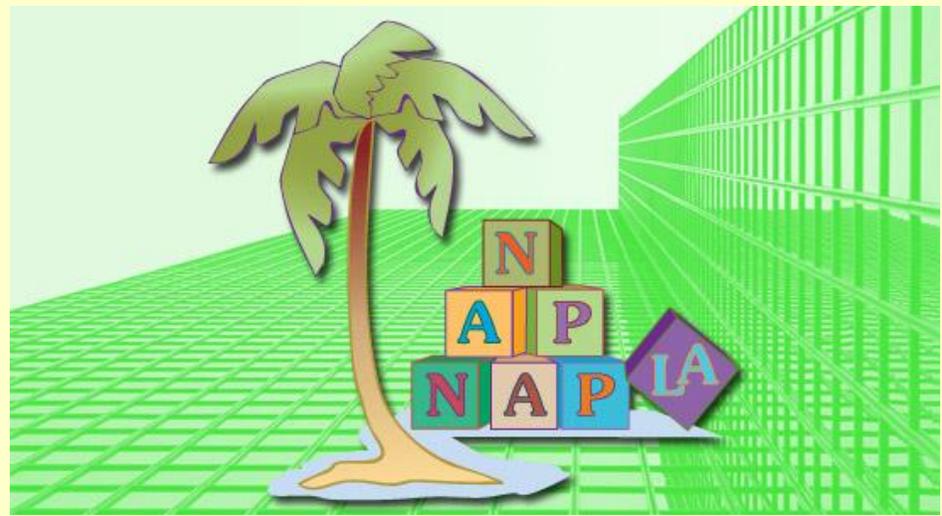


September 2010

Newsletter

Editor: Patty Quan



President's Message

Inside This Issue

- 1-2** President's Message
- 3** Member Spotlight
- 3-5** Legislative Update
- 6** Committee Updates

NAPNAP-LA Presidents' Update September 2010

On behalf of Cathy Goodhue, Lynn Messenger and myself, the NAPNAP-LA 2010-2011 Presidents, we are looking forward to another year of working together with our board and members to improve the quality of health care for infants, children, adolescents and their families.

Additionally, as one of the largest NAPNAP chapters in the nation, our vibrant community of advanced practice nursing professionals will continue in 2010-2011 to advocate for a prominent role for nurse practitioners in this era of health care reform. **Keep informed via NAPNAP-LA's legislative blog**, where Joana Duran and Demetra Bastas, Legislative Co-Chairs, discuss legislation, policy, practice and advocacy issues.

There are so many benefits to membership and participation in our Los Angeles Chapter! NAPNAP-LA provides a myriad of opportunities and experiences for its members, students and other pediatric health care professionals. With an emphasis on promoting excellence in clinical practice, each year NAPNAP-LA hosts several educational dinners throughout Los Angeles County and partners with Children's Hospital of Los Angeles to sponsor an all-day pediatric conference. Be sure to **mark your calendars** for a **September 29th, 2010** dinner lecture presenting the latest in Asthma and Allergy, and for our annual NAPNAP-LA conference on **February 12th, 2011**.

NAPNAP-LA is impacting our community via education and outreach to address the issue of children's mental health. On Saturday, **October 2nd, 2010**, NAPNAP-LA's Community Outreach Committee, co-chaired by Helen Lau and Shareemae Salvador, will meet with Peary Middle School parents, educators and other concerned community partners for a presentation of NAPNAP's KYSS curriculum (Keep Your Children and Yourself Safe and Secure.) Planning for additional KYSS presentations and community outreach is ongoing;

contact Helen and Shareemae to assist with outreach projects for your neighborhood or agency.

Stay connected with our over 180 members and keep up-to-date with regard to clinical practice issues, continuing education, professional networking, legislative issues and opportunities for mentoring and advocacy, by regularly visiting our new LANAPNAP.ORG website. The National website is another valuable resource for professional networking and practice issues, and all NAPNAP-LA members will need to create their "Community Profile," and "E-group" list on the National NAPNAP website, NAPNAP.ORG, selecting the Los Angeles Chapter, to fully access the benefits of membership.

