

USPHS Chief Nurse Officer's Newsletter
RADM Kerry Paige Nessler
May 2010



U.S. Public Health Service Nursing

~ 2010 International Year of the Nurse ~

Dear PHS Civilian, Tribal, and Commissioned Corps Nurses,

Happy National Nurses Week and International Nurses Week – May 6-12! This is a special year as we mark the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's life work (1820-1910) and celebrate the International Year of the Nurse. There are many commemoratives honoring the service of nurses around world, including our own tribute to PHS nurses at the upcoming USPHS 2010 Nursing Recognition Day (NRD), May 7, at Lister Hill Center Auditorium, NIH Campus, Bethesda, Maryland. The theme of NRD is "The Role of the Public Health Nurse in the Health Policy Arena". I hope many of you are able to participate in this very exciting event and, for the nurses serving outside the D.C. area; I applaud your individual service unit celebrations.

In addition, the beautiful Commemorative Global Service Celebrating Nursing was held at the Washington National Cathedral on April 25, 2010. I was honored to represent the PHS nurses in the ceremony by 'passing of the light of knowledge - the flame of Florence Nightingale's legacy' to a student nurse from Canada. It was an amazing experience to share with quite a few other PHS nurses. The program describes the initiative, as "the 2010 International Year of the Nurse (IYNurse) a collaborative, grassroots, global initiative honoring nurses' voices, values, and wisdom – to act as catalysts for achieving a healthy world. The 2010 IYNurse is the centennial year of the death of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. To celebrate this historic milestone, the 2010 IYNurse was established to actively involve the world's nurses – estimated to be more than 15 million – in a yearlong celebration of commitment to bring health to their communities, locally and worldwide.

Health Care Reform:

From HHS Secretary Sebelius's web site: With historic health care reform (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) now law, HHS has an opportunity to improve the health of millions of Americans. HHS is the principal federal agency in charge of improving Americans' health and implementing the Affordable Care Act.

Goals of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

- **Make Coverage More Secure for Those Who Have Insurance; Extend Affordable Coverage to the Uninsured**
- **Reduce Health Care Costs while Promoting High-Value, Effective Care**
- **Emphasize Primary Care, Prevention and Wellness**
- **Improve Health Care Quality and Patient Safety**
- **Ensure Access to Quality, Culturally Competent Care for Vulnerable Populations**
- **Promote Community Living**

The President, Barack Obama, has recognized that “nurses provide extraordinary care. They’re the front lines of the health care system.” (White House Health Care Summit March 5, 2009)

There are many opportunities for nursing throughout HHS and we can expect nursing participation will only increase as plans are developed. Stay tuned...

Review of Operational Components of the Commissioned Corps:

On March 31, 2010, all officers should have received a memo from the Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh and the Surgeon General, VADM Regina Benjamin, stating that after much discussion with senior leadership in the Corps and within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), there was a need to evaluate the current organizational structure of the Commissioned Corps. The memo announced the establishment of a committee to oversee this evaluation as HHS continues to seek ways to best address the health and safety of our Nation.

The members of the Committee are:

Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health and Chairperson
VADM Regina Benjamin, Surgeon General
Mr. E.J. “Ned” Holland, Assistant Secretary for Administration
Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director, Indian Health Service
RADM Nicole Lurie, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Mr. Richard Turman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources

The Committee is staffed by RADM David Rutstein and RADM Robert Williams.

Dr. Koh and VADM Benjamin have requested that if you have suggestions on the evaluation, ideas for the Corps’ organizational structure, or ways to improve the Corps’ operational efficacy, that you submit them to 2010Corpsreview@hhs.gov. They hope to make final decisions by July 2010 and your submissions will be aggregated and used in the development of the final recommendations.

Readiness & Preparedness:

Congratulations to the PHS Commissioned Corps Nurses for reaching our goal of making the “Top-5” among all Commissioned Corps categories to reach Basic Readiness Standards! The Nurse Category Basic Readiness Status on March 31, 2010, was **94.88%**.

