QSIP/Government Affairs MENA 6/19/25 Meeting notes:

* **Firearms in Hospitals:** Leigh discussed the status of House Bill 4213 regarding firearms in hospitals, noting that it is currently inactive but should be monitored. They encouraged team members to report any updates.
	+ **Bill Status:** Leigh mentioned that House Bill 4213 is currently inactive, with no hearing scheduled and still in the committee. It is important to keep monitoring its status.
	+ **Team Monitoring:** Leigh brought up the bill to the team member safety representative at Corewell, who is also keeping an eye on it to ensure nothing slips through the cracks.
	+ **Reporting Updates:** Leigh encouraged team members to report any updates on House Bill 4213 to herself, Alicia, or Cody, so they can take necessary actions like rallying in Lansing or mobilizing frontline staff for testimonies.
* **Firearm Safety Education in Schools:** Leigh mentioned Senate Bill 58, which focuses on firearm safety education in schools. The bill is still in the Senate Education Committee, and the team is tracking its progress.
	+ **Bill Status:** Leigh stated that Senate Bill 58, which addresses firearm safety education in schools, has been referred to the Senate Education Committee since February and is awaiting a hearing.
	+ **Next Steps:** The team is tracking the bill for committee movement and may need to gather potential testimonies or petitions in Lansing.
* **Protection for Healthcare Workers:** Leigh provided an update on House Bills 4532 and 4535, which aim to protect healthcare workers. The bills are awaiting an official hearing, and Leigh encouraged team members to contact their local representatives for support.
	+ **Bill Status:** House Bills 4532 and 4535, which focus on protecting healthcare workers, have been introduced into the House and are awaiting an official hearing.
	+ **Support Actions:** Leigh encouraged team members to contact their local representatives to express support for the bills and ask them to become co-sponsors. She mentioned that preformed letters are available on the Ena website for this purpose.
	+ **Importance of Support:** Leigh emphasized that the more support they can gather, the better the chances of pushing the bills forward.
* **Nurse Licensure Compact:** Leigh discussed House Bill 4246, which proposes Michigan joining the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact. The bill has both supporters and opponents, and the team is awaiting a hearing in the House Health Policy Committee.
	+ **Bill Overview:** House Bill 4246 proposes that Michigan join the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), allowing RNs and LPNs with a Michigan-issued license to practice in other compact states and vice versa.
	+ **Support and Opposition:** The bill has supporters who emphasize benefits like improved access to care, enhanced emergency staffing, and support for military families. However, there are opponents, including the Michigan Nurses Association and labor unions, who raise concerns about out-of-state licensure standards and potential downward pressure on employment conditions.
	+ **Next Steps:** The bill is awaiting a schedule in the House Health Policy Committee. The team plans to support balanced amendments to safeguard Michigan standards and encourage testimony from emergency nurses who work near state borders or use telehealth.
	+ **Discussion Points:** Leigh and team members discussed various aspects of the bill, including the impact on nursing standards, the process for Canadian nurses, and the potential benefits during emergencies like pandemics.
* **Canadian Nurses' Licensing Process:** Michigan (Chelsea) explained the licensing process for Canadian nurses working in the US, including the need to take the NCLEX and the challenges faced.
	+ **Licensing Requirements:** Michigan (Chelsea) explained that Canadian nurses from Ontario must complete a jurisprudence exam, the NCLEX, and a screening process to work in the US. This process can be time-consuming and costly.
	+ **Historical Changes:** Michigan (Chelsea) shared that she was part of the last cohort to take both the Canadian and US exams. Now, Canadian nurses only need to take the NCLEX to be licensed in the US.
	+ **State-by-State Process:** Michigan (Chelsea) described the state-by-state licensing process, noting that once licensed in a compact state, nurses can practice in other compact states without additional steps. However, non-compact states like California require reapplication.
