment programs and other infrastructure improvements.
- 2) The Nurses’ Higher Education and Loan Repayment Act of 2009 (H.R.1460), cosponsor IL Representative Phil Hare, D-17, would help attract nurse educators by establishing a federal student loan repayment program for nurses who obtain a graduate degree in nursing and agree to teach full-time at an accredited nursing school for at least four years.

ICN Board Of Directors meetings: the ICN BOD continues to meet, six meetings are planned for FY2010 beginning in September 2009. Meeting dates, agendas and Board approved minutes are available on the ICN website: www.nursing.illinois.gov.

The Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) was established in 2006 to advocate and ensure for the appropriate nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Illinois. 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. For more information, visit the ICN website, www.nursing.illinois.gov.

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