



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



Dear PHS Civilian, Tribal, and Commissioned Corps Nurses,

As the fall season approaches and the weather begins to change, there are also some notable movements within the Commissioned Corps and the Nursing Category. Let's begin by congratulating RADM Scott Giberson, Chief Professional Officer of the Pharmacy Category. He has been appointed as the Director of the newly established Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR). I am honored to call RADM Giberson a colleague and friend of mine and have full confidence in his abilities to advance the Commissioned Corps' efficiency, effectiveness and performance. I also know he can count on us, the nurses, to provide him with our full support and backing.

Within the Nursing Category, there has been a transition of leadership as well. I want to thank CDR Thomas Pryor, FY2011 NPAC Chair, for leading several successful events in FY 2011. He completed his term on September 30, 2011. I also want to acknowledge and thank LCDR Anitra Johnson, FY 2011 NPAC Executive Secretary, for her outstanding leadership and organizational skills. CAPT Susan Orsega, FY 2012 NPAC Chair, assumed leadership of the NPAC starting on October 1, 2011 along with CDR Serina Hunter-Thomas, the new FY 2012 NPAC Executive Secretary. As I embark on my third year as Chief Nurse Officer, I look forward to working closely with CAPT Orsega, CDR Hunter-Thomas, and the full NPAC Committee.

Past Visits, Conferences & Meetings:

The Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Network met on Thursday, September 15, 2011, 8:30 am – 12:30pm, Tower Building. The group is comprised of senior nurse leaders throughout the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). The purpose of the meeting is to network, establish a clear and unified vision and coordinated action plan for USPHS nursing leadership to assist in improving the health and well being of people in our Nation. There were over 25 participants from all walks of PHS. RADM Boris Lushniak, Deputy Surgeon General, Dr. Mary Beth Bigley, DrPH, MSN, ANP, Acting Director, Office of Science and Communications, Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), Cathy Rick, RN NEA-BC, FAAN, FACHE, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, CAPT Sylvia Trent-Adams, Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator of HAB, HRSA, and CAPT Susan Orsega, Senior Program Management Consultant Officer, NIH, were our guest speakers.

RADM Lushniak commended the group for convening the PHS nurse leaders of each PHS Department, STDIV, and OPDIV to communicate, network, and collaborate in improving the health and safety of the Nation. He emphasized nursing's unique role in contributing to prevention efforts and PHS leadership. Dr. Mary Beth Bigley presented on the recently released National Prevention Strategy report and Ms. Cathy Rick presented the conceptual model for a potential Federal Taskforce on the Future of Nursing report. Action Coalitions are the driving force of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action* (CFA), a broad, national effort to implement the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) blueprint for ensuring that all Americans have access to high quality, patient-centered health care. CAPT Trent-Adams reviewed the Draft Strategic Plan for our Federal Public Health Nurse Leadership Network and received great comments, suggestions, and support. CAPT Orsega reviewed the

Federal Public Health Service Nursing Strategic Plan and its relationship to the Affordable Care Act, National Prevention Strategy, HHS Strategic Plan, Healthy People 2020, SG and CNO Priorities, the IOM Future of Nursing Report, and other key nursing documents.

Thanks to LCDR Margaret Bevans and LCDR Stefanie Glenn for a job well done in volunteering to record and write meeting notes.

“Forward Thinking” training seminar was held on September 17-18, 2011, Tower Building. RADM Newton Kendig, Assistant Director, Health Services Division and Medical Director Federal Bureau of Prisons, led a 1 ½ day seminar to assist nurses conceptualize on how best to meet the challenges of the future based on validated health care trends. The “Forward Thinking” process is one potential tool for the nurse category to embrace and assist in our strategic planning. A summary of ideas will be presented and discussed during an upcoming NPAC meeting. Thanks to RADM Kendig for his time and commitment to nursing, public health, and our future generations. And, thank you to CDR Thomas Pryor for spearheading this important event.

Workgroups

Federal Public Health Service Nursing Strategic Plan

On Thursday, April 21, 2011, the Task Force charged with its development first convened to begin formulating a *Federal PHS Nursing Strategic Plan*. The *Strategic Plan* is being developed to guide our collective plans and activities to better the health status of Americans over the next 5 years. There are currently about 38 Nurses (Commissioned Corps, Civil Service, and Tribal) from various agencies participating on this Task Force.

