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From the Desk of the CNF President

A New Paradigm – Professional Nursing Organizations for the Next Decade andBeyond

**Sara Jarrett, RN, CNA, EdD,
President Colorado Nurses Foundation**

Nursing has a rich history related to nursing professional organizations. As the profession emerged in the US in the late 1800's, the American Nurses Association (ANA) was formed in 1896 from a merger of the first two nursing professional groups started earlier. In 1899 an International organization was established: International Council of Nurses (ICN). This laid the groundwork and was just the beginning of the growth and development of a wide variety and large number of professional groups. (Note: Both ANA and ICN are alive and well today.) Soon there was overlap of purpose and competition for membership. Today, various resources show that there are at least "200 plus" different professional nursing groups in the US with their own distinct purposes and professional goals. How can these groups work effectively together for the collective good of one profession?

The US profession now has over 3 million nurses and this plethora of organizations, who often are working in isolation to each other and the greater good of the profession. In this age of Twitter, Face Book, Instagram and other media options is the profession maximizing relevant use of such communication options? The critical question remains- How many and what type of professional groups do we need today? It is this author's belief that we need broad interest nursing organizations that addresses the needs of the profession as a whole. This is where professional standards are articulated. Second, we need focused clinical groups that bring the relevance of current practice to the discussion table of issues. Lastly we need an organization that is the voice for Advocacy for the profession both nationally and at the states' level. This Advocacy must include advocacy for the profession and its members, and advocacy for the patients that we serve across the continuum of



Sara Jarrett

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Colorado Nurses Association President...

Did You Know?

**Donna Strickland, MS, RN, PMHCNS-BC, CSP
President**

Did you know that The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA)?

And, did you know that you can save up to \$150 off of your professional ANCC certification if you are a member of the Colorado Nurses Association (and therefore a member of the American Nurses Association)? Compare any professional association's discount for ANCC certification and see the difference ANA membership makes in the price!

The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. It recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes, while providing safe,

positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. It also offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials.

Nursing Executives and Hospitals. The ANCC Success Pays® program makes it easier and more affordable to provide your



Donna Strickland



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BSN in 10: The New York Experience

Barbara Zittel, RN, Ph.D.

In 2003, at the centennial celebration of the New York State Board for Nursing, the Board unanimously approved a motion recommending that the State Education Department consider support for: **Statutory/regulatory change permitting future registered nurse (RN) applicants who have completed an associate degree or diploma in nursing to continue to receive licensure as an RN but requiring such persons to obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing within 10 years of initial licensure.**

Based on an opinion from Department Counsel, it was determined that the change would best be effected through the legislative process. The Board for Nursing is precluded from legislative lobbying. However, the proposal was quickly adopted by the New York Organization of Nurse Executives (NYONE), an organization comprising the major employers of nurses throughout the state. NYONE spearheaded the initiative by developing bill language, obtaining sponsors in both the State Assembly and Senate and hiring a lobby firm.

Major provisions of the bills include:

- Grandparenting of all currently licensed RNs to **exempt** them from ever having to meet the requirements of the bill;
- A lead-in time frame from the date of passage of the bill, to permit all students enrolled in associate or diploma programs to complete their studies and be grandparented and thus **exempt** from ever having to meet the bill's requirements;
- Provisions that would place an RN's license on "hold" when the baccalaureate degree is not obtained in 10 years. This "hold" is similar to the action taken when a licensee fails to meet continuing education requirements in those professions that mandate continuing education as a criterion for continued registration; and
- The opportunity for an extension beyond 10 years, for extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Department.

On June 19, 2017, after fourteen years of legislative activity, the bill was passed by a significant majority of both the NYS Assembly and Senate. We now await the signature of Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The bill is grounded in the desire of NY's nurses to assure the highest quality patient care and public protection. Shorter lengths of stays, higher patient acuity, and more sophisticated technologies and procedures are increasing the complexity of patient care—which in turn places greater demands on nursing competencies.

Research studies clearly demonstrate the added value of additional education in relation to patient outcomes. These studies show that increasing the number of baccalaureate nurses in an acute care hospital decreases the number of patient deaths. That effect is linear, such that the more baccalaureate nurses in a particular facility, the lower the number of deaths.

The bill is not a move to eliminate any portion of the existing nursing workforce, nor does it require the closure of a single associate degree or diploma program. The bill is viewed as one that seeks to further expand the strengths of future associate degree and diploma prepared nurses to meet the ever increasingly complex health care needs of New York's residents in the 21st Century.

