



U.S. Public Health Service Nursing
Chief Nurse Officer's Newsletter
RADM Kerry Paige Nessler
January 2011



Dear PHS Civilian, Tribal, and Commissioned Corps Nurses,

Happy New Year!

I hope that each of you enjoyed the holiday season with your family and friends, and are excited about a new year in public health. Reflecting on 2010, we can be proud of our many successes. We celebrate our achievements that promoted and advanced the public's health and Nursing in the past year. To mention a few: passage of the Affordable Care Act, release of the Future of Nursing Report, successful Nurse Recognition Day, Nurse Category Day (COA), Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Meeting, the launch of the Nurse Billet Collection Process, two Nursing All-Hands Meetings, N-PAC leadership activities, and the Nursing Category achieving Top 5 for Basic Readiness Status. I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for all of your efforts to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the Nation. Thanks to your service and care, many Americans are living healthier lifestyles, in safer environments and in healthier communities.

As we embark on a new year, we are going to build on the momentum from the past year and continue to produce superb results, carrying out the Department and Agency's missions and the Surgeon General's priorities in promoting wellness and prevention, eliminating health disparities, tobacco prevention, reducing medical errors and violence prevention.

I am very proud and enthusiastic to work alongside you in 2011. There is no doubt in my mind that all of you will continue to put your best work and leadership skills forward, whether you are in clinical, research, programmatic, regulatory, preparedness, administrative, or other valuable positions to ensure the best care for all Americans.

Past conferences & Meetings:

On 9 December 2010, I had the wonderful opportunity of accompanying our Surgeon General, VADM Regina Benjamin during her press release of the **30th SG's Report "How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease"**. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Sebelius, and the Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh, also provided a summary of significant findings within the report. Our Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Boris Lushniak, Chief of Staff RADM Chris Halliday, and OCCFM Director RADM Denise Canton also attended the press release.

Here are a few interesting highlights from the Surgeon General's report:

"The report finds that cellular damage and tissue inflammation from tobacco smoke are immediate, and that repeated exposure weakens the body's ability to health the damage."

“Tobacco smoke contains a deadly mixture of more than 7,000 chemicals and compounds of which hundreds are toxic and at least 70 cause cancer. Every exposure to these cancer-causing chemicals could damage DNA in a way that leads to cancer. Exposure to smoke also decreases the benefits of chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. Smoking causes more than 85% of lung cancers and can cause cancer almost anywhere in the body. One in three cancer deaths in the U.S. is tobacco-related.”

“The report also explains why it is so difficult to quit smoking. According to the research, cigarettes are designed for addiction. The design and contents of current tobacco products make them more attractive and addictive than ever before. Today’s cigarettes deliver nicotine more quickly and efficiently than cigarettes of many years ago.”

“Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can cause cardiovascular disease and could trigger acute cardiac events, such as heart attack.”

For more information on the report, please click on the link below:

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/tobaccosmoke/index.html>

The Federal Service Nursing Council (FNSC) met on **9 December, 2010**. The Council is composed of the Chief Nurse Officers from the U.S. Public Health Service, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Red Cross and now the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). The American Red Cross is currently accepting nominations for the 43rd Florence Nightingale Medal through 28 February 2011. The Medal is awarded to nurses or nursing aides for "exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster" or "exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education". Please visit www.redcross.org for additional information.

We discussed the important article recently published by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the nursing profession. Nurses represent the largest sector of health care workers and must be knowledgeable of the impact of the ACA on the nursing profession. Please read the article titled, “*The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*” using the following link: <http://thefutureofnursing.org/> The website also provides a list of upcoming events and other suggestions on how to implement IOM’s recommendations by clicking on the “Get Involved” tab on the homepage.

Upcoming FNSC topics include planning efforts for AMSUS 2011 and doctoral programs at USUHS. The next FNSC meeting is scheduled to be held on 17 February 2011, when the Nursing Association will provide their annual updates.

Commissioned Corps Nurse Officers:

Basic Readiness: The Basic Readiness Status Report was expected to run on **31 Dec 2010**. Please remember that the Flu Shot is a requirement this quarter to maintain readiness. MAB is currently six weeks behind schedule in processing the flu shot documentation, please be patient as they work through clearing the records. If you are facing issues, please do not hesitate to contact the following NPAC Readiness and Response Subcommittee Members:

CAPT Susan Orsega, Co-Chair
CDR George Gentile, Co-chair
CAPT Mary Rossi-Coajou
CAPT Laurie Irwin-Pinkley

sorsega@niaid.nih.gov
george.gentile@dhs.gov
mary.rossicoajou@cms.hhs.gov
lirwin-pinkley@hrsa.gov

As the largest category in the Corps, it is imperative that we set the standards for the other categories to follow. Our percentages have a great impact on the total Corps percentage meeting Basic Readiness. My expectation for FY 2011 is for us to be in the Top Five consistently. Thank you to those that maintain and retain their readiness status.

