



**American Academy of Nursing Study of Nursing Models Finds Cross-Sector and Community-Based Partnerships Key in Building a Culture of Health**

*RAND Executes Research Initiative*

**Washington, D.C. (April 19, 2017)** –The American Academy of Nursing, through a grant received from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), partnered with the RAND Corporation to examine ways in which innovative nurse-designed models of care foster a culture of health by addressing many key social determinants of health and by empowering and supporting people to lead healthier lives. The study finds cross-sector and community-based partnerships key in building a culture of health.

“Nursing has long focused on patient- and family-centered care, pursuing a holistic view of individuals that incorporates aspects of their family, community and work environment. The findings of this study on Edge Runners’ nurse-designed models of care reinforce the importance of health providers developing close cross-sector and community based partnerships to promote a culture of health,” said Academy President Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, FAAN.

The Academy’s “Edge Runner” initiative identifies nurses who have developed innovative models of care that have good clinical and financial outcomes. The Academy partnered with the RAND Corporation to collect and analyze data from the Edge Runners’ models of care to identify key learnings that can be used to help other providers advance their efforts to promote a culture of health in communities. The four *Action Areas* of the RWJF Culture of Health framework include: making health a shared value; fostering cross-section collaboration to improve well-being; creating healthier, more equitable communities; and strengthening integration of health services and systems.

“This study demonstrates that nurses are key to advancing a culture of health in the nation,” emphasized Diana Mason, Lead Principal Investigator of the study.

The key findings include:

- Nurse-designed models of care can inform our understanding of the health sector’s role in building a Culture of Health;
- These models focus on all four Culture of Health Action Areas, but especially on “strengthening integration of health services and systems”;
- Strong leadership and broad community support are key to the success of these models of care;
- Identifying a sustainable funding mechanism for community-level programs that address a Culture of Health is a persistent challenge;
- Workforce development should emphasize interdisciplinary learning and collaboration; and
- Nurses are well positioned to lead and should be included in Culture of Health-related initiatives whenever possible.

“Nurses have been leaders in building a culture of health since the time of Florence Nightingale. This report demonstrates and affirms nurses’ critical role in working with individuals, families, and communities in managing illness and promoting health,” stated Antonia Villarruel, Co-Principal Investigator of the study.

The full study can be read here: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1811.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1811.html)

To date, the Academy has publicly recognized 62 individual Edge Runners who have created 48 innovative care models that deliver evidence-based high quality health care at reduced cost. Many of these models focus on fostering a culture of health through building multi-sector partnerships and promoting equitable access to high-quality services.

For more information on the Edge Runner models of care, go to <http://www.aannet.org/initiatives/edge-runners>

*The Nurse-Designed Care Models and Culture of Health: Review of Three Case Studies* (RR-1811-AAN, 2017) is authored by Grant R. Martsof, PhD, MPH, RN, Co-Principal Investigator and Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation; Diana Mason, PhD, RN, FAAN, Lead Principal Investigator and Senior Policy Service Professor, George Washington University School of Nursing; Jennifer Sloan, MPH, Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation; Cheryl Sullivan, MSES, Project Director and CEO, American Academy of Nursing; and Antonia Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN, Co-Principal Investigator and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

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#### **About the American Academy of Nursing**

The American Academy of Nursing ([www.AANnet.org](http://www.AANnet.org)) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care. Follow the Academy on Twitter at @AAN\_Nursing.

#### **About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook).

#### **About RAND**

The RAND Corporation ([www.RAND.org](http://www.RAND.org)) is a nonprofit research organization that develops solutions to public policy challenges to help make communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous.

#### **Contact:**

Barry Eisenberg  
202-777-1174  
[Barry\\_Eisenberg@aannet.org](mailto:Barry_Eisenberg@aannet.org)