Nursing Bill Update—Act Now

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN

The One Voice One Plan initiative has taken life in a bill entitled the Critical Needs Nursing Initiative (S.657). It has successfully made its way through both the South Carolina House and Senate. However, we hear that Governor Sanford is likely to veto the bill because two amendments, unrelated to the bill, were adopted (‘bob-tailing’). NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. Please call the Governor’s office at (803) 734-2100 and convey the importance of the Nursing Initiative!

The ‘ask’ is that the Governor NOT veto the bill. When you call, leave a brief message with the ‘ask’ along with your name, telephone number and nursing connection to the bill.

If the bill is vetoed by the Governor, we will then need to lobby the legislature to overturn his veto. Stay tuned for more alerts as the days unfold.

Meanwhile I have given some thought to what I’ve learned in introducing this much needed piece of legislation.

- I realized that there is true strength in nursing unity and numbers. Bringing nurse leaders together from across the state to jointly craft this plan was masterful, and clearly indicates the potential power we have as a profession when we all work together.
- I learned that collaboration is key. Nursing worked closely with the South Carolina Hospital Association who marshaled the wording of the bill and lobbied tirelessly for its passage. We could not have done it without them.
- I saw the value of compromise. In the process of writing the actual bill we had to compromise on some minor aspects of the overall plan. But a collegial give-and-take did create a final product that was endorsed by both legislative houses.
The Medicaid Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians Assistants Access Act of 2007 has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. Please begin asking your state representatives to sign-up as co-sponsors for this bill (HR 2066). It is particularly important that they know how not being a primary care provider in Medicaid Managed Care Programs negatively affects care of traditional Medicaid patients and SCHIP recipients.

This bill will assist nurse practitioners who are having major difficulties being placed on Medicaid Managed Care and SCHIP provider panels. While nurse practitioners are, and have been, recognized as providers in the fee for service portions of the Medicaid program, problems are being encountered with obtaining the same recognition in our Medicaid managed care and SCHIP programs. As a result patients have reduced access to healthcare and often are forced to delay care or seek care in more expensive emergency rooms.

It is also important for everyone to ask your state senators, Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint, to sign-up as co-sponsors for S-59 - Medicaid Advanced Practice Nurses and Physicians Assistants Access Act of 2007, for the same reasons.

Fact sheets and sample letters are available on the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Web site at www.aanp.org.

Contact your congressperson and/or senator from their Web page listed below.

**US House**
- J. Gresham Barrett - www.house.gov/barrett
- John Spratt - www.house.gov/spratt

**US Senate**
- Jim DeMint - http://demint.senate.gov

Now we are nearing the end of this road, hoping for success. But whatever the outcome we have learned some valuable lessons that will stand us in good stead in the days ahead...Gail

All MUSC University faculty and staff must complete the mandatory annual University compliance training in the CATTS system prior to June 30, 2007.

- Code of Conduct
- 2007 HIPAA & Information Security
- Anti-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment

Login to the CATTS system at www.educode.com/musc to complete your training modules.

If you experience problems, contact Cheryl Brown at 792-4620 and she will assist you.

This spring, the College of Nursing piloted E-Value, the new campus-wide evaluation software. E-Value was used to evaluate selected baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral courses.

E-Value will be used on a full-time basis starting this summer, in conjunction with newly drafted evaluation items, to more accurately and effectively evaluate all College of Nursing courses.
Congratulations to Dr. Lynne Nemeth who had two manuscripts accepted this month: “Achievable Benchmarks of Care for Primary Care Quality Indicators in a Practice-Based Research Network” was accepted for publication by the *American Journal of Medical Quality, and Disease Management* and “Strategies to Accelerate Translation of Research into Primary Care within Practices Using Electronic Medical Records” was accepted by the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

Lynne was also invited to speak at the Academy Health 2007 Annual Research Meeting on June 4 at Walt Disney World’s Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando. Her session is titled, “Quality Improvement Research Methods,” and will be included in the Methods Workshop. Congratulations to Lynne for continuing to disseminate her methods to this interprofessional community!

Best wishes to Dr. Charlene Pope who resubmitted her G08 proposal, “Carolina Conversations: A Multiethnic Digital Corpus of Speech for Older Persons," to the National Library of Medicine/ National Institutes of Health for $440,359. Dr. Boyd Davis, adjunct faculty at the College of Nursing, is a Co-Investigator.

Congratulations to Dr. Elaine Amella who was named Pace University, Leinhard School of Nursing’s inaugural Dean’s Alumni/ae Award for Outstanding Professional Contribution. Elaine graduated with both her A.A.S. and B.S.N. from Pace University located in Pleasantville and New York City, New York.

“*If you want to increase your success rate, double your failure rate.*”

- Thomas Watson, Sr., founder of IBM
Spring 2007 Graduation

On May 18, MUSC graduated around 700 students from its six colleges. The College of Nursing handed out 47 Bachelor of Science degrees, 33 Master of Science degrees, and two doctoral degrees. Way to go Class of 2007!
**Hispanic Health Initiative**

The Hispanic Health Initiative has a graduate Master of Public Health student from the University of Michigan coming to work with us this summer. Melissa Cox will be working on John’s Island on various projects. Her focus will be reproductive health issues on John’s Island and improving health/health care in adolescents. If you see her around the building, please welcome her.

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**Educational IT Webcasts**

The Innovate-Live Seminar Series is a series of webcasts produced by ULiveandLearn, that cover timely issues that arise when educators attempt to use information technology tools to enhance the educational process.