Three additional teams will continue to develop and advance the *Strategic Plan* through to implementation:

- The *Goals and Objective Team* uses input from a prioritization exercise held last month, along with core references such as the *Prevention Strategy*, *HHS Strategic Plan*, *Healthy People 2020*, and *Surgeon General Priorities* to inform and develop the *Federal PHS Nursing Strategic Plan* goals and objectives.
- The *Implementation Team* will be formed to help execute the *Strategic Plan*. Implementation plans are scheduled to begin on October 2011, the new fiscal year. The NPAC will provide leadership and assistance in its implementation.
- The *Communications Team* will be tasked with communicating the priorities and unifying our actions and impact on assisting the Department’s mission. We aim to maximize nursing’s capability as a team to best utilize and leverage our expertise in prevention of disease and promotion of health.

The first *Draft Strategic Plan (Vision, Mission, Values, Goals)* document has been finalized and circulated to the broader PHS Nursing community for review and input. After a 2-week comment period from all the nurses, we will seek concurrence from the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG). Communication efforts will begin after we receive OSG approval. Please send your comments to the draft plan in [track changes](#) to LT Dave Young, DYoung@hrsa.gov, by **October 17, 2011**.

Kudos and many warm thanks to CAPT Susan Orsega who has served as my Co-Chair, to CDR Veronica Gordon who has served as our Recorder, and to all the members of the Task Force that have continued to put in many hours in the conceptual development of our Plan.

Recent Reports and Programs:

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) published "Occupational Health Nurses and Respiratory Protection: Improving Education and Training - Letter Report," on Aug. 2, 2011. This report examines existing respiratory protection curricula in occupational health nursing programs and made recommendations to improve the education and training of OHNs. The IOM identified essential content that should be included in education and training programs for OHNs and the best approaches to teaching that content.
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/RespiratoryProtectionNurses.aspx>

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) 25th Anniversary Concluding Scientific Symposium: "Bringing Science to Life: A Healthier Tomorrow" will be held on Oct 13, 2011, in Bethesda, MD. Please click on the link for more information, <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/25years/ahhealthiertomorrow.htm>

The American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Exposition will be held on Oct 29 – Nov 2, 2011 in Washington DC. Please click on the link for more information, <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/>

The 117th AMSUS Annual Meeting will be held Nov 6-9, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. Please click on the link for more information, <http://www.amsus.org/index.php/annual-meeting>

Spotlight on PHS Nurses and Others

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

Congratulations! Dean Hinshaw achieves Academy of Nursing 'Legend' status



USUHS Graduate School of Nursing Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw, RN, PhD, has been selected as a "Living Legend" by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). Dr. Hinshaw will be formally inducted on October 15, 2011 at the AAN's 38th Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, DC. 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. Dr. Hinshaw has been a leader in the Academy since her initial induction as an AAN Fellow in 1978. She was elected to serve as AAN President in 2001.

LCDR Leorey Saligan, PhD, RN, CRNP, has been awarded a tenure-track position in the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), National Institutes of Health (NIH). A nurse scientist, Dr. Saligan works to improve both quality of life and therapeutic outcomes for patients suffering from fatigue. Dr. Saligan and his work are profiled on the newly developed website for the NIH Intramural Research Program: <http://irp.nih.gov/our-research/research-in-action/energized-by-fatigue> as well as NINR's IRP webpage: http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DivisionofIntramuralResearch/Leo_Award.htm.

Retirements

CAPT Joyce Prince, Director, Division of Commissioned Corps Assignments, announced her retirement ceremony to take place on Friday, October 21, 2011, from 2:00-4:00 pm EDT at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington, DC. I want to congratulate her on her retirement after a stellar 25 year career. She has brought honor to our Corps and provided outstanding nursing service to our Nation. I wish her all the best on future endeavors and fair winds and following seas!

PHS Nurses - Thank You for Your Service to the Nation! Your professionalism, wisdom and compassion are genuinely valued and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kerry

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