

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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February, 1998

Legislative Update

by Larry Kerschner, ARNP, and
Gail Toraason McGaffick, JD

This newsletter article is being written on February 1st. The Legislature has been in session for three weeks, and a lot has been happening during this "short" session. Remember that the session ends on March 12th. Here are some highlights:

Completion of Prescriptive Authority: Our strategy of simply introducing a bill in the House to keep our issue alive, and otherwise laying low, was completely changed when we learned that Senator Deccio, Chair of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, had scheduled a hearing on Senate Bill 5232 for January 23rd. As you recall, that's our bill from last year, and after it experienced a premature "death" in 1997, it came back to "life" at the beginning of the 1998 session. What we weren't expecting was that Senator Deccio really, really wanted this issue to be solved, and that he would schedule a hearing without our requesting one. He strongly believes that ARNPs need to have the ability to prescribe Schedules II through IV, particularly in the rural areas. He also firmly believes that in order to accomplish that, we need to be ready to compromise with the physicians.

So, to make a long story short, we worked quickly to prepare for our January 23rd hearing. We knew we needed a compromise proposal, and thanks to some quick work by our President, Patti Varley, and some Board and Legislative Committee members, we developed what we thought was a fair compromise. It was a one year preceptorship, after which an ARNP would be able to prescribe without the need to have any on-going formal relationship with a physician. Unfortunately, this proposal was totally unacceptable to the physicians, and more importantly, Senator Deccio didn't believe it went far enough. During our hearing, President Patti Varley and Legislative Chair Larry Kerschner testified on behalf of ARNPs United (and represented you all extremely well under challenging circumstances). While Senator Deccio is very supportive of nursing, he made it very clear that if we wanted to proceed on this issue we would need to take "half a loaf." In his opinion "half a loaf" meant that we would accept some type of ongoing relationship between a physician and an ARNP. He believes that unless we take this mid-step, our legislation will never advance. With consumers at risk of not receiving care they need, particularly in rural areas, he felt he needed to push each side toward a compromise. It was clear to those of us at the hearing that Senator Deccio is very committed to nursing, but he believed that the position we were ar-

ticulating was not a compromise...it was all or nothing. Senator Deccio informed the physicians that their "half a loaf" was allowing the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) to participate in rule writing on any proposal that was developed. They objected to this reasonable requirement.

Then began the challenging process of ARNPs United determining, given the current set of circumstances, whether a compromise was acceptable that would require an ongoing relationship between an ARNP and a physician in order to prescribe Schedule II through IV Controlled Substances. The result of a great deal of soul-searching and strategic thinking was a decision by ARNPs United to reluctantly accept a compromise where ARNPs who want to prescribe Schedules II through IV Controlled Substances would be required to enter into "practice arrangements" with either a DO or MD. The lobbyist for WSMA went on the record to state that these "practice arrangements" were intended to be flexible depending on the nature of the relationship between the ARNP and the physician. In addition, the compromise required that implementing rules be developed jointly, by consensus, by the NCQAC, the Medical Commission, and the Osteopath's Board. Excluded from the "practice arrangement" option are CRNAs, who asked to be removed because of the potential confusion this option might bring. All parties, including the MDs, were happy to do this.

Where we are now is that our legislation in its substitute form was acted on favorably by the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee and is now in Rules. Since WSMA continues to strenuously object to the legislation, its fate is uncertain. Interestingly, the Osteopaths are not troubled by the involvement of the NCQAC with the rule writing, so they're staying out of the fray. We are also receiving help from the Community Mental Health Centers. Time will tell.

Because this newsletter won't reach you until the end of February, it's difficult to include any instructions on contacting your legislators. If you're willing to make connections with your legislators, please be certain that Sally Plumly has your E-mail address and your district. ARNPs United periodically sends out E-mail "alerts" and we need to have as many people as possible on the list. If you're not on E-mail, but you still want to be involved, please provide Sally with your address and fax number. Sally can be reached at splumly@wizards.net or 253-884-4158.

Certificate of Need: In a surprise to your lobbyist and many others who expected the House to vote to eliminate certificate of need for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers within the first week of session, noth-

ing has happened. Well, actually, a lot has happened, but the bottom line is that the proponents of certificate of need removal don't have the votes. The Washington State Hospital Association has been extremely active in meeting with legislators and convincing them of the vulnerabilities of hospitals if certificate of need was repealed. In addition, the Governor has written a letter signaling his belief that the issue needs more study. To many people, this means that the Governor would be expected to veto legislation, even if it did pass. Legislators don't like to take unpopular votes in election years if they can avoid it.

Managed care regulation: In an interesting turn of events, the managed care industry has introduced their own legislation dealing with grievance procedures. In an attempt to take the issue away from the Insurance Commissioner, who was in the process of writing rules on this subject, they have brought forward a bill (House Bill 2865) which has been generally well received.

Corporate Practice of Medicine (House Bill 2867): When we last visited this topic, the Governor had signed legislation which would allow differently credentialed health care provider groups to form a single business entity. Exceptions were dentists and physical therapists. Also, in the same legislation, the Governor vetoed those portions which would have allowed health care professionals to form business entities with non-providers. This was because of an issue raised by insurers, the FBI, and State Patrol who use the corporate practice of medicine doctrine as a legal tool to stop fraud.

