

Wisconsin Nurses Association

Mission

WNA empowers and unites all registered nurses to advance the profession

Core Values

Leadership, Standard of Excellence, Integrity, Stewardship, Knowledge, Response to Change and the Right to Health Care.

Policy Issues

- ❖ Nurse Workplace Health, Rights and Safety
- ❖ Appropriate Nurse Staffing and addressing the Nursing Shortage
- ❖ Continued Competency
- ❖ Patient Safety and Advocacy

SOURCES: “Wisconsin Nursing Community’s Agenda for Health Care Reform” see www.wisconsinnurses.org

“Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public” see <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/>

“Utilization Guide for the ANA Principles for Nurse Staffing” see <http://www.nursingworld.org/readroom/stffprnc.htm>

Prepared by WNA Public Policy Council 12/2010

Approved by WNA Board of Directors 12/2010

For further information regarding any of the points in this agenda please contact the Wisconsin Nurses Association at:
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Visit WNA’s Website for Legislative Updates and Legislative Alerts – www.wisconsinnurses.org



2011 and 2012 Public Policy Agenda



The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the professional organization for all registered nurses in Wisconsin. This document presents WNA’s Public Policy Agenda for 2011-2012.

WNA collectively and collaboratively advocates for access to comprehensive quality health care services for all people. To increase the opportunity for improving health and enjoying a life of quality, WNA supports the four tenets of care identified by the Wisconsin Community of Nursing Agenda for Health Care Reform: prevention and health promotion, health literacy, patient safety and chronic disease management. We also recognize that quality nursing care can only be achieved through the creation of a safe nursing workforce. Furthermore, we must provide assurances that the registered nurse is an essential provider in all practice settings. We believe that access to quality health care for all people can be achieved if registered nurses are utilized to the full extent of their education, skills and expertise. Access to advanced practice nurses is particularly critical if all people are to receive health care; therefore, we strongly support activities that eliminate barriers and restrictions on the scope of professional nursing practice in Wisconsin. Finally, we firmly believe that if we are to achieve the goal of health care for all in Wisconsin, registered nurses must be involved in all aspects of the planning and implementation of health care reform. Therefore we support the following:

Prevention and health promotion by advocating for:

- ❖ A strong, viable public health system and infrastructure.
- ❖ The goals, mission, pillar objectives, and infrastructure and health focus areas, delineated in “Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer”.
- ❖ Community based prevention services including screening, immunizations, family planning, violence prevention and health education across the life span
- ❖ Community based treatment services including mental health and alcohol and other drug abuse services, smoking cessation programs, and weight management programs
- ❖ The protection of people from chemical, physical and psychological forces in the environment that affect health
- ❖ The protection of the environment from potentially harmful human impact so that both natural and manmade environments are health enhancing
- ❖ A well prepared emergency response and recovery system

Eliminating Health Disparities by advocating for:

- ❖ Health literacy for all
- ❖ Consumer access to quality care performance indicators, cost of services and other patient outcomes measures
- ❖ Protection of the rights of consumers in all health plans
- ❖ Consumer driven community health program planning, policy development and service delivery systems
- ❖ Consumer access to personal electronic medical records

Patient Safety by advocating for:

- ❖ Protection of the rights and safety of patients in all health care settings.
- ❖ The elimination of exposure to toxins in the healthcare environment

Workforce Safety by advocating for:

- ❖ Best practice models for nursing education and mentorship for new nurses
- ❖ Licensure of registered nurses that is predicated on continued competence
- ❖ Funding for student loans and nursing education programs that support registered nurses obtaining baccalaureate degrees in nursing within 10 years of initial licensure
- ❖ Nurse staff systems based on the principles identified in “Utilization Guide for the ANA Principles for Nurse Staffing”
- ❖ Implementation of effective institutional and agency policies addressing minimizing nursing fatigue in the workplace
- ❖ The decriminalization of medical errors.
- ❖ The elimination of bullying and violence in the workplace
- ❖ The development and reporting of nursing quality indicators within the electronic medical record milieu
- ❖ Data driven planning for the future nursing workforce
- ❖ The elimination of unnecessary exposure to toxins in the workplace environment
- ❖ The promotion of safe patient handling and ergonomic protection for nurses

Coordinated Health Services and Chronic Disease Management by advocating for:

- ❖ The implementation of medical homes
- ❖ The inclusion of Advanced Practice Nurses as reimbursable providers within medical homes
- ❖ The expansion of Family Care
- ❖ The expansion of the role of RNs as case managers in Family care
- ❖ Affordable prescription drugs, medical supplies and equipment
- ❖ Sufficient funding to serve all Badger Care eligible individuals
- ❖ The expansion of community based health care services including home care, long-term care, palliative and end-of-life care