

The ARNA Committee for Health Policy
Board Report October 17, 2016

The ARNA Committee for Health Policy continues preparations for the 2017 legislative session. During the 3rd quarter of 2016, we worked with our lobbyists at the Catlett Law Firm, and engaged in the following activities:

Pipere Brettell, Mary Garnica and Ambre' Pownall continue to be involved with development of the new Arkansas Center for Nursing. We continue to lead the Practice Pillar and to set goals related to removal of practice barriers for APRNs. Ambre' Pownall holds the position on the Board of Directors of the new ACN, in 2017.

We have had a monthly meeting since June 2016 of the Arkansas Nursing Policy "Roundtable" to further develop a nursing legislative agenda for 2017. These meetings have been held at the Catlett Law Firm with call in available. Representatives from other statewide nursing groups participate, including the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association, NAPNAP, and the Arkansas Action Coalition. We have added the AR CRNAs and the AR Chapter of CNMs. A legislative agenda for 2017 includes 4 items: Removal of the collaborative practice agreement (CPA), Full Schedule II prescribing, PCP recognition, and Global Signature Authority. We have 4 working groups from this Roundtable and all are actively engaged in preparing for the 2016 Legislative session.

Pipere Brettell continues to attend meetings of the Joint Public Health Committee of the Arkansas Legislature. Pipere is also keeping the committee informed of legislators who have been supportive of nursing issues as we move into the fall 2017 elections. On October 10, four representatives from the Nursing Policy Roundtable attended the Joint Public Health meeting of the Legislature ready to testify on behalf of 4 Interim Study Proposals (ISPs) that we have worked with our lobbyists to prepare. Those who came and testified were: Mary Garnica, (ARNA) Karen Reynolds, (ANPA), LaShonda Traylor, (ANPA) and Teresa Whited (NAPNAP). The ISPs correspond with the 4 agenda items noted. We have four bill sponsors lined up for 2017: Rep. Kim Hammer: Schedule II; Rep. Mary Bentley: Global Signature; Rep. Dan Sullivan: PCP recognition; Rep. Karilyn Brown, Removal of the Collaborative Practice Agreement.

Working Groups: Cheryl Perry continued her work as the ARNA Grassroots coordinator. In early October she conducted a test run of the rapid response network, and received over 300 responses from nurses across the state. Ambre' Pownall continues to lead work of the Advocacy team to locate and assist nurses with legislator outreach and testimony. Mary Garnica continues to lead the work on talking points and testimony as part of "crafting the message," and Pipere Brettell continues to network with legislators and new stakeholder partners.

The ARNA Committee for Health Policy has put together a 2 hour Health Policy offering for the ARNA Convention, Oct. 27, 2016. Dr. David Mitchell, PhD in Economics with UCA AR Center for Research in Economics will present his work on Nurse Practitioners and Access to health care. Following his presentation, a panel presentation of representatives from the Nursing Policy Roundtable will discuss how full practice authority would improve access to care in Arkansas.

Respectfully,

Mary Garnica, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Co-Chair ARNA Committee for Health Policy