Now, the Washington State Medical Association is attempting to completely eliminate the doctrine, again, but is running into increasingly strong opposition from insurers. In addition, there's apparently more drama because the long-standing dispute of whether hospitals could legally employ physicians is in the courts. Interestingly, the MDs bill would eliminate the doctrine for

everyone but hospitals (and dentists and veterinarians). You can imagine that the hospitals are opposed. If you think this is confusing, it is. This bill isn't going anywhere this year.

Registration of Surgical Technologists (Substitute House Bill

2462): Legislation is proceeding which would register surgical technologists. As amended, the bill does not establish any educational or work prerequisites. It's a basic registration bill and the only thing it does is to bring this group under the UDA, as well as protects the title "surgical technologist." But the way it's written, anyone could apply. This is seen by interested parties as a first step in the credentialing of these folks.

We're out of space. If you have questions about ARNPs United legislative agenda or activity, please contact Legislative Chair Larry Kerscher via E-mail at: larry@nurse.net or P.O. Box 397, Pe Ell, WA 98572.

CE Mailing List

Nurse Practitioner Support Services, the Internet Wizards that bring you NPinfo and NP-jobs have released a new electronic mailing list for continuing education announcements. Without overwhelming you with email, this list will automatically send you announcements about continuing education offerings as they are submitted by various program sponsors.

To subscribe, send an email message to major-domo@nurse.net with the one-line message subscribe NP-CE. You can also visit *NP Central* and see a list of the CE offerings on the worldwide at <http://www.nurse.net> under the heading Continuing Education. Additional details can be obtained from Kelly at ce@nurse.net or 253.852.9042.

Need A Job, Publish Your Resume

Nurse Practitioner Support Services (NPSS) has an innovative new service to help you get connected with employers and to help employers find you!

Your information will be made available to prospective employers using secure computer technology. Your cover letter will be displayed on our web site without any identifying information. Prospective employers and recruiters will be able to review your cover letter then access those resumes that interest them. Your privacy will be protected by making your complete cover letter and resumes available only in a password protected file which is available only to employers and recruiters.

You are invited to send your CV and cover letter describing what kind of employment you are searching for; job location, specialty, etc. to their office at: NPSS, CV Department, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032.

To offset the costs involved there is a processing fee of \$10.00. Cover letters should be no more than one page in length and resumes should be limited to no more than 2 pages. Your resume will remain available until you are no longer seeking a job or you request that your resume be removed.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.nurse.net/jobs/wanted.html>

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Seattle Area Nurse Practitioners

by Diane Doles

The new nurse practitioner group, "West Side Nurse Practitioners" held a very successful first meeting in January. Officers elected were Gail Lasher, Secretary, Eileen Bonneau, Treasurer; Claudia Davis, Vice President; and Diane Doles, President. You are invited to attend our next meeting March 18, 1998 at Umbertos, 100 S King St, Seattle, WA. Dinner will be provided. RSVPs to Suzanne Green, Merck Pharmaceuticals, at 206.284.3802. Networking starts at 6:00 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm. ARNPs United President, Patti Varley, MN, PMHNP will be speaking on the progress of the completion of prescriptive authority in Washington.

Classified Ads

Family/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Pediatric and Family ARNPs needed by growing clinic, should have ability to work alone at times and possess good diagnostic skills. Clinic is friendly, casual with competitive benefits. Flexible work hours. Full-time or part-time, permanent long term position. Clinic is open 9 am to 8 pm. Contact: Auburn Children's Clinic, 25 Second St NW, Auburn, WA 98001, phone: 206.939.6541 and ask for Cheryl McGill or Dr Thompson, may also fax resume to: 253.735.9427.

Mental Health ARNP/PA

Certified PA or ARNP needed to perform physical examinations and manage minor medical conditions on a part-time/contract basis at a psychiatric evaluation and treatment program in a Mukilteo, WA facility. Compass Health is a non-profit, licensed community mental health agency serving Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties. Prefer resume by 2/20/97. Position open until filled. Forward resume and cover letter stating position to: Compass Health, Human Resources Department, PO Box 3810, Everett, WA 98203-8810. EOE/AA/M/F/V/H. Equity/Diversity.

Family Nurse Practitioner

Whidbey Island, WA seeking highly personable, experienced FNP to work with Board Certified Family Practitioner and close-knit staff in picturesque island setting one hour north of Seattle. Full or part-time if possible, experience and stability essential. Send resume or inquiry to Patty Willson, Office Manager, The Langley Clinic, PO Box 137, Langley, WA 98260, phone: 360.221.5272, fax: 360.221.4045.

Adult/Family Nurse Practitioner

PacMed is seeking an ARNP with several years experience caring for adult patients in an inpatient setting for a full-time position with the possibility of some call. You will see skilled nursing facility patients and custodial care patients throughout the Puget Sound area. You will also communicate regularly with the patients' primary care providers and work closely with the Inpatient Care Team of hospitalists as needed for backup or acute hospital admissions. This is a new position and you will help design the program to provide high quality, consistent service. To apply, please send or fax resume to PacMed, 1200 12th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144, fax: 206.621.4031. We are a drug and smoke free employer. EOE.

