



# ACNL in Action:

## *Nurse Leaders Making a Difference!*

Association of California Nurse Leaders

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- CACN Spring Conference
- ACNL's Foundations for Leadership Excellence
- QSEN National Conference

### **BRN Sunset Hearing and SB 466**

On March 23, ACNL President Susan Herman and CEO Patricia McFarland attended the Joint Legislative Oversight Hearing in Sacramento to determine if the Board of Registered Nursing, along with two other Boards, should sunset at the end of 2015. The Oversight Committee is composed of members from the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions. Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblymember Susan Bonilla co-chaired the meeting.

The Oversight Hearing agenda was essentially comprised of four components: an update by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) on the BreEZe Computer System and Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI), review of the Board of Registered Nursing, review of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, and review of the Dental Board.

#### **Department of Consumer Affairs - BreEZe**

State Auditor, Elaine Howle, opened the meeting with a summary of the auditor's report of the BreEZe system. Ms. Howle summarized her findings around several key issues: failure to plan, failure to provide adequate oversight, failure to control cost and failure to approve a contract based on the State of California's requirements and standards. She then explained in detail how DCA and Caltech, the State's IT department, failed on repeated occasions to rectify and resolve issues related to implementation of the first phase of BreEZe. Failure to communicate effectively between and within departments was yet another significant factor raised by the auditor.

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Following Ms. Howle's presentation, the Directors of DCA and Caltech addressed the committee with their responses to the report and described strategies they have put in place since the initial phase of BreEZe implementation. The state had initially anticipated that the implementation of BreEZe would cost \$28 million. In January, the Department of Finance notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee that the cost of the project would be \$95.4 million. Since the BRN is a self-funded department, the BRN's "share" of this \$95.4 million would be passed on to us – licensed nurses and continuing education providers.

It was unfortunate that the leadership of DCA and Caltech failed to take responsibility for the implementation and functionality of BreEZe. It was also unfortunate that the public, licensees, and representatives from schools of nursing and professional associations were not allowed to respond or provide comments about BreEZe during this hearing.

ACNL has been involved in ongoing communications with BRN staff about BreEZe since the initial implementation of this system. ACNL was present at Board meetings and the Joint Audit Committee Hearing where we were allowed to provide testimony on BreEZe.

### **Department of Consumer Affairs – Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative**

The Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI) was created in 2010 as a result of pressure from the media and legislature. Prior to implementation of CPEI, the Board of Nursing could take as long as three years before disciplinary action was taken against a licensee. CPEI was adopted to reduce the average length of time for disciplinary actions from 3 years to 12 months. However, the 12 month target has not yet been reached. Again there was no allotted time during the hearing for public comments on the Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative. However, the legislative staff recommended a complete and thorough analysis of the program to determine if it should continue.

### **Board of Registered Nursing – Sunset Review and SB 466**

In existence since 1905, the BRN ensures public protection by maintaining a competent registered nurse workforce in California through its licensing, enforcement, licensee and administrative services, and nursing education programs. The last sunset review was in 2010. The BRN began their current Sunset Review process in the fall of 2014. Sunset Review is an assessment to determine if the state agency, in this case the BRN, is necessary, effective and efficient. Sunset review is conducted pursuant to a "sunset date" – an expiration date for the agency. The BRN will sunset on January 1, 2016 unless the legislature introduces a bill to extend the sunset date.

Staff and board members from the BRN prepared a detailed report that was submitted to the legislature in November. The report is posted on the BRN website and has been available to the public for some time. Use the link at the end of this article to access the full report.

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Once submitted, the *BRN Sunset Review Report* was evaluated in depth by legislative staff. Their review resulted in 22 recommendations that the BRN staff and board members were expected to address prior to and during the Joint Committee Hearing. The final recommendation in the legislative staff report proposed that the Board of Registered Nursing should sunset. Clearly this is not in the best interest of our profession or the people of California. Fortunately Senator Hill agreed, and introduced SB 466 approximately one week after the hearing.

Mary Bittner, Chair of ACNL's Communication and Voice Committee, and her team members reviewed the Sunset Report and drafted a summary that was approved by the ACNL Board. This summary was used by Patricia McFarland as she prepared verbal testimony at the March 23 hearing. (Use the links below to access the Voice Committee's summary and the talking points prepared for testimony). Over the next few weeks, members of the Voice and Health Policy Committees will help draft talking points for members to use as they discuss SB 466 with their elected state officials.

At this point, we strongly encourage ACNL members to review the Sunset Report and the Joint Committee's Report.