NAPNAP-LA members are busy, hard-working nursing professionals, who are daily working to promote excellence in pediatric health care, and your time is valuable. Together we can accomplish far greater things for our patients, our colleagues, our agencies and our communities than we can achieve as isolated professionals. **Get involved with NAPNAP-LA this year!** Lend your expertise, your ideas, your passion, so that we can continue to meet the needs of our members and the children and families whom we serve.

Partnering with you for children's health!

Leslie Larsen, RN, MS, CPNP

NAPNAP-LA Co-President



Member Spotlight

VERONICA TORRES

NAPNAP-LA WEBSITE CHAIR

It is my pleasure to share a little about myself to my fellow colleagues. I am married with two boys. I graduated with my masters in nursing from California State University, Long Beach not that long ago (2005). I previously attended CSULA for my BS in nursing and Pasadena City College for my AA in nursing.

I've worked for the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District overseeing a school-based mobile clinic, Health On Wheels, for over a decade. I love working with children and with other nurse practitioners. This is how I was introduced to this advanced nursing role. I've been a NAPNAP member for about 3-4 years. Last year there was an opening position for website chair for the LA-NAPNAP Board, and decided to volunteer my time for the opportunity to learn more about what's going on locally in the NP world and to network with other PNs. Due to my membership, I was made aware of a grant opportunity, and I was lucky enough to be the recipient of a NAPNAP- Wyeth Pharmaceutical mini grant this year!

As website chair, I am responsible for the maintenance and update of our chapter's website. Please visit our website at www.lanapnap.org , I welcome any suggestions you may have. It's been a great endeavor and I encourage others to become NAPNAP members and preceptors as well. They are both great learning opportunities!

Legislative Update – September 2010

“Lessons on the Legislative Process”

By Joana Duran, MSN, PNP, CNS
Legislative Chair
LA NAPNAP

Through the Nurse In Washington Internship (NIWI), we learned about the importance of policy and politics in creating evidence-based changes in practice. As nurses, we know that research can teach us about the best ways to do things, but without knowing how to navigate the legislative process successfully, we are not able to translate that knowledge into practical changes to the way things are done. Policies affect and govern how care is given on a federal, state, community, or institutional

level. Nurses can play key roles in reforming policies to reflect research findings if they know how to navigate the system. You can start small, by learning the administrative network at your hospital and changing an institutional policy that affects how you deliver care at the bedside. Someday, you might feel ready to tackle public policies that govern the way healthcare is viewed and delivered to the entire nation. For that, you will need to know a little bit about how the legislative process works, so here is some basic information:

Branches of Government: The US Federal government is divided into three branches, the Legislative Branch (also known as Congress, which is comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate), the Executive Branch (made up of the President and the Vice President), and the Judicial Branch (which is the Supreme Court). Bills that govern public policies are introduced and approved by Congress (the Legislative Branch), then signed off by the President (the Executive Branch) before they are made into law. Often, the interpretation of these laws is left up to each individual state, which is why the wording of each bill is so important. Questions or challenges to the interpretation or applications of these laws may be brought to the Supreme Court (Judicial Branch). If a change must be made to an existing policy, it must be introduced back into Congress as a new bill or amendment.

House of Representatives: There are 435 seats in the House. The number of representatives per state is determined by the size of that state's population, so more populous states have more representatives in the House. Each representative serves a two year term, and all 435 seats are up for re-election every two years at the same time. A member of the House represents a local district and the concerns of its constituents (residents). The House can be more rigid, and has several rules regarding the amount of time spent debating any particular bill. If there is a majority, a bill will move forward regardless of what the minority wants. For that reason, the House can be less compromising, and things move more quickly.

Senate: There are 100 seats in the Senate. Each state has two representatives. Each member holds office for 6 years, and one third of the Senate is up for re-election every two years. The Senate is set up to give the minority a voice, which is why *filibusters* can take place. A filibuster is a procedure by which a lone member of the Senate can delay or completely obstruct the passing of a bill by "talking it out", or debating it for an indefinite period of time. This can make things move more slowly. It takes a 60 member vote to stop a filibuster, which is the majority of the seats in the Senate.