Continuing Education

Spectrums of Healing Integrative Health Care

March 9, 10, 11, 1998 at Meaney Tower, Seattle, WA. An annual continuing education program for nurse practitioners that offers 22 CEUs (8 Pharmacy CEUs). Presented by the Gerontological Nurse Practitioners of Puget Sound. For more information or to request a brochure call 360.298.1768.

Clinical Pharmacology Series 1998

March 11, 1998, **Pediatric Drug Therapy**

March 14, 1998, **Neonatal Drug Therapy**

April 15, 1998, **Geriatric Drug Therapy**

May 5, 1998, **Adult Drug Therapy**

May 19, 1998, **Women's Health Drug Therapy**

June 12, 1998, **Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy**

This series of six one-day courses (8 contact hours each session) is designed as a pharmacology update for nurse practitioners working in a variety of specialties. Sponsor: University of Washington School of Nursing. Location: University of Washington, Rotunda (Neonatal Drug Therapy only), Shoreline Conference Center (all other courses), Seattle, Washington. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206.543.1047, www.son.washington.edu/~cne/.

Suturing & Wound Management Workshop

March 27 & 28, 1998. This workshop enables the clinician to assess and manage wounds as presented in the office or clinic. Class will be held at the Upper Campus of Bellevue Community College. Fee \$160. Call 425.641.2012 for more information.

Alzheimer's Care: Moving Toward an Integrative Approach

April 20, 1998, 8 am - 4:30 pm. Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle, WA. The focus of this day-long program, designed to improve health outcomes for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, is to create a dialogue and build collaboration among practitioners and researchers in the fields of complementary, alternative, and conventional medicine. Cosponsors include Bastyr University, Aging & Adult Services, DSHS, Alzheimer's Association of Western and Central Washington, and the University of Washington's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Northwest Geriatric Education Center. Cost: \$55 for professionals, \$25 for family members. CEUs for various disciplines available for an additional fee. To receive a brochure, contact: NW Geriatric Education Center, phone: 206.685.7478, fax: 206.685.3436, Email: patann@u.washington.edu.

Pacific Northwest 21st Annual Conference for Primary Care Practitioners

September 17-19, 1998. Location: Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, Washington. Sponsors: University of Washington School of Nursing, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, ARNPs United, WWAHEC, Washington Academy of Physician Assistants. CE Hours: 7.2 to 23.2 contact hours (maximum of 12.0 contact hours in Pharmacology). Application has been made for Category I CEC for PAs. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle, WA 98195-7260, phone: 206.543.1047, www.son.washington.edu/~cne/.

Herbal Medicine and Phytotherapy Home Study

Bastyr University, located in the greater Seattle, Washington area has received approval from the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) for three home study programs focusing on the clinical applications of herbal medicine. WSNA is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Commission on Accreditation. These continuing education programs may also be applied toward pharmacology CE requirements. Programs range in cost from \$15-20 each and grant 1.5 to 2.0 hours of continuing education credit. Call 425.602.3152 for more information or to order, or see our web site at www.bastyr.edu, under Continuing Education.

Ad Information

Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later than this on a space available basis. Position Available Ads & Continuing Education Announcements of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75 and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. Continuing Education Announcements are per offering for up to three (3) consecutive insertions. New Product Announcements per product for one insertion of 130 words or less are \$75. Ad Inserts are \$540 for one issue. All ads are subject to space limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to *ARNP Care*, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.480.0002. Email care@nurse.net

"Must" Rules for Political Survival

1. Issues are not important — **the process is.**
2. Political communication has direct and indirect messages — **indirect is the most important.**
3. There are **no permanent friends** — or permanent enemies.
4. Keep your friends close — **your enemies closer.**
5. **Never surprise your friends.**
6. Politics is full of male humor (sarcasm, put downs, snide remarks, etc.) — **Don't be offended.**
7. Politics is a "**chit economy**" — not dollars, programs, kids.
8. Claim credit covertly and **give it away overtly.**
9. **Take credit in the backroom** — "strokes to self" are self-serving.
10. **Always trust the grapevine;** not the official channels.
11. **Politics ain't bean bag** — it's not an easy game.
12. Politics are full of **paradoxes with polarity** — don't fool yourself.
13. You must **work with the resistance** — a bigger hammer isn't the answer.
14. **Loyalty can't be bought** — a loyal and expert paradox always exists.
15. **Conflict leads to collaboration** — "good fences make good neighbors."
16. **Anguish is a part of leadership** — you know too much.
17. **Try to understand behavior** outside of the context of the issue — know the person.
18. Gain the ability to **use the appropriate behavior to get the job done** — it's not wrong to walk on the football field in a baseball uniform — it's stupid.
19. A good politician **works with the persuadable.**
20. **Triangulate** — never do anything directly when you can do it another way.

Political Advice from Judy Collins at the 1997 Pacific Northwest Primary Care Conference Keynote