A few of the 2007 spring seminar series webcasts are listed below. If you would like to participate, please go to www.uliveandlearn.com/PortalInnovate/ and either login if you have participated in a previous Innovate-Live webcast or take a minute to register if you haven’t. (Registration is free.)

June 5, 2007, 3:00 PM EST  
*A Futures Approach to Organizational and Faculty Development*

June 6, 2007, 4:00 PM EST  
*e-Portfolios: New Opportunities for a Timeless Instructional Strategy?*

June 7, 2007, 4:00 PM EST  
*Engaging Students*

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**Phyllis Bonham** will attend the 39th Annual Conference of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society (WOCN) June 8 - 13 in Salt Lake City and will be installed as the President-Elect of the National Organization of the WOCN on June 10. Way to go, Phyllis!

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On May 24, The Wound Care Education Program hosted a luncheon meeting and education program (Arterial Ulcers: Supporting Practice Through Research”) at the College of Nursing for the Clinical Nurse Preceptors of the Wound Care Specialty Course. Fourteen preceptors representing 11 clinical facilities attended.

The Wound Program is currently accepting applications for the two Fall Wound Courses listed below.

- August 11 - September 1
- October 13 - November 3

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**Sharon Bond** served as a faculty member at a conference titled, “Comprehensive Colposcopy” which was held in Charlotte, NC May 17 - 20. It was attended by nearly 250 physicians, advanced practice nurses and physician assistants.

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**Jason Roberson** will be leaving us June 10th for a position at the MUSC Medical Center. He will be the Coordinator of Interpreter Services and Cultural Competency. We wish Jason well, and we look forward to working with him in his new role.
Teresa Kelechi and John Welton have been confirmed as Fellows of the MUSC Trustees Leadership Academy. The Trustees Academy was initiated last year for the purpose of providing opportunities for growth and leadership enrichment to promising MUSC employees. Congratulations to you both. They join Nancy Duffy and Lynn Shull who were both inducted last year.

Also, John Welton has been promoted to Associate Professor on the Educator/Research Track effective July 1. Congratulations.

Nancy Duffy has been accepted to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Rush University Medical Center. Her studies will begin in Winter 2008. Way to go, Nancy.

Peggy Spain has accepted the position of ANP/FNP Track Coordinator. She will be an excellent administrator for these tracks.

Martina Mueller will be joining us as an Assistant Professor on the Educator/Researcher track beginning July 1st.

Phyllis Bonham has been elected to the position of President-Elect for the National Organization of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society (WOCN). The two-year term begins June 2007 and will assume the Presidency for two years.

Claire DeCristofaro has been accepted as a presenter at the prestigious Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning for November regarding her work on our course quality assessment tool.

STAFF NEWS

Dusti Annan will be leaving the College of Nursing at the end of the month, however, you may still see her on campus as she has accepted a faculty position at the College of Health Professions as director of educational technology. Her last day at CON will be June 22.

Sock Throw Down

Look out! Cathy Helms and Marilyn King are throwing down...socks that is. Second semester students have challenged third semester students to a Sock Throw Down to benefit the Charleston Mental Health Center. They are competing for the most socks collected for males and females ranging in the ages of 4-years to adult. For more information, email Cathy at helmsc@musc.edu.
STUDENTS NEWS

Adam Choate, a May '07 BSN graduate, spent a week along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi helping build a new home for a family who was a victim of Hurricane Katrina. Adam, along with members from St. Andrews in Mount Pleasant, helped the Mississippi family of three move from a FEMA trailer to a newly constructed home that was built in just two weeks. Nice work, Adam.

Congratulations to Elizabeth (Lisa) Rice who won this year’s Global Health Conference scholarship. As part of Lisa’s award, her registration and travel expenses were paid for her to attend the Global Health Council’s 34th Annual International Conference in Washington, DC May 29 - June 1. When Lisa returns she will be sharing her experience at brown bag lunch. Date and time to be announced.

HEALTH 1ST

Health 1st is offering two classes in June that are sponsored by Prevention Partners. The registration deadline for both classes is June 11. Prevention Partners requires a minimum of 30 registrations by this date or class will be canceled.

JUNE 21

Healthier Lifestyles- this class gives participants a very basic overview about important components of a healthy lifestyle. Go to http://www.musc.edu/medcenter/health1st/source/HealthierLifestyleFlyerforEmployees062107.pdf to obtain a registration form.

JUNE 27

Caregivers Planning Seminar- this seminar is presented by a geriatric care specialist and geriatric counselor. It covers topics such as stresses of caregiving, types of assessments, types of care services, legal issues, and end of life choices. Go to http://www.musc.edu/medcenter/health1st/source/Caregivers%20flyer%20062707.pdf to obtain a registration form.

Check out our website at www.musc.edu/medcenter/health1st for healthy recipes, news on upcoming events, information on wellness teams and much more!
Healthy Women = Empowered Women
A Public Forum

Saturday, November 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Trident Technical College, The College Center
7000 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29406

Explore how public policy addresses health care disparities and inequalities among women in South Carolina and discover what you can do in your community to ensure that all women have access to a full range of reproductive health information and services.

For more information about the forum, sponsorships or exhibit space, call Catherine Malloy at 843-886-3171 or e-mail vote@http://charleston.sc.lwv.org

Beginning August 1, register online at http://charleston.sc.lwv.org.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of the Charleston area with funding from New Morning Foundation, LWV Education Fund and the Millenium Campaign. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues through education and advocacy.