Clinical Nursing Billets Revision:

The Office of Commissioned Corps Operations began the roll-out of standardized, category-specific billets for our category in September. We have to complete the process for each the **1058 nurses** who are currently in category-specific billets. Unfortunately, as of January 2011 only **861 Nurse Officers or 81%** have started the process.

Billet transformation is being undertaken to better reflect the position responsibilities for each billet rather than officer capabilities. By identifying a billet for each unique position, the Corps will be able to more effectively monitor vacancies by position, monitor skill shortages as well as recruit to meet our ever changing mission requirements. As an officer, you will directly benefit from billets transformation. Standardized billets are more objective and clarify and specify the responsibilities for each unique position. In the near future, agencies will be able to identify who the best officers are for the best positions as qualified candidates will be directly referred.

, Nurse Officers in category-specific billets will:

- Select the billet that fits the criteria that best describes the billet that you currently occupy (Note: the billet describes the **position**—not you).
- Tailor a standardized billet by adding **position**-specific components through the use of drop-down menus
- Identify your supervisor (supervisors will identify reviewing officials). NOTE: The Bureau of Prisons has opted to make this element standardized by pre-identifying the reviewing officials.

To assist in a smooth transition:

- “Nurse Rapid Responders” have been identified and will be available to answer your questions and assist you through the process.

Indian Health Service

CAPT Celissa Stephens	celissa.stephens@ihs.hhs.gov	(301) 755-7693
CAPT Carolyn Aoyama	carolyn.aoyama@ihs.gov	(301) 443-1028
CDR Cheryl Peterson	cheryl.peterson@ihs.gov	(301) 443-1870

Bureau of Prisons

CAPT Margaret Grismer	mgrismer@bop.gov	(405) 319-7424
-----------------------	--	----------------

DHS/ Division of Immigration Health

LT Terry Smith	Terry.Smith@dhs.gov	(520) 868-7006
----------------	--	----------------

National Institutes of Health

CAPT Diane Walsh	dwalsh@cc.nih.gov	(301)-402-2363
------------------	--	----------------

All Other Agencies

CAPT Lynn Slepski Lynn.Slepski@dot.gov (202) 366-0533
CAPT (sel.) Cheryl Ann Borden cherylann.borden@tma.osd.mil (703) 681-1730

*An on-line tutorial is available at http://dcp.psc.gov/Billets_Tutorial.aspx

*FAQs are available at <http://usphs.gov/transformation/billet.aspx>

Nurses who are NOT in a category-specific billet will participate in the multidisciplinary group. You will receive a separate email when that effort begins sometime in 2011.

Chief Nurse Officer Upcoming Visits/Meetings:

The Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Meeting is scheduled to reconvene on **3 February 2011** in Conference Room D, Parklawn building, 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Cedars-Sinai Health Systems, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Burnes Bolton was the Vice Chair along with Secretary Donna Shalala, Chair, for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine. Linda will discuss the recommendations of the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report that was officially released on October 5, 2010. We will discuss the implications of the report for federal nursing and continue to establish a clear and unified vision for USPHS nursing leadership to assist in improving the health and well being of people of our Nation.

**I'm seeking two officers who are interested in volunteering their time to take notes during this meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity for officers to sit in on a high level meeting where policies, visions and the future of nursing are discussed.

Please email your CV to LTJG David Young DYoung@hrsa.gov by **14 January 2011** if you are interested in volunteering. Also, please remember to seek supervisory approval.

The next **NPAC All Hands Meeting** is set to take place on **9 February 2011**, 1300 - 1500 in the Parklawn Building, Conference Room D, Rockville, MD.

I'll be speaking at my alma mater, University of San Francisco School of Nursing, San Francisco, CA on **28 March 2011**. The topic of the presentation is "Nursing Leadership, Education and Practice to Advance Public Health in America and Abroad".

Awards Nomination

Call for MANE Awards for 2011
The United States Public Health Service (USPHS)
Professional Advisory Committee for Nursing (N-PAC)

Is seeking nominations for the Minnigerode Awards for Nursing Excellence (MANE). These awards recognize and honor contribution(s) by Commissioned Corps, Civil Service, and Tribal Direct hire nurses of outstanding and sustained nature, which have had a substantial impact on the mission of the USPHS.

MANE Awards

The MANE awards will be presented to each award recipient by the USPHS Chief Nurse Officer (CNO) at the annual Nursing Recognition Day.

Eligibility:

Department of Health and Human Services nurses (Civil Service, Commissioned Corps, or Tribal Direct Hire; Licensed Practical Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse, and Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Nurse).

Criteria:

Nominee(s) must demonstrate through innovation and creativity, outstanding nursing contributions with measurable benefits. Department of Health and Human Services nurses may be nominated for any one of the following MANE awards:

1. McLaughlin Award for Clinical Services

Exemplary leadership and skill resulting in noteworthy accomplishments as a clinician over a period of time focusing on the timely and ethical delivery of health care in a direct care setting. The provision of services improve health outcomes and/or services for patients/clients as well as enhance employee and/or patient/client relationships, productivity, quality, work methods and timeliness of health care delivery.

