



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



Dear PHS Civilian, Tribal, and Commissioned Corps Nurses,

Happy Holidays!

As we come to the end of another successful and fruitful year, we can reflect and be proud of our many achievements. We celebrate our accomplishments that promoted and advanced the public's health and Nursing in the past year. To mention a few: the release of the National Prevention Strategy document and the Public Health Service Nursing Strategic Plan, Nurse Recognition Day (NRD), Nurse Category Day (COA), two Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Meetings, two Nursing All-Hands Meetings, N-PAC leadership activities, and the Nursing Category maintaining Basic Readiness Status as a priority. Among many accomplishments, our most proud are that we've lead the way to reduce health disparities, provide primary health care services to the vulnerable, administer leading health programs, develop new research, promote evidence-based practice, produce and analyze data, guide regulations, and prepare and respond to national and man-made emergencies.

I am very proud and honored to have worked alongside you in 2011 in "Protecting, Promoting and Advancing the Health and Safety of our Nation". As we embark on a new year, I look forward to our journey together as we continue to enhance the Nursing Category, the Nursing profession, and the health of Americans.

Past conferences & Meetings:

Federal Nursing Service Council (FNCS)

On Friday, October 28, 2011, the **Federal Nursing Service Council (FNCS)** met for a Strategic Off-Site Meeting. The 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, the American Red Cross and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). The meeting purpose was to discuss and identify common nursing issues and challenges that exist within each service as well as the nursing profession. Processes and outcomes to tackle these issues/challenges have been recognized and leads/champions from each service will be selected. More information to volunteer as a lead/champion will be disseminated in the near future.

AMSUS 117th Annual meeting

The **117th AMSUS Annual Meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas, from 6-11 November**. VADM Benjamin, Surgeon General, RADM Boris Lushniak, Deputy Surgeon General and RADM Chris Halliday, Chief of Staff attended the meeting. VADM Benjamin presented briefly on the newly released National Prevention Strategy Document. She encouraged the other uniformed services to work together to help implement the strategy at the national, state, and local levels and recognize the importance of actively engaging all sectors of society in improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Two of our PHS Officers won the AMSUS Individual Professional Awards and was presented their awards by RADM Boris Lushniak.

LCDR Anthony Johnson was awarded the **Allied Health Professional Award**, for his proven leadership and cutting edge treatment modalities that contributed greatly to the facility mission accomplishment and population health.

LCDR Anita Glenn-Reller was awarded the **Management and Administration Award**, in recognition of her outstanding organizational and planning skills that produced validated local efficiencies and resulted in system wide implementation.

Congratulations LCDRs Johnson and Glenn-Reller!

Officer Basic Course Open House

The Open House for the **Officer Basic Course (OBC)** Class 47 was held on Thursday, 17 November 2011. There were 10 Nurse Officers who attended the Course. I had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time with them in addressing their questions and concerns.

Officer Basic Course Class 47 Graduation

This morning, I attended the **Officer Basic Course Class 47 Graduation** at Gaithersburg Holiday Inn and I had the honor of representing the Surgeon General as the guest speaker. In addition, I presented the graduates with the Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon. Congratulations to the 10 nurse officers who graduated from this class!

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings:

Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Meeting

The **Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Meeting** is set to reconvene on **9 February 2012**, 8:00 am – 12:30pm, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD. The Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership group is comprised of senior nurse leaders throughout the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), and chaired by me, Chief Nurse Officer, USPHS. The purpose of the meeting is to establish a clear and unified vision and coordinated action plan for USPHS nursing leadership to assist in improving the health and well being of our Nation.

** I am seeking 2 nurses in the DC area who are interested in volunteering their time to take notes during the meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to join us in policy and program discussions. If you are interested in volunteering, please email your CV to LT David Young dyoung@hrsa.gov by COB **18 January 2012**. Supervisory approval is required.

PHS Nursing All Hands Meeting

The next **All Hands Meeting** is set to take place on **9 February 2012**, 1400 - 1600 in the Parklawn Building, Rockville, MD. Agenda items welcome.

!!Vacancy Announcement: Director of Division of Nursing/IHS Chief Nurse - announcement closes December 13, 2011

The vacancy announcement for the Director of the Division of Nursing Services/IHS Chief Nurse within Indian Health Service at Rockville, MD is now available. This position is only open for a short time. Vacancy announcement: IHS-HQ-12-566674-ESEP/MP, Supervisory Nurse Consultant, GS-0610-15, has been posted to the IHS and USAJOBS website.

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/303677800>

<http://www.ihs.gov/Jobs/index.cfm?module=ViewPostDetail&option=ViewPostDetail&Announce=IHS-HQ-12-566674-ESEP/MP>

Spotlight on PHS Nurses and others:

Please join me in congratulating these distinguished nurses for their exceptional leadership and accomplishments!

