

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

March, 1998

NCQAC Update

A special thanks to Rodie Renn-Lasher, AU Secretary, who made the time to attend a Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission meeting in Vancouver to speak about our concerns on proposed sexual misconduct rules. These rules, among other items, would prohibit an ARNP from providing care to a spouse or partner. Rodie conveyed AU's concerns about these rules, and as a result NCQAC postponed rule adoption, and will be revisiting this issue. Thank you Rodie!

ARNP Roundtable

Some of you may be wondering what happened to the Roundtable recommendations. You're not alone. It's our understanding that the NCQAC will be coming forward with proposed rules changes based on those recommendations. We'll let you know as soon as we have the specifics.

Legislative Update

by Patti Varley and Larry Kerschner

This article is being written on March 2nd. The Legislature is winding down with a constitutionally mandated ending date of March 12th. In the February article, completion of prescriptive authority (2SSB 5232) was still alive. Unfortunately, that's no longer true. It "died" on February 17 when it failed to move from the Senate to the House. Here's what happened and why.

As a brief review, you were told last month that 2SSB 5232 had been acted on favorably by the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee and was sent to Rules. In order to get the Committee's support, ARNPs United (AU) needed to agree to language which would require ARNPs who wanted the authority to prescribe Schedules II through IV controlled substances to enter into a practice arrangement with an MD or DO. Implementing rules were to be jointly written by the Medical Commission, Nursing Commission, and the Osteopathic Board. Because the Nursing Commission was involved in the rule writing, the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) remained strongly opposed to 2SSB 5232. Against this backdrop, our lobbyist went to the members of the Rules Committee and began the process of counting votes. With 19 members, we needed 10 yes votes. We never got over eight (two Republicans and six Democrats), so we knew we were in trouble. Remember that WSMA was opposed, and they were lobbying vigorously as well. When our lobbyist approached a key Republican supporter for assistance in getting some additional votes in the Rules Committee, we were "greeted" with the strong suggestion that we should simply remove the last bit of controversy by allowing the Medical Commission and the Osteopathic Board to

write the rules alone without the involvement of Nursing Commission.

Despite our protests that this was a line we couldn't cross, that this was completely unfair and unworkable, an amendment was drawn up to do just that. The intent was to add the amendment on the Senate Floor as an "enticement" to get additional votes in the Rules Committee. Some of you may wonder why a supporter of ours would even make that suggestion. It's because in the legislative process, there is great value given to getting one's foot in the door. Our friendly Senator optimistically believed that once ARNPs had the ability to legally prescribe Schedules II through IV controlled substances, that it wouldn't be that difficult to make changes in future years to either remove the MD/DO practice arrangement requirement or involve the Nursing Commission in administration. It was only when repeated arguments were made about the problems faced in other states when nursing wasn't involved, that he backed off. Our lobbyist worked jointly with AAPPN lobbyist Sharon Case in this effort and we thank her for her assistance.

At this point, a decision was made by President Patti Varley, with the recommendation of our lobbyists, that we needed to "kill" our own bill. It was believed that the risk to continue was too high, and the bottom line was we didn't have the votes in Rules without further compromise. There was no way we were going to allow our legislation to go forward without the involvement of the Nursing Commission. So, ironically, it turned out to be very easy to keep our legislation in Rules. Not even WSMA wanted to interfere. So, there you have it, another frustrating year in Olympia.

Some reflections. We know how hard it is for many ARNPs to accept the compromise which we agreed to during the course of this legislative session. We want you to know that lots of painstaking hours of discussion went into considering this compromise. There was never any intent to give up independent practice. However, we were receiving input from several specialty groups and individuals who felt they needed a way to practice and meet the needs of their clients, in a legal way, and they believed their lack of ability to access Schedules II-IV meds gave them less marketability. They also described the awkwardness of having to get PA signatures on their scripts. The idea was that we would protect all the current independence we have, but find a way for those who chose to or needed to access Schedules II-IV to do it in a way that protected their license, allowed them to provide care, and let them be competitive. So, although less than ideal, a compromise was discussed. During the hearing on the

legislation it came out clearly and strongly that any compromise had to allow for Nursing to have control of Nursing and that without the Nursing Commission being part of writing the rules, this was not a compromise at all and we would not allow it. Yes, the compromise did require a flexible "relationship" with a physician, but only for those nurse practitioners who wanted to be able to prescribe Scheduled meds beyond those that we can now. Many of us thought it would be the individual's decision to enter into this "relationship" or not, and again the Nursing Commission would be able to have some control. When our key supporter wanted to remove the Nursing Commission language in order to get the bill out of Rules, we clearly stated that this was no longer a compromise and we wouldn't accept it. Although we agreed to the compromise of a "flexible" relationship with a physician reluctantly, we believe that we showed we are reasonable practitioners who do care about our clients and their access to care, and that we are independent practitioners who need control of our own profession. We hope and believe that next year we have set a stage that will allow us to bring forth a bill again, and hopefully one better. This is something we could not have done without some initial compromising this year.