Legislative Process: The legislative process begins when a new bill is introduced into either the House or Senate. This can be an amendment to an existing law, or a proposal for a new policy. The bill is referenced to the appropriate committee, and then subcommittee. Mark-ups are made in the subcommittee and full committee. If the bill is reported out favorably, it goes to the full House or Senate Chamber, where it is voted upon. This is then repeated in the other chamber. If the two chambers differ, the committees will negotiate the differences. Finally, the bill is sent to the President, who either approves, or vetoes (disapproves) it.

Key Committees and Caucuses:

In the House: The House committees and caucuses that are most relevant to healthcare policy and reform are Appropriations (Labor Health and Human Services Subcommittee), Energy and Commerce (Health Subcommittee), Ways and Means (Health Subcommittee), and House Nursing Caucus.

In the Senate: The Senate committees and caucuses that are most relevant to healthcare policy and reform are Appropriations (Labor Health and Human Services Subcommittee), Health Education Labor and Pensions, and Finance (Health Subcommittee).

The Funding Process: In legislation, there is the process of *Authorization* and *Appropriations*, and the two must not be confused. Authorization is the process by which a new program is approved. The program is then created and expanded, and must be reauthorized regularly. Appropriations happens each year, and is the process by which funds are delegated in order to fund a program. Once a program is chosen for funding and a certain amount of funds has been decided upon and disbursed, funding will be provided for one fiscal year, which lasts from September 30th to October 1st of the following year.

Federal Budgeting for Healthcare/Nursing: The President releases his budget in February. This is merely a proposal, with no force of law, but it articulates priorities to Congress and the nation. Congress reviews his budget and develops its own, which includes categorical allocations for funding (like defense, health, etc.). The House and Senate Appropriations Committees develop 12 different funding bills that provide line-item detail for all the programs and agencies of the federal government. The Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations bill contains funding for healthcare research and workforce programs. Advocates often make the difference between a program receiving funding or not.

The Role of Advocacy: Senate members and House representatives rely on grass roots advocacy efforts, coalition building, and community leadership by individuals and groups that can offer constructive solutions and proposals to creating better policies. Congress members care about what these individuals and groups have to say, because they must keep them happy in order to be reelected. However, if advocates are uneducated about the issues at hand, don't understand the legislative process and how to effect change, or have inappropriate requests and demands, Congress members will not support their efforts by bringing issues to the floor of the House or Senate in the form of a bill.

Committee Updates:

WEB SITE

By: Veronica Torres

Looking for employment or volunteer opportunities? You will find them in the website. Please visit the LA-NAPNAP website at www.lanapnap.org, it has the latest information regarding what's going on locally. You will find the calendar of events and community outreach projects that are being undertaken. Currently we are working on the possibility of having the PayPal feature added as a convenience for our members to register for our upcoming annual conference. Stay tuned. Any comments or suggestions regarding the website, please forward them to vero3@aol.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By: Shareemae Salvador & Helen Lau

In a continued effort to raise awareness in mental health with the early adolescent population, NAPNAP will persist in reaching out to middle schools in the Long Beach Unified School District this year. Our focus in the upcoming 2010-2011 school year will include educating parents and/or school faculty with the KySS presentation. Resources for parents and teachers will be available at the presentation. Our next presentation will be on October 2, 2010 in the morning at Peary Middle School in Gardena. If you are interested in joining the Community Outreach Committee, can come to the event, or have ideas for Community Outreach, please contact Helen Lau at helenlau01@hotmail.com or Shareemae Salvador at Sharee_salvador@yahoo.com. Please stay tuned for upcoming opportunities in community outreach events planned this year.

PROGRAM

By: Cathy Goodhue & Debbie Harris

The program committee is gearing up for another exciting annual conference. Please save the date on your calendar; Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. If you have any speaker/topic recommendations, please email Debbie Harris at dharris@chla.usc.edu