[BRN Sunset Report—Complete Version](#)

[ACNL Summary of BRN Sunset Report](#)

[Joint Committee's Report on the BRN](#)

[ACNL Talking Points for Joint Hearing](#)

## [Full Practice Authority for Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives](#)

The Institute of Medicine's *Future of Nursing Report* recognizes the need for states, in collaboration with professional nursing organizations, to identify and remove barriers that impede RNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. In California, we are addressing the barriers that impede nurse practitioners. Over the next few months, we will be asking ACNL members across the state to be fully engaged in discussions and debates related to full practice authority for advance practice nurses, specifically nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives.

**SB 323 (Hernandez and Eggman)** will allow nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training in order to ensure access to the health care delivery system for millions of Californians who now have coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

This bill will permit NPs to practice without physician supervision if the NP is certified by a national certifying body, maintains professional liability insurance that is appropriate for their practice setting, refers patients to a physician or surgeon if a situation or condition is beyond the NP's education and training, and is practicing in one of the following settings:

- A clinic, health facility, or county medical facility;
- An accountable care organization, as specified;
- A group practice, a medical group, or an independent practice association.

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**AB 1306** (Burke) removes statutes requiring physician supervision and enables equal partnerships between nurse-midwives and obstetricians. Removing these barriers will promote the expansion of midwifery care for thousands of women in urban and rural communities. Studies show that CNW attended births are 25 percent more likely to avoid cesareans. Therefore, allowing nurse midwives to practice to the full scope of licensure and training is a cost effective approach to providing quality care.

AB 1306 will allow nurse midwives access to medication and resources necessary for safe care during home and birthing center deliveries. The bill also requires nurse-midwives to attain national certification before receiving a California certificate to practice as an advanced practitioner.

## **2015 Annual Conference Largest in ACNL's History**

On behalf of the 2014 Annual Program Committee and Board of Directors, ACNL would like to thank the attendees at the 2015 Conference in Disneyland for making the event a huge success. With more than 575 attendees, the program broke all previous attendance records. From President Margarita Baggett's welcome to Jami de Santiago's "tee up" of the 2016 program, it was a conference filled with outstanding presenters, networking and fun.

Again this year, members were required to complete the online evaluation prior to receiving their continuing education credits. If you have not yet completed the evaluation or have not received your continuing education certificate, contact [wendy@acnl.org](mailto:wendy@acnl.org) for assistance.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 2015 Sponsors whose generous donations allowed us to host such an outstanding program.

**[View List of 2015 ACNL Conference Sponsors](#)**

## **Philanthropic Consultant Engaged**

Members attending the Joint Board and Chapter Leader meeting during the ACNL Conference had the opportunity to hear from the two consultants hired to develop ACNL's Philanthropic Strategic Plan. Following the presentation, the 2015 Board of Directors discussed the proposal submitted by Gary Leo to help us implement the plan. It was decided that under Gary's leadership, ACNL will begin the important steps of actualizing a philanthropic plan to help our organization achieve key strategic goals for growth and program development.

Throughout 2015, the ACNL Board and Philanthropic Committee will work closely with Gary Leo and Associates. In addition, key members will be asked to participate in this important endeavor.

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## **Education Redesign White Paper**

With funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care (CINHC) has begun a year-long process to update California's *White Paper on Nursing Education*. Carolyn Orlowski will serve as the director of the project. There will be six regional meetings held across the state this summer to share the work. It will be critical for ACNL members to make their voices heard by participating in these regional meetings. More details to come about these meetings.

## **Best Practice Webinars for ACNL Members**

ACNL's Quality, Safety and Care Experience Committee have presented several best practice webinars for ACNL members. The most recent was: *Safe and Effective Use of Insulin Project* on March 4. All ACNL webinars are recorded and accessible through the ACNL website. Use the link below to learn more about ACNL's webinars.

### **[More Information about ACNL Webinars](#)**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **CACN Spring Conference**

April 23-24, 2015

Embassy Suites – Sacramento Riverfront Promenade  
Sacramento, CA

### **[More Information and Registration](#)**

### **ACNL's Foundation for Leadership Excellence Course**

June 8-12, 2015

St Joseph's Medical Center  
Stockton, CA

November 9-13, 2015

Embassy Suites  
Garden Grove, CA

*More information and registration materials coming soon to the ACNL website.*

### **2015 QSEN National Conference**

May 26-28, 2015

San Diego, CA

### **[For More Information](#)**