There is much work to be done between now and next January. If you're an ARNP that cares about this issue, we ask you to do three things. First, join ARNPs United today, and if you are a member be certain your dues are current. Membership information is on the back of this newsletter. Second, volunteer to be a person who contacts your legislators on this issue. While we'll have more information in future newsletters, it's very important for ARNPs United to have a strong grassroots base. Sally Plumly needs that information and she may be reached via email at splumly@wizards.net or 253.884.4158. Third, talk to physicians and administrators in any health systems where you work about this issue and the problems with the current system. We

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need support from other groups. There was an excellent article by Ann Darlington in the January issue of *ARNP Care* on how to make connections. If you want some specific guidance don't hesitate to contact Ann via email at el-seaj@worldnet.att.net

206.284.6313. Thank you to the many ARNPs who made the time to come to Nurse Lobby Day, and who have contacted their legislators and physician colleagues about this important issue.

Finally, on this topic, if you have input you'd like to get to either Larry and Patti, You can reach Larry via email at larry@nurse.net or P.O. Box 397, Pe Ell, WA 98572; or Patti via email at pvarley@u.washington.edu or 2504 NW 202nd, Shoreline, WA 98177. Watch for your April issue of *ARNP Care* which will include a wrap-up of legislation that passed the 1998 Legislature.

Letters To The Editors

SB 5232 and Substitutes

by Donna Poole

I received the February issue of *ARNP Care* yesterday, and was appalled by the short-sightedness of the leaderships decisions on advancing prescriptive authority. I immediately went to the legislative web pages and mercifully discovered that SB 5232 and all it's substitutes had be relegated to "file x" (or should that be "X Files"?) again. It should be readily apparent, to the most naive of us, that WSMA will not settle for less than the entire "loaf." While I disagree with their politics, and I think they suffer from a collective narcissistic personality disorder, I can't help but admire their convictions. At least they have convictions. The leadership of ARNPs United seems to be willing to sell our grandmothers and our children's future for the promise of "half a loaf" or even less. If I didn't think you needed close monitoring, I would cancel my membership. But let me make this perfectly clear, if this organization ever again attempts to bargain away independent practice for nurse practitioners, I will lead the charge from the silent masses to burn your house down, figuratively speaking of course.

In Defense of Compromise

by Sally Plumly

I'd like to try to counter the criticism and applaud ARNP United's decision, painstakingly made, to initially support substitute Bill 5232. As a psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in a Mental Health Clinic I need to be able to access schedule 4 drugs for my chronically ill clients on an almost daily basis. This Bill, although far from perfect, would have given me a legal mechanism to do so and I, as part of the legislative committee, I lobbied strongly for us to support it. As it would have effected only our capacity to prescribe controlled drugs and not altered our independence to prescribe all other medications, I saw it as far better than the marginally legal, redundant or avoidant means we all use to go about dealing with this issue presently. I believe our involvement in the rule making process would have

protected us from any attempt to extend this to legend drugs and thus also agreed with the decision to oppose the Bill when this provision was removed. I have heard the arguments that this would have compromised the principle of Autonomy, runs against the National trend in Advanced Practice Nursing and would be "giving in" to the ego and power of physicians. Although these arguments may make some sense in theory, in the real world of practice and political realities I believe that the only way we will gain the capacity to prescribe these drugs in our career lifetimes is to accept some compromise and for some of us, this outweighs theoretical concerns. We simply cannot match the financial, thus political clout of MD's to the extent that we can achieve this goal any other way than incrementally and have not shown even yet the financial or grassroots commitment to mount a viable attempt. I thank everyone who has been supportive of recent efforts and challenge all, particularly those who might vehemently disagree with what I've written here, to become more activist on this issue rather than reacting loudly from a distance.