The next Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD) Basic Readiness Status review will be conducted on **June 30, 2010**. As announced by OFRD, on April 1, 2010 the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB) is now the sole source and principal Point of Contact for all officer immunization data. According to OFRD, “future readiness assessments beginning with the next quarterly assessment on June 30 will be based on immunization data supplied by MAB. **Self-reported data provided through the OFRD website will no longer be utilized for readiness assessment calculations.**”

OFRD – Actions to be taken:

1. Login to CCMIS (<https://dcp.psc.gov/cclogin/ccmislogin.aspx>)
2. Click the button “Click for Immunization Details”
3. Review your immunizations data which you previously provided MAB and look for any missing or incomplete immunizations with particular emphasis on immunizations that are required for basic readiness compliance and also immunizations that were self-reported but NOT documented with MAB.

If you are missing any documentation, you must provide documentation of updated immunization and/or titers to MAB via fax to 301-594-3299 or 800-733-1303.

I encourage all of you to work to maintain your own Basic Readiness qualification status and to assist and mentor your colleagues as well. . Members of the NPAC Readiness committee are here to assist you too. If you are not Basic Ready, please become “Basic” qualified. As the largest category, our goal is to lead the Commissioned Corps in readiness.

Direct Access:

Please use this link for FAQs about Direct Access

http://www.usphs.gov/transformation/self_service.aspx

Please use this link to view your user guide for Direct Access -

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/phs/PHSSelfServiceProcedureGuide.pdf>

Clinical Nursing Billets Revision:

The Indian Health Service National Combined Councils (NCC) meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona, in March 2010. The NCC is a meeting of about 200-300 IHS clinical leaders. All the clinical councils (nursing, oral health, clinical directors, chief medical officers, nutrition and others) met. During the nursing council meeting, a special working

session was lead by Ms. Sandra Haldane, IHS Chief Nurse, CAPT Byron Bailey, and CDR Amy Anderson to discuss the new Billet Collection System (BCS). Measures are being taken to ensure that the full range of responsibilities of Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), including diagnosis and prescription rights, are included in the BCS.

It is anticipated that the launch of the BCS, which will initiate the process to develop new billets for all positions currently encumbered by Corps Officers, will begin soon. The tentative launch date for the Nurse Category participation is now June/July 2010. All Nurse Officers are strongly encouraged to prepare themselves for this activity by completing the short BCS tutorial (video or text) which can be found at http://dcp.psc.gov/Billets_Tutorial.aspx. Frequently asked questions, in support of billets transformation, can be found at <http://usphs.gov/transformation/billet.aspx>.

The Federal Service Nursing Council (FSNC) met on April 7, 2010. This Council is composed of the Chief Nurse Officers from the US Public Health Service, the US Air Force, US Army, US Navy, US Department of Veterans Affairs, and the American Red Cross. The mission is to “bring together its collective leadership and experience to advance and strengthen professional nursing practice among federal agencies and the American Red Cross”. The vision statement is “United to Address Tomorrow’s Health Care Challenges Today”.

The Navy Nurses are very excited to announce that RADM Karen A. Flaherty, Director, Navy Nurse Corps, has been selected as the Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy. Previously, the Army appointed MG Patricia Horoho, Chief Army Nurse Corps, as their Deputy Surgeon General of the Army. Congratulations to these distinguished nurses for their outstanding achievements and service to our country.

I am pleased to announce that LT Jennifer Sarchet, NIH, has been selected as my new assistant to the FSNC. LT Sarchet will be replacing LCDR Jason Humbert.

Upcoming Meetings, Leadership and Outreach:

I am excited to represent the U.S. at the World Health Organization Global Forum for Government Chief Nursing Officers and Midwives (GCNOM) on May 12-13, 2010. The theme is “Nursing and Midwifery Leadership for Action in Primary Health Care and Maternal Newborn Health (Millennium Development Goal MDG 5). The GCNOMs are important national and international leaders in health systems strengthening and maternal and newborn health. The WHO Forum will link into the TRIAD meeting on May 14-15, 2010. The TRIAD meeting’s purpose is to bring together GCNOMs, national nursing associations and national regulatory authorities to collaborate action(s) nationally, regionally, and globally.

