CURRENT ISSUES IN NURSING PRACTICE

Terry Throckmorton, PhD, RN
“The 2013 legislative session saw, with only one exception, all of nursing-initiated legislation pass and, even in this case, a study of the issue was mandated.”

Jim Willmann, JD
Legal Advisor and Lobbyist, TNA
2013 Legislative Coalition Members

AORN-GH: Association of periOperative RNs – Greater Houston

AWHONN: Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics & Neonatal Nurses

HCONS: Houston Oncology Nursing Society

LVNAT: Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas

TADDPNP: Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs
2013 Legislative Coalition Members

TANA: Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists

TCORN: Texas Council of periOperative Registered Nurses

TNA: Texas Nurses Association

TNP: Texas Nurse Practitioners

TNSA: Texas Nursing Student Association

TOADN: Texas Organization of Associate Degree Nurses
2013 Legislative Coalition Members

TOBGNE: Texas Organization for Baccalaureate & Graduate Nurse Educators

TONE: Texas Organization of Nursing Executives

TSNO: Texas School Nurse Organization

TxCNS: Texas Clinical Nurse Specialist

TxENA: – Texas Emergency Nurses Association
Three Types of Bills Addressed

• **Nursing initiated** – won’t happen otherwise

• **Nursing supported health policy coalitions** – working with coalitions to support

• **Bills that negatively impact nursing-initiated by others** – oppose or work to amend
Process

• A version of the bill is drafted for both the Senate and the House
  • Sponsored by Representatives for the House and Senators for the Senate

• Each side sends the bill to its appropriate committee for review

• It can die in committee or be voted out of committee
Process

- Once out of committee, request for a calendar position for a vote on the floor
  - It can be voted down or move forward out of the Senate or House

- Once it passes in the House or Senate, it is reconciled between the two bodies
2013 Successes

• HB 581 Public Hospital Employed Nurses Advocacy Protections – Passed

• HB 705 Reducing Violence Against ER Nurses – Passed
2013 Successes

• SB 1193  Disclosure of Identity of Nurses Reporting Physicians to TMB – died in committee
2013 Successes

• SB 406 – APRN Rx Authority – Passed, goes into effect 11/1/13 - Awaiting Rule Making Outcomes before implementation
2013 Successes

• SB 682 APRN Reimbursement – died in committee
• Would have mandated that Medicaid reimbursed services provided by APRNs & PAs under protocols at APRN & PA rate (92%) and not at physician rate
2013 Successes

SB 1842 Passed
RNs Performing Restraint Evaluations
2013 Successes

Regulation of Nursing

• SB 1059 Amends NPA 1) deferred disciplinary actions, 2) confidentiality of TPAPN orders, 3) student criminal background checks, 4) mandatory CE, 5) miscellaneous technical changes – Passed

• SB 1375 BON Agency Status – regarding converting BON to self-directed, semi-independent status – Complete as a study Passed
2013 Successes

• BON Funding in SB 1 Appropriations Bill, Article VIII passed–
  1) Increased funding for TPAPN,
  2) Increased funding for Center for Nursing Workforce Studies,
  3) Increased Executive Director salary,
  4) Additional staff
2013 Successes

Nursing Education Funds
SB 1 Appropriation Bill passed –
- Nursing Shortage Reduction Program funding included at total $33.75 million

HB 7 passed
- Use of Trauma Funds for Nursing Education
2013 Successes

HB 2099 Government Efficiency & Effectiveness Report Recommendation

1) creates a common online application for nursing schools if determined feasible by THECB,

2) faculty loan repayment program

SB 414 – Community Colleges offering BSN – passed as feasibility study
2013 Successes

HB 595 Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) passed

• Sunsets or eliminates various Department of State Health Services advisory committees.
• TCNWS committees eliminated but bill as passed retains the TCNWS oversight committee
2013 Successes