Classified Ads

Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwives

Planned Parenthood of Western WA is seeking an outstanding Clinician to work full-time in Snohomish County (Everett & Alderwood). We are a progressive, non-profit organization, with 17 clinics; one of the largest providers of reproductive health care in the state. Position requires current WA State RN & ARNP (WHNP, FNP, Adult NP or CNM) licenses and one+ year women's health care experience. Mail CV/resume before 3/31/98 to PPWW/HR, 2211 E Madison, Seattle, WA 98112. EOE.

Family ARNP or PA-C

We are growing! Experienced FNP or PA-C who enjoys the medical challenge of caring for the underserved and migrant farm workers needed to practice in high volume walk-in clinics located in Toppenish and Grandview, Washington. Multi-specialty back up available on site and after hours by telephone. Clinic hours from 8:00 am - 10:00 pm weekdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday and all federal holidays. All shifts to be shared with current staff. Competitive salary, benefits and possibility of state or federal loan repayment. Contact Mayling Chin, HR Coordinator, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, PO Box 190, Toppenish WA 98948, Office: 509.865.5898, Fax: 509.865.4337.

Contract ARNP

Northwest Counseling Institute has an immediate opening for a contract ARNP with prescriptive authority for adults and children. The position is at the Auburn and Federal Way, WA offices. A position will also be available in Tacoma, WA by April 5th. The current need is 12 hours a week and will expand to 18 hours. Please contact the Director, Mark Bethune at 253.939.8525 and fax a resume to 253.931.8193.

Dermatology Nurse Practitioner

Washington, Seattle - Experienced ARNP wanted for busy 8-physician dermatology clinic in Edmonds, WA. Dermatology experience a plus, however we will provide extensive training. You will work closely with John Headley, MD, Mohs surgeon and cosmetic dermatologist, to develop your practice in our modern clinic and surgical facility. Please mail or fax resume to: Jonathan Greene, Administrator, Northwest Dermatology & Skin Cancer Clinic, 21600 Highway 99, Suite 100, Edmonds, WA 98026, phone: 425.774.2663, fax: 425.774.2660.

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: 360.221.6949.

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.

Hematology/Oncology Nurse Practitioner

PacMed is an independent, non-profit organization with a network of 19 primary care and specialty clinics throughout the Puget Sound region. Our medical staff includes 125+ providers operating in both a managed care and fee-for-service environment. We have a diverse patient population which provides an excellent opportunity for an interesting and stimulating clinical practice. Our salaries are competitive and the benefits are exceptional. We currently have an ARNP opening in our Hematology/Oncology clinic and we are always looking for ARNPs to work in primary care clinic settings. Please forward your CV to: PacMed Clinics, 1200 12th Ave S, HR Q5, Seattle, WA 98144, fax: 206.621.4031, E-mail: hr@pacmed.org. For more information, call Jeanine at 206.621.4775. Drug and smoke free environment. Equal opportunity employer.

Moving Sale!

Moving, must sell! No reasonable offer refused! Like new medical equipment. Autoclave - Pelton & Crane 8" x 18" interior chamber - extra tray, seals, cleaning supplies \$1500, Cryomedics F0101 colposcope with filters and extra bulbs \$1,000, Ritter power table - tan color with stirrups \$1200, miscellaneous surgical/gyn instruments, scales, BP cuffs, two halogen speculum lights. Call 253.584.0679.

Continuing Education

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.

Complementary Medicine Conference for Nurses

April 3, 1998, Seattle, WA. King County Nurses Association and Bastyr University will sponsor a second "Complementary Medicine Conference" at Bastyr. This all day event will detail naturopathic standards and methods, and how complementary methods apply to nurses in allopathic settings. Morning keynote sessions will examine: 1) the nation's first publicly-funded naturopathic clinic, the King County Natural Medicine Clinic; 2) complementary care and the Nurse Practice Act; and 3) the "Naturopathic and ARNP Model - Joint Clinical Practice Model." Afternoon concurrent sessions include: botanicals, therapeutic touch; accupressure; alternatives to HTR and women's health. Registered nurses can earn 6.6 CEARP credits. The registration fee is \$50-\$60, and includes lunch and conference materials. Call KCNA at 206.545.0603 for 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, E-mail: patann@u.washington.edu.

Clinical Pharmacology Series 1998

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/.

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

ARNPs United Member Edition

The ARNPs United office now has a direct phone number with voice mail. Members can reach us at 253.480.1035.



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