USPHS Scientific Training Symposium: “Public Health 2010: The Road Ahead” is quickly coming upon us, scheduled for May 24-27, 2010, in San Diego, California. Nurse Category Day will be held on May 25 and has a full agenda on key public health issues

ranging from “Building Healthier Communities” to “Leadership and Career Development in a Changing Healthcare Landscape”. I realize the limited number of HHS PHS nurses that have received OPDIV approval to attend and please know I appreciate your efforts to participate yet, understand the many other priorities and demands placed upon us.

PHS Nurses in the News – Please join me in congratulating our nurses for their Exceptional Leadership and Accomplishments!

CAPT Patricia Riley will be inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Nurse Midwives (FACNM). The Official Induction Ceremony will take place at the annual ACNM meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 12-16, 2010. Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives is an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession. FACNM represents the commitment of the ACNM to honor their own. In light of the vast wealth of expertise and collective wisdom represented within the body of Fellows, its mission is to serve the ACNM in a consultative and advisory capacity. Congratulations to CAPT Riley for her outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of women, infants, children and families throughout the world! She brings much credit to the USPHS family.

CDR Patrick Denis was awarded the **Florida International University (FIU) Distinguished Alumni Torch Award** at the 9th Annual Torch Awards Gala on March 6, 2010. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the university through their notable record of service and achievement in a particular discipline, organization or cause. CDR Denis was presented with the Torch Award whereby in 1972, Florida International University dedicated the Torch of knowledge, service and understanding to the memory of the late Ernest R. Graham, the forward-thinking senator who championed the University’s creation. The FIU Alumni Association established the Torch Awards some 30 years later to honor successful individuals who have had a positive impact on their profession and the community. The Alumni and faculty who are selected represent FIU’s finest – They are our Torchbearers – Leaders who impart knowledge and serve as a source of inspiration for us all. The USPHS is very proud of CDR Denis for bringing much credit to himself, his family, nursing and the Corps - Congratulations!



L>R: Unnamed recipient, Dean of FIU School of Nursing, CDR Patrick Denis and wife

CDR Carmen Maher was the USPHS first ever nominee for the **AMSUS Rising Star Award**. Even though she was not the final selectee, we are so proud of her accomplishments. The Rising Star Award is presented to an individual (O-5, E-7, or civilian equivalent and below) who early in his or her career has demonstrated success in federal healthcare delivery or management and is clearly on an ascending path to an executive leadership role. The individual must have demonstrated excellence and achievement in his or her initial assignments and have one to five years' healthcare leadership experience. Congratulations to CDR Maher for her nomination and for her outstanding service to our Nation.

LTJG David Young has been appointed as the Aide-de-Camp in my role as USPHS Chief Nurse Officer. LTJG Young can be reached at 301-443-2741, DYoung@hrsa.gov, or 5600 Fishers Lane, Parklawn Building Room 12A12, Rockville, MD 20857.

Other Pertinent Information:

Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation: Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) is a two-year effort of the IOM and RWJF to find solutions to the continuing challenges facing the nursing profession, and to build upon nursing-based solutions to improve quality and transform the way Americans receive health care. The *Initiative on the Future of Nursing* aims to create a blueprint for action over the coming years to outline nursing's critical role in delivering the care at the front lines of a redesigned system. More information on the initiative, and upcoming events and resources can be found on the World Wide Web at www.rwjf.org/ and click on nursing.

FYI: *The American Journal of Nursing* is seeking high quality writing on a variety of topics:

- Clinical best practices
- Acute and critical care shorts
- Original research
- Viewpoints
- Reflections
- Art of Nursing

Review author guidelines at www.editorialmanager.com/ajn. Prospective authors are encouraged to email query letters to Alison Bulman at alison.bulman@wolterskluwer.com

Happy Nurses Week! Truly,

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