HB 2880 died in committee
Statewide Mandated Staffing Ratios

HB 2397 – died in committee
Licensing of Anesthesiologist Assistants
2013 Losses

- SB 418 Notification if No Nurse Assigned to Child’s School – died in chamber

- SB504 Spinal Screening – eliminates screening for abnormal spinal curvature in public schools – passed but vetoed by Governor 6/14
2013 Losses

- HB 2644 Healthcare Employees Suing for on the Job Injuries – died in committee

- HB 1829 Safe Patient Handling - died in committee

- SB 1056 RNs Administering Meds Ordered by Therapeutic Optometrists – never heard in committee
Next Steps

The Legislative Coalition has been successful over the last 3-4 legislative sessions in passing bills to:

- protect and expand nursing practice
- continue to support nursing education
- decrease the nursing shortage
Next Steps

In subsequent sessions, the Coalition will likely:

- support community health and specialty bills initiated by affiliated groups,
- continue to monitor any threats to nursing practice and respond as needed,
- continue to support BON bills.
How Do I Become Involved

• Participate in the Coalition through your specialty organization
  • Initiate a governmental affairs committee
• Monitor the BON website
  • Be familiar with the rules and regulations
  • Respond to requests for reviews
  • Volunteer to serve on committees
• Become familiar with Texas Team
  • Join as an individual
  • Convince your association to join
  • Attend their educational summits
IOM Report Recommendations

Recommendations in the Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health

1) Remove scope-of-practice barriers. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.

2) Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts.

3) Implement nurse residency programs.

4) Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020.
IOM Report Recommendations

5) Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020.

6) Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.

7) Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.

8) Build an infrastructure for the collection and analysis of inter-professional health care workforce data.
Four Key Messages

1) Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.

2) Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.

3) Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.

4) Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.
Texas Team

- **Vision:** The Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing believes that in order to advance the vision of ‘Better Care, Better Health, Reduced Cost, nursing must be improved to play a significant role in advancing the health of Texans.

- **Challenge:** Texas ranks at the bottom of the nation in health outcomes and has the highest percentage of uninsured in the U.S.

- **The Opportunity:** Improving the health of Texans will require improving the future of nursing in the state.
Texas Team

The Campaign: Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing (Texas Team):

• is a statewide coalition

• with a diverse array of stakeholders including businesses, higher education, health care advocacy groups, hospitals and others.

• has been convened to advance the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action, organized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with AARP and the AARP Foundation
Texas Team

• Texas Team is charged with transforming the health of Texans through nursing by implementing the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report. (Texas Team. Strategic Plan).

Participants

Lead Organizations

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Richardson, Texas
Texas Nurses Association – Austin, TX
Participants

Founding Sponsors

Associates in Process Improvement – Austin, TX
Decision Critical – Austin, TX
The Perryman Group – Waco, TX
Seton Family of Hospitals – Austin, TX State
Representative Donna Howard – Austin, TX
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – School of Nursing – Lubbock, TX
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – Center for Innovation in Nursing Education – Lubbock, TX
Initiatives Related to the Recommendations

- Administration
- Education
- Clinical Practice
- Legislation

Houston and Galveston are in the Gulf Coast Region

- The primary focus is Administration
Activities

• Administration
  • Educate nurses as leaders through seminars and advanced education
  • Achieve a stronger presence on boards through education and influence
Activities

• Education
  • Facilitation of progression of ADN graduates into BSN programs-APIN Grant
  • Develop or expand APN programs-Advanced Practice Grant
  • Funding to train more BSN and APN students
Activities

Clinical Practice

• Legislation during the last three legislative sessions was directed at expanding APN and RN practice
• RN to BSN and APN initiatives are designed to support nurses to seek advanced levels of practice

• Legislation
  • Collaboration of professional associations and lobbyists to promote nurse friendly legislation
What should I do?

- Make nursing a career
- Join a professional association
  - Become active
- Join Texas Team
- Be knowledgeable
  - Know your NPA
- Follow the legislative agenda
- Attend Nurses Day at the Capital
- Be aware of the interests of other groups in relation to nursing practice