



ACNL in Action:

Nurse Leaders Making a Difference!

Association of California Nurse Leaders

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The 2014 Board held their first face-to-face meeting since the 2014 Annual Program in Monterey on Friday April 11, 2014. The following represents a brief overview of the board's activities.

Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act of 2014

Anne McLeod, SR, Vice President from the California Hospital Association (CHA) attended the meeting with the goal of gaining ACNL's support of the November ballot Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act of 2014 initiative.

California voters will have the chance this fall to approve a common sense solution that allows the state to capture \$3 billion a year in new federal matching funds. That money must be used to provide health care services to children and to boost the Medi-Cal funding needed to take care of California's low income and elderly residents. The Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act will be an important means of caring for the state's most vulnerable population. The Act ensures that funding is available to protect access to emergency rooms and other health care needs. Without these funds, those with private insurance would have to pay the cost through higher premiums.

California is in a period of uncertainty because of HCR. The Act ensures that new federal matching funds obtained by the state are used for those who truly need it. The Act holds the Legislature accountable and prohibits government, bureaucrats, or special interest groups from spending the money on programs other than health care.

The ACNL Board voted to join CHA and hospitals across California as supporters of Californians United for MEDI-CAL Funding and Accountability. For more information on this important initiative please visit www.protectmedicalfunding.org.

BRN: Update on BreEZe System

Louise Bailey, BRN executive officer, and the staff at the BRN have continued to work on strategies to resolve the backlog of applications and renewals since the implementation of BreEZe. Ms. Bailey reported that the interface issues between the new computer systems have been resolved. Additional staff from within the Department of Consumer Affairs continues to assist the Board staff with the backlog of applications and renewals.

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In January, ACNL sent letters to the Secretary of Health Services, Director of Consumer Affairs and Governor Jerry Brown pointing out that as leaders, we understand the need to capitalize on technology to improve systems and processes. Unfortunately, starting this process with the largest of the healing art boards has been problematic. We also shared our disappointment that the Department of Consumer Affairs failed to listen to nurse leaders across the state when we asked that the process be vetted with a smaller board, perhaps one that would not impact such a large number of practitioners and communities. While our voice was not heard before the implementation it is now! Since the implementation of BreZE we have intervened on behalf of ACNL members and CNSA students. We have and will continue to work with the BRN, CHA and CACN to not only rectify this situation but to put new strategies in place to streamline the process.

Nurse Licensure Compact

California is not part of the Nurse Licensure Compact which was adopted first by Arkansas and Utah in 1999. Today approximately 24 states are participating in the Nurse Licensure Compact. Over the past few months there has been a ground swell of interest in this topic. **ACNL does not have an official position on the compact.** The topic of the compact has been placed on the Quad Council agenda to begin discussing this important topic. The Quad Council is comprised of ACNL, the American Nurses Association\California, California Association of Colleges of Nurses and California Organization of Associate Degree Nursing Directors.

It is imperative that we view this issue from all sides – economic, enforcement and public safety. We know that 5 states in the compact do not require fingerprinting and background checks for their licensees. We also know that education and practice standards vary from state to state with California establishing some of the highest standards for RN licensure in the country.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has recently updated their information on this topic. While the National Council supports the program it is an individual states responsibility to establish the criteria and regulations for the practice of nursing. We encourage you to visit www.NCSBN.org to learn more about the compact. We hope that you will use your voice to begin discussing this important issue at your chapter and facility.

Member Services

Anitra Williams, board liaison to Member Services, provided the board with an overview of the feedback from the Annual Program Generation X and Y Focus Groups. After discussion the board asked that Anitra formulate a taskforce to include members of the focus groups to discuss and develop membership criteria for emerging nurse leaders.

Feedback from the Chapter Leaders Focus Group has also been discussed with the Member Services Committee. The committee is currently making changes to the Chapter Tool Kit and planning a call with the Chapter Leaders for May.

Philanthropic

Over the last year members of the Philanthropic Committee have been investigating the feasibility of expanding ACNL's Scholarship and Philanthropic Program. Bev Quay and Patricia McFarland provided an overview of the Committee's recommendations at the Joint Board and Chapter Leader Meeting in February. At the April 11th meeting a formal RFP was presented and approved. Over the next few weeks ACNL will be distributing the RFP to philanthropic professionals interested in working with ACNL to develop a Strategic Philanthropic Plan.

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Finance Committee

In 2013 the Board began discussing the current services and deliverables from our investment team at Morgan Stanley. It was determined that ACNL needed a more hands on relationship with our financial advisors.

In early 2014 the Executive Board invited past presidents and treasurers Judy Husted and Stephanie Mearns to join the Executive Board in discussing financial investment strategies for ACNL. The work of this group was presented to the Board at the April 11th meeting. The board approved the hiring of an Independent Certified Financial Councilor to advise the board on investment strategies for the short and long term. With over \$800,000 in our current Smith Barney Account the board believes we must review and update our investment strategies in 2014.

Other Announcements

Educational Cruise: The fall educational cruise originally planned for September has been rescheduled and will occur in the spring of 2015. We are currently working with members to determine the best dates. Members attending the Annual Program clearly told the Board that they supported the cruise concept and wanted to sail up the coast to Canada.

Annual Program – The 2015 Annual Program will be held at the Disneyland Hotel and Resort February 2 to 5th. The Annual Program Committee is already working to make this "an out of the park" experience for all.

Website: Over the next few weeks ACNL will be unveiling a new website. Members of the Member Services and Communication/Voice Committee are providing consultation to staff as we transition to an enhanced platform. Brenda Brozek, ACNL's Communications Consultant, is providing the leadership for this important project.