* **Distribution of Gun Locks:** Leigh asked if anyone needed gun locks for distribution at events, mentioning that they still have a supply available. Tiffany suggested distributing them at Sterling Fest.
	+ **Gun Lock Availability:** Leigh mentioned that there is a supply of gun locks available for distribution at events and asked if anyone needed them.
	+ **Distribution Suggestion:** Tiffany suggested distributing gun locks at Sterling Fest at the end of July, and Leigh agreed to set some aside for the event.
* **Blood Pressure Checks in Flint: Naomi** mentioned the need for volunteers for blood pressure checks in Flint, as they cannot give out the gun locks themselves.
* **Day on the Hill:** Michigan (Chelsea) announced the Michigan Day on the Hill event on October 15th in Lansing, which will include presentations, tours, and discussions with senators and lobbyists.
	+ **Event Details:** Michigan (Chelsea) announced the Michigan Day on the Hill event on October 15th in Lansing, which will be held at Heritage Hall at the Capitol. The event will include presentations, tours, and discussions with senators and lobbyists.
	+ **Participation:** The event is open to all nurses, not just those who attend the meeting, and will be advertised to encourage participation.
	+ **Event Activities:** Activities will include a presentation on government affairs, a tour of the Capitol, attendance at a Health Policy Committee meeting, and discussions with senators and lobbyists.
* **Member Appreciation Day:** Michigan (Chelsea) shared details about the Member Appreciation Day at the Tigers game on August 24th, which will include a CE event and discounted tickets for friends and family.
	+ **Event Details:** Michigan (Chelsea) shared that the Member Appreciation Day at the Tigers game will be on August 24th and will include a CE event. Members can bring friends and family, who can purchase discounted tickets.
	+ **Ticket Information:** Members are required to provide a Venmo deposit to reserve their tickets, which will be refunded upon attendance. The discounted ticket price for friends and family is approximately $32.
* **Human Trafficking Symposium:** Heather provided an update on the Human Trafficking Symposium, mentioning the challenges in securing a date and the plan to offer external CE credits and EMS CES.
	+ **Event Planning:** Heather mentioned that they are trying to secure a date for the Human Trafficking Symposium, with May 1st being a potential option. The event is planned to be close to Nurses Week.
	+ **CE Credits:** The plan is to offer external CE credits and EMS CES for the symposium. They are working with someone from Macomb County's anti-trafficking department to provide EMS CES.
	+ **Previous Symposium:** Leigh highlighted the success of the previous Human Trafficking Symposium, which included presentations from local prosecutors, Homeland Security, and a survivor. The event was highly informative and well-received.
* **Active Shooter Training:** Gordon discussed the importance of active shooter training and the need for more metal detectors in facilities, sharing past incidents and current training practices.
* **Advanced Disaster Course:** Leigh and Michigan (Chelsea) discussed the interest in the advanced disaster course and the possibility of hosting it locally, given the high demand and positive feedback.
* **Website and Social Media Updates:** Leigh and Michigan (Chelsea) mentioned the upcoming revamp of the website and the appointment of Ryan as the social media chair and webmaster.

Follow-up tasks:

* **House Bill 4213:** Monitor the status of House Bill 4213 and inform Leigh, Alicia, or Cody if any updates are heard. (Team)
* **Senate Bill 58:** Track the committee movement of Senate Bill 58 and prepare for potential testimony or petition in Lansing. (Cody)
* **House Bills 4532 and 4535:** Contact local representatives to express support for House Bills 4532 and 4535 and ask them to be co-sponsors. (Team)
* **Nurse Licensure Compact:** Encourage testimony from emergency nurses who work near state borders or use telehealth to support House Bill 4246. (Cody)
* **Gun Locks Distribution:** Inform Leigh if there are any special events or sites where gun locks can be distributed. (Team)
* **Blood Pressure Checks:** Volunteer for blood pressure checks in Flint on the second Thursday of July. (contact Naomi)
* **Day on the Hill:** Save the date for October 15th for Michigan Day on the Hill in Lansing and inform Chelsea if hotel blocks are needed. (Team)
* **Advanced Disaster Course:** Discuss offline with Chelsea and Gordon about hosting an advanced disaster course at Corwell. (Leigh, Chelsea, Gordon)