2. Hanzel Award for Administrative Activities

Exemplary leadership as a nurse executive resulting in noteworthy accomplishments, such as:

- Management of a health care program;
- Development or improvement of methods of delivery of services;
- Enhancement of employee and/or patient/client relationships, productivity, quality, work methods and timeliness of health care delivery;
- Organization or implementation of a program demonstrating creative utilization of resources; or
- Development, modification or implementation of health and regulatory policy.

3. Hasselmeyer Award for Research Initiatives

Exemplary leadership resulting in noteworthy accomplishments in conducting nursing research and clinical investigation which stimulates the development of new knowledge and practice in nursing and/or the health professions.

4. Petry Leone Award for Health Promotion and Education

Exemplary leadership resulting in noteworthy accomplishments in patient/client or professional education, which informs and educates consumers and/or health care practitioners about significant health related issues and promotes healthy lifestyles.

5. Gregg Group Award for Teamwork

Exemplary leadership contributions by a team of nurses resulting in noteworthy accomplishments and positive outcomes towards the attainment of PHS goals. Describe how the nominated nurse functioned as a team with other members of the group, the nature of the nursing leadership and participation, and the level of the nurse's contribution. Explain how nursing participation and input enhanced the accomplishments, outcomes and impact of the work done.

Examples include:

- Contributions to the health of individuals, families and/ or communities through initiatives implemented at the local, state and/or national level;
- Coordination or participation in the development of new program(s) and/or establishing new standards of care;

- Coordination or participation in the development and/or implementation of interdisciplinary health care initiative(s) ; and
- Contributions to interdisciplinary efforts (or the work of multiple disciplines) in achieving common health care goals.

Nomination Procedure

Anyone may nominate an eligible nurse/team for service(s) that meet the purpose for which these awards have been established. All nominations submitted should:

1. Describe the degree of impact on the public health mission of the PHS by a nurse (or team of nurses for the Gregg Group Award for Teamwork).
2. Describe how the nominee(s) exceeds normal performance requirements.
3. Submitted or endorsed by the nominee's first line supervisor.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Professional Advisory Committee for Nursing (N-PAC) Awards Subcommittee and forwarded to the CNO with recommendations. All Commissioned Officers must be OFRD qualified. Final selection and presentation will be made by the CNO.

More than one award may be given in each category, but an award in every category may not be given every year. Selection will be based solely on the submitted nominations.

Examples of templates for each award can be obtained by emailing CDR Deanna Gephart, MANE Award Team leader, at deanna.gephart@phs.dhs.gov and copied to LT Daniel Wagoner at DWagoner@bop.gov . Scoring is based on the listed criteria. Please follow the templates. Submissions must be received ELECTRONICALLY by January 14, 2010, and should be sent to CDR Gephart at deanna.gephart@phs.dhs.gov and copied to LT Daniel Wagoner DWagoner@bop.gov .

Please include contact information for the nominator and nominee. Provide current email, physical mailing address, PHS# (if nominee Commissioned Officer), and phone number of both the nominator and nominee. All submissions must be limited to two pages. *Nominations' will be forwarded to the N-PAC Repository & Mentorship Subcommittee for inclusion in the N-PAC publications database.*

Other Pertinent Information for Commissioned Corps Nurses:

COMMISSIONED CORPS ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE WORKING GROUPS

The Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) is seeking nominations of PHS officers to serve on various working groups to review the OSG Commissioned Corps Accountability Structure, released on 15 November 2010. The task of these groups will be to: evaluate the accountability structure document and provide recommendations on the necessary changes to the structure to maximize effectiveness, develop the specific roles and responsibilities of each team, branch and division, identify cross-cutting activities that could reside in more than one "box" and make recommendations on best fit and necessary partnerships, identify the need for policies to be developed and implemented to allow the organizational units to succeed in their missions and to identify staffing needs to align with the mission, roles and responsibilities of each organizational unit. It is anticipated that the groups will convene utilizing teleconferencing and in-person meetings as determined by each Chair. The groups will begin their work in early January with deliverables expected late February.

OSG requests your assistance in identifying officers who are interested in being considered for this opportunity. Qualified candidates must be basic ready, have no recent or pending adverse actions and have a strong record of outstanding performance. Supervisory approval is also required. We are seeking diverse and representative working groups comprised of existing OSG staff as well as field and headquarters personnel not

assigned to the OSG. We anticipate having the first meeting in mid-January, so we are seeking nominees for potential candidates by **Wednesday, January 5, 2011**. The following information for each nominee is requested:

Name of nominee:

Grade:

Category:

Other affiliations (i.e. MOLC, JOAG, etc.):

Office Mailing Address:

Contact Telephone:

E-mail Address:

Supervisory approval: ___Yes ___No

Please forward your nominee information to LTJG David Young, DYoung@hrsa.gov by January 4. Thank you in advance for your service and commitment to our Corps.

Again, Happy New Year to All! And, may life hold you dear throughout this wonderful 2011.

Truly,

Kerry

RADM Kerry Paige Nessler
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief Nurse Officer, USPHS