43rd Army Surgeon General

On Dec. 7, the Army will promote Major General Patricia Horoho to the rank of Lieutenant General and swear her in as the first nurse to serve as Army Surgeon General. MG Horoho is a 1982 graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Nursing. MG Patricia Horoho is currently serving as the Chief, Army Nurse Corps from July 2008 – present. MG Horoho's previous commands include: Commander, Western Regional Medical Command, Fort Lewis, Wash., from 2008 to 2010; Commander, Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Wash., from 2008 to 2009; Commander, Walter Reed Health Care System, Washington, D.C., from 2007 to 2008; and Commander, DeWitt Health Care Network, Fort Belvoir, Va., from 2004 to 2006. MG Horoho succeeds LTG Eric Schoomaker, who has served as Army Surgeon General since December 2007. We are all so very proud of her leadership, guidance, and vision. Congratulations and Hurrah!!

Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Marilyn Tavenner, MHA, BSN, RN, was nominated by President Obama for the position of Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. As the Principal Deputy Administrator and former Acting Administrator at CMS, Marilyn oversees the integration of the insurance oversight into CMS and implemented improvements to Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ms. Tavenner is a former ICU nurse, hospital administrator, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Deputy Administrator at CMS. We offer our full support and stand ready to assist her in our efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act and improve health care across the country. Congratulations and Bravo!!

Living Legends

On October 13, 2011 at AAN's 38th Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, DC, Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw and Dr. Suzanne Feetham became distinguished Living Legends by the prestigious AAN organization for their life-long and extensive career contributions to nursing on a national scale.

Annually since 1994, the AAN has named "Living Legends," recognizing extraordinary lifetime achievement. A "Living Legend" must have been an Active or Emeritus Fellow for at least 15 years, making extraordinary and sustained contributions to nursing and health care throughout their career. They also must continue to influence the profession.

Best known for her contributions to nursing research and education as well as health policy, **Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw** has held several leadership positions during her career. In academia, she is Dean and Professor at the Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (2008 to present) and Dean/Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan, School of Nursing (1994-2006). Dr. Hinshaw was the first permanent Director of the National Center for Nursing Research and the first Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (1987 to 1994). Active in health policy, she was President of the American Academy of Nursing (1991 to 2001), on the Governing Council for the Institute of Medicine (1999 to 2002), Vice-Chair of the (2002 to 2003) study panel for Keeping Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment for Nurses (2004) and served as AAN/ANF/IOM Scholar-in-Residence (2006 to 2007).

Dr. Suzanne Feetham is a nationally and internationally recognized leader who has affected policy change through her leadership positions in academia, health systems and the Federal government (NIH & HRSA). Her leadership and scholarship has advanced science in family research and the integration of genetics and genomics in national education, practice and policy. Dr. Feetham was instrumental in building the science of pediatric nursing in the context of the family. Her seminal scholarship affected a change in the paradigm in family science from family-based deficits to family strengths. The Feetham Family Functioning Survey, developed in 1977, is used today in research of families across disciplines with known translations in 8 languages.

Fellows of the American Academy Nursing (FAAN)

The United States Public Health Service would like to announce that three of its Nurses have been selected as 2011 New Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing: 1) **CAPT Leslie Cooper**, NIH, 2) **Dr. Irene Sandvold**, HRSA, and 3) **Dr. Deborah Gardner**, HRSA. They were inducted as Fellows during the Academy's 38th Annual Meeting and Conference on October 15, 2011, in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to all 3 outstanding nurses!

News pertaining to Commissioned Corps Nurse Officers:

Basic Readiness: The Basic Readiness Status Report is expected to run on **31 Dec 2011**. Please remember that the Flu Shot is a requirement this quarter to maintain readiness. If you are facing issues, please do not hesitate to contact the following NPAC Readiness and Response Subcommittee Members:

CDR Darin Burns, Co-chair
LCDR Leorey Saligan, Co-Chair

Darin.Burns@usdoj.gov
saliganl@mail.nih.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 2012 is for us to be in the Top Five consistently. Thank you to those that maintain and retain their readiness status.

Utility Uniform: New utility uniforms for the PHS are being discussed. Currently, the woodland camouflage Battle Dress Uniform is the deployment uniform, but DoD no longer supports this uniform. A Uniform Advisory Committee was formed to make recommendations about a new utility uniform. The committee suggested that the PHS use the U.S. Coast Guard Operational Dress Uniform as the utility uniform with the appropriate PHS insignia. If the Coast Guard uniform is approved, the uniforms will have a one year phase-in period. .

Recent Reports and Programs:

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released final standards to more consistently measure race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status, thereby improving the ability to highlight disparities in health status and target interventions to reduce these disparities.

The Affordable Care Act requires new standards for the collection and reporting of health care information based on race, ethnicity, sex and primary language. Making data standards consistent will help identify the significant health differences that often exist between and within ethnic groups, particularly among Asian, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander populations.

The new data collection requirements also will improve researchers' ability to consistently monitor more dimensions of health disparities among people with disabilities. Collection of all data will take place under HHS' longstanding, strict commitment to protecting privacy.

