

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWS

### 3<sup>Rd</sup> QTR Report 2011

#### WNC:

**Are you aware that the IOM has published a report for the Future of Nursing in to 2010? Do you know who the IOM is? As nurses, each one of us has responsibility for the direction in which nursing will go. We make a difference in the lives of the patients we care for everyday and we should make sure we have a say in what the future of nursing holds. I will give a brief description of a few acronyms that you may want to know and websites to visit for more detailed information.**

**First who is IOM:** The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public. They were established in 1970, the IOM is the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, which was chartered under President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. <http://iom.edu/About-IOM.aspx>

**MISSION of IOM:** Serves as adviser to the nation to improve health.

- The IOM asks and answers the nation's most pressing questions about health and health care. Their aim is to help those in government and the private sector make informed health decisions by providing evidence upon which they can rely. Each year, more than 2,000 individuals, members, and nonmembers volunteer their time, knowledge, and expertise to advance the nation's health through the work of the IOM.
- Many of the studies that the IOM undertakes begin as specific mandates from Congress; still others are requested by federal agencies and independent organizations. While their expert, consensus committees are vital to the advisory role, the IOM also convenes a series of forums, roundtables, and standing committees, as well as other activities, to facilitate discussion, discovery, and critical, cross-disciplinary thinking.

The IOM appointed the Committee on the RWJF Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the IOM, with the purpose of producing a report that would make recommendations for an action-oriented blueprint for the future of nursing. Through its deliberations, the committee developed four key messages in 2010:

#### **IOM four key messages:**

- **Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.**
- **Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.**
- **Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.**
- **Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.**

The United States has the opportunity to transform its health care system, and nurses can and should play a fundamental role in this transformation. However, the power to improve the current regulatory, business, and organizational conditions does not rest solely with nurses; government, businesses, health care organizations, professional associations, and the insurance industry all must play a role. Working together, these many diverse parties can help ensure that

the health care system provides seamless, affordable, quality care that is accessible to all and leads to improved health outcomes.

Now with that basic knowledge, the Wisconsin Center for Nursing (WCN) has taken initiative to work together as collaborative partners in an effort to ensure an adequate, competent and diverse nursing workforce for the people of Wisconsin. Please take the time to check it out WCN website. <http://www.wicenterfornursing.org/>

### **Wisconsin Center for Nursing becomes a Regional Action Coalition for the National Campaign for Action**

Wisconsin has been selected to join the 15 existing Action Coalitions. The RWJF and AARP (stakeholders) are confident that our Action Coalition's contributions to the National *Campaign for Action* will make a significant impact as we work to transform health care through nursing. **WCN is planning on having four Regional Action group meeting this fall between October 31-November 18, 2011 to identify actions that can be used based upon the *Future of Nursing* Message. Dates, time and places will be listed on the WCN site. WISPAN members can give input for the future of nursing. Tell your co-workers about the meetings.**

**Legislative/Regulatory Update:** WNA has proposed changes to "Chapter 441 to create APRN". History of this proposed change: RN and LPN are the only protected nursing titles in Wisconsin statutes. In some clinics in Wisconsin nurses are given the title of "advanced practice nurse" without the formal education. They may have gone through a class or two than taken the title of advanced practice nurse. Patients are not aware of this misnomer that some nurses are using. Therefore the bill being proposed is to:

1. Define the scope of practice and general qualifications for the advanced Practice Registered Nurse.
2. Identify the four kinds of APRN's
3. Specify that only the Board of Nursing approved APRNs may use the title and call themselves APRN's

**NURSING MATTERS is trying to go green. Please go online and sign up to get the newsletter on line. <http://host.madison.com/nursingmatters/>**

### **C ONFERENCE'S**

**2011 WNA/WSNA Annual Meeting & Conference, Thursday-Saturday, October 27-29, 2011, Hotel Sierra and KI Convention Center, Green Bay.**

**Submitted by Marlene Nahavandi RN BSN CAPA**