**Child Health Policy Learning Collaborative (CHPLC) Call Notes**

**Guest Speaker**: Tay Kopanos of AANP  
**Topic**: Key state-level practice issues on the horizon for 2021  
**January 6, 2021**

Advanced practice registered nurses in multiple states have full practice authority, multiple have collaborative agreements, but others require supervised practice. The notes from this meeting are to help address the APRNs in supervised practice states move toward full practice authority.

It is important to set a game plan and stick to it. The outcome (improved access and outcomes for pediatric patients then full practice access) is more important than the pathway to get there. The AACN and NAPNAP recommend following the steps of the best practice for success steps rather than asking APRNs in successful states for the wording for their bills. Every state and legislature is different. The steps for best practice for success include:

**Favorable political landscape:**Politics must be set aside to achieve the outcome. It is important to work with all legislators. Know who serves on what committees, what is important to them, and establish contact with them helping them realize you are a pediatric health care expert.

**Unified nursing community**: It is important for every APRN organization in the state to have the same message to prevent confusing the message, ask, and ending up without achieving the desired change.

**Clear ask and messaging**: Stick to the message – this is the problem, this is why it is important, and this is what can be done to resolve the problem. "We ask you to sponsor or vote for bill X to accomplish Y" – a clear message helps them connect the dots. Example: a child with an asthma exacerbation needs nebulizer treatments, but an APRN cannot sign for the nebulizer and the child ends up in the emergency department and is admitted to the hospital resulting in an increased health risk for the child and increased cost of health care.

**Active grassroots network**: It takes more than a handful of APRNs to achieve the desired outcome. The more the unified, clear message is heard the more it will resonate. The voice of 1000 APRNs is louder than the voice of one. Standardized messages can be used where the APRN only needs to add their legislators' names to the message before sending it. It typically takes at least 3 contacts with a legislator to establish a relationship. Remember to identify issues important to your legislators and provide information and support on those issues as well as pediatric access to care and improved outcomes. Every year is an opportunity to build capital even if you do not have an ask that year.

**Effective counter and defense plan**: In most states the medical societies typically have strong political ties and usually want to block full practice authority. Understand what the APRNs can agree on, items that can be eliminated, and have a strong defense plan. Legislators must understand APRN education is focused entirely on specific population rather than medical school and residency where a large amount of time is spent on other patient populations. Pediatric APRN education is solely focused on pediatric patients.

**Champions and stakeholder partners**: Identify the stakeholders, champions, and partners who can support the cause – mental health providers, teachers, Americans for Prosperity, etc. Children with improved access to health care are generally healthier which typically improves school attendance, mental health issues can be identified and treated earlier, improved health should improve overall outcomes in life.

**Take away message**: Reducing barriers to health care access improves outcomes. It is about the patients, not about what APRNs want. This is the clear message to deliver: Increased access can improve health care outcomes and ultimate decrease health care costs.

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