The standards, effective Oct. 31, apply to health surveys sponsored by HHS where respondents either self-report information or a knowledgeable person responds for all members of a household. The standards will be used in all new surveys and at the time of revision to current surveys.

For more information on the final data standards, visit www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/section4302.

- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) published "Promoting Health Literacy to Encourage Prevention and Wellness - Workshop Summary," on Nov. 1, 2011. This report explores approaches to integrate health literacy

in to primary and secondary prevention. <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Promoting-Health-Literacy-to-Encourage-Prevention-and-Wellness-Workshop-Summary.aspx>

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Medicare is adding coverage for preventive services to reduce obesity.

This adds to Medicare's existing portfolio of preventive services that are now available without cost-sharing under the Affordable Care Act. It complements the Million Hearts initiative led jointly by CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with other HHS agencies, communities, health systems, nonprofit organizations, and private sector partners across the country to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes in the next five years.

More than 30 percent of men and women in the Medicare population are estimated to be obese. Obesity is directly or indirectly associated with many chronic diseases, including those that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Addressing the prevention of obesity related disparities has the potential to reduce obesity prevalence while also closing the gap on health disparities among Medicare beneficiaries.

Screening for obesity and counseling for eligible beneficiaries by primary care providers in settings such as physicians' offices are covered under this new benefit. For a beneficiary who screens positive for obesity with a body mass index of 30 or more, the benefit would include one face-to-face counseling visit each week for one month and one face-to-face counseling visit every other week for an additional five months. The beneficiary may receive one face-to-face counseling visit every month for an additional six months (for a total of 12 months of counseling) if he or she has achieved a weight reduction of at least 6.6 pounds (or 3 kilograms) during the first six months of counseling.

To read the final decision on the new national coverage determination, visit the CMS website at: <http://tinyurl.com/bp68szg>.

- Armed Forces Public Health Conference will be held **June 1-8, 2012**, in San Diego, Calif. <http://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/afphc/>

- The 2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held **June 19-21** at the University of Maryland, College Park, in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The theme for the conference is "Prevention Strategies for a Healthy Nation: Building on the Basics of Public Health."

Awards Nomination

N-PAC MANE AWARDS **Deadline: January 13, 2012**

The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Professional Advisory Committee for Nursing is seeking nominations for the Minnegerode 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 and Non-OPDIV nurses (Civil Service, Commissioned Corps, or Tribal Direct Hire; Licensed Practical Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Nurse). All nominations should cover activities which have been performed/accomplished within the past 2 years.

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.

MANE Award 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 (NPAC) 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 MANE award can be obtained at <http://phs-nurse.org/index.php/awards-sub-committee.html> on the bottom of the page. Please follow the templates. Submissions must be received ELECTRONICALLY by **January 13, 2012**, and should be sent to the MANE Awards Team Leader, **LT Daniel Wagoner** DWagoner@bop.gov .

Please include the Cover Sheet for MANE Award Nominations, the nomination, and a blinded copy. The blinded copy needs to have ALL identifying information removed. NO nomination will be scored without the Cover Sheet/blinded copy. All submissions must be limited to two pages. *Nominations' will be forwarded to the NPAC Repository & Mentorship Subcommittee for inclusion in the NPAC publications database.*

Recent Retirements

Congratulations to CAPT Joyce Prince, Director, Division of Commissioned Corps Assignments, on her retirement after a stellar 20 year career. She had a glorious retirement ceremony on 21 October at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington, DC. I wish her all the best on future endeavors and fair winds and following seas!

Obituary



Betty Carol Milligan

July 17, 1928 - October 25, 2011

Betty "Carol" Kendrick Milligan, age 83, passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday, October 25, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was born July 17, 1928 in Granger, Salt Lake

Valley, Utah to Thomas H. and Nettie May Pitts. Carol married Dr. Paul R. Milligan on April 7, 1950 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She lived a full and adventurous life. She enjoyed playing games, especially Bridge, watching game shows, traveling around the world, reading and finding great joy in spending time with her family. She graduated from the School of Nursing at the University of Utah in June 1968. She served several terms as the secretary of the Utah State Medical Auxiliary and 4 years as a member of the Primary Children's Hospital Board of Trustees. She was the Chief of Nurse Midwifery for the entire USA for Indian Health Services from '76-93.

Ms. Milligan was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She served as a temple worker in the Albuquerque Temple for several years and as a faithful visiting teacher, writing letters for up to 125 women per month. She was a very generous and charitable person. She is survived by her daughter Caryn (David) Clark, Patty (Brent) Ellsworth, Shauna Stephenson, 15 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. Her husband Paul, and daughter, Wendy Kesselring preceded her in death. She was a dedicated and wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 11 AM at Garner Funeral Home, 1001 11th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to LDS Humanitarian Fund or Heifer International.

Again, Happy Holidays to All! And, may life hold you dear throughout 2011 and 2012.

Truly,

Kerry

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

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