Guiding Patients to a Safe Prescription Assistance Program

The cost of pediatric health continues to rise, and families who are uninsured and underinsured are continually searching for ways to help with their prescription medication costs. Data shows that 4 out of 5 deaths in children under age 5 are caused by infectious, neonatal, or nutritional conditions, many of which could be prevented by life-saving medications. Additionally, it was estimated that 10,380 children under the age of 15 would be diagnosed with cancer in 2016. National averages show approximately 5.5% of children under the age of 18 do not have health insurance. Clearly, there are many parents who will be seeking assistance in affording their children's medications in 2018.

With so many possible pediatric health concerns, nurses are vital in the effort to educate patients and families on available programs to assist in affording prescription medications. By encouraging them to talk openly and honestly with their physician, and by offering community resources, nurses can bring relief to worried parents dealing with the stress of fighting for their child's health and well-being. Nurses are a critical part of a child's healthcare experience, whether at the school nurse's office, pediatric visits, or at the local hospital or clinic. Parents will often seek nursing staff counsel when they cannot afford a medication,

or feel they must choose between paying bills or paying for a child's prescription to be filled at the local pharmacy. Being able to afford necessary medications is something that no parent should have to worry about, but the reality is that it happens all too often.

Fortunately, parents are not alone as there are community resources available to help them in affording their family's prescription medications. It is important to consider HIPAA compliancy, resource effectiveness, and reliability when recommending discount card programs to patients & parents. Nurses must feel confident that their patient's privacy will be protected, and that the program is a long-standing, reputable service that can be trusted. In reviewing available options, nurses must be vigilant that parents are educated about the choices available in Colorado, and reinforce the importance of privacy to guide them in choosing wisely to protect their personal information. Another important consideration is recommending a prescription assistance program that works closely in Colorado with medical organizations.

Whether families are struggling to cover their family's daily medications, antibiotics for flu season, or a more serious health crisis for a child, nurses can be a trusted guide to help parents find ways to cope with rising prescription costs.

Support the Colorado Nurses Foundation

Honor a Mentor for Nurses Week 2018

The Colorado Nurses Foundation (CNF) currently has scholarships that are awarded every year. Many of the scholarships are designated for specific applicant groups and others are open to "all" who meet the basic requirements that are available on our website at www.coloradonursesfoundation.com.

As Nurses Week approaches in May 2018, we would like to encourage you to consider making a donation in honor of a nurse, a nurse mentor, or a nurse who has had a major influence in your career as a nurse. Every nurse can identify an exceptional individual(s) who has served their development in some way. The CNF encourages you to take time and reflect on your career. Who are those individuals who helped you develop, find that niche role or job, challenged you to be better and stronger as a nurse? We invite you to recognize them by making a donation to CNF in their name(s).

All names of mentors and mentees will be shared in the Colorado Nurse. Donation amounts will remain private.

To honor your nurse mentor and make a donation in her or his name, please visit the coloradonursesfoundation.com website and click on the "About" button. The donation information can be found at the bottom of that page. If you would like to mail CNF a check, please note your mentor name(s) and send to CNF, P.O. Box 3406, Englewood, CO 80155.



RN: CAMP NURSE

GENEVA GLEN CAMP in INDIAN HILLS, Colorado, will hire two RN's for the 2018 Summer season: June 2 – August 11. GENEVA GLEN has an excellent reputation and rich heritage. ACA accredited. Compensation includes \$6,000 salary, travel allowance of \$300, insurance, room and board, beautiful, modern health center facility, participation in camp life including horseback riding, swimming, hiking—ideal Colorado climate, healthful working environment (Indian Hills is near Red Rocks). RN graduates welcome!

Contact: Johnny Domenico,
P.O. Box 248, Indian Hills, CO 80454, (303) 697-4621 x 13.
Email: johnny@genevaglen.org. Apply online at www.genevaglen.org/nurse

Are you ready to Thrive?



Cargill has the opportunity for you! Cargill has an opportunity available for Nurse RN located in Fort Morgan, Colorado. This position will be responsible for day-to-day activities in our onsite Occupational Health Department. Must live in or be able to relocate to the Fort Morgan area.

Interested candidates may apply online at www.cargill.com/careers. Please use Job Posting Number FOR03265.

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BARRICK FAMILY PRACTICE

We are seeking an experienced Nurse Practitioner for a busy independently owned family practice office.

Our team at Barrick Family Practice has offered exceptional healthcare to the Colorado Springs area for over twenty years and we are excited to announce our recent opening for a new provider.

Our ideal candidate will be versed in acute care, chronic disease management, and preventative care. We offer a flexible working schedule (part time or full time), competitive compensation, and a skilled, caring support staff.

Interested and experienced candidates please contact Kristy at consulting@medsi.net.