Advocacy, Public Policy and the Future of Occupational Health Nursing

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Objectives

1. Overview of Public Policy & Advocacy
2. Highlight AAOHN’s Past & Current Advocacy Efforts
3. Describe A Vision for Our future
Our **vision** is that workers and workplace community environments will be healthy and safe.

Our **mission** is to ensure that occupational and environmental health nurses have the appropriate skills and are seen as an authority on health, safety, productivity and disability management for worker populations.

AAOHN achieves its mission through the following activities:

- Advance the profession
- Protect the profession
- Promote the profession
- Guide the profession
~ 5,000

Membership Categories:
- Active – LPNs/LVNs, RNs, Advanced Practice
- Student
- Retired
- International
- Inactive
- Affiliate – anyone interested in the field of Occupational Health
Public Policy

- Represents ideology & belief systems
- Used to Describe Government Actions
- Implemented through legislative, executive & judicial branches of Government
Nurses As Policy Advocates

- Nurses -- the most trusted profession
- 3.6 Million RN in the U.S.
- Public, Media & Policy Makers listen when nurses speak with one voice
Future of Nursing
&
Health Policy
Occupational and environmental health nurses understand the “big-picture”

Knowledge & experience of how policy decisions affect workers, work environments, families & communities
Advocacy doesn't require any new skills!

You just apply communication and relationship building skills you already have -- but in a new context.
Advocacy is a Process not an Outcome
Participate in the democratic process
Take action in support of particular issue or cause
Advocacy Process Steps

1. Identify issue
2. Collect information
3. Identify decision makers & who can be influenced
4. Build support through networking
5. Take action
OHNs Can...

Participate in Town meetings 
or
Public Demonstration
OHNs Can...

Conduct a Public Forum
OHNs Can...

Write a Letter to the Editor
Give a Media Statement
OHNs Can...
Email & request support on a particular issue
OHNs Can...

Go, Meet, & Discuss issues
Advocacy Occurs Through

• Grassroots Efforts
• Lobbying
• Special Interest Groups
• Professional Organizations
AAOHN Committees

Advocacy
Governmental Affairs
Legislative Affairs
Advocacy Committee

- Reviewed requests for AAOHN support on legislative and policy issues
- Developed Policy Position Statement
Governmental Affairs Committee

- Re instituted in 2013
- Bring AAOHN back in health policy arena
- Develop Advocacy Action Toolkit
- Develop network of AAOHN chapters
- Collaborate with Advocacy on Global OHN White Paper
Legislative Affairs Committee

Established 2014 -- 1 Committee
Combined Advocacy & Governmental Affairs

2 Main Functions:

1. Analysis & Public Response
2. Chapter Networking Group
Legislative Affairs Committee

Jennan Phillips, Chair  Alan Helyer
Jennifer Beining  Tina Lahaszow
Peggy Berry  Karen Mastroianni
Pam Dannenberg  Donna Zandowski
Kathryn Emanski
Lavita Ewing  Linda Walker, Board Liaison
Donna Fudale  Nan Migliozzi, Staff
Debra Gray
2014 AAOHN Public Policy Platform
AAOHN Public Policy Platform

1. Improving worker health and safety
2. Protecting public and environmental health
3. Promoting population health
4. Supporting Professional Nursing Practice
IMPROVE WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

• Partner with other professional organizations
• Support global, federal and state legislation
• Collaborate with:
  • Occupational Health and Safety Administration
  • National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
  • Environmental Protection Agency
  • Healthy People 2020 – Health Literacy
  • Global Plan for Action on Workers’ Health 2008-2017
  • International Commission on Occupational Health
PROTECT PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Endorse strategies that strengthen the nation’s public health system
- Encourage funding efforts
- Support global efforts on environmental hazard protection
- Encourage community and global disaster preparedness and response
PROMOTE POPULATION HEALTH

• Assure quality health care access
• Health promotion programs
• Telemedicine
• Encourage Electronic Medical Records
• Promote health literacy and patient-centered care
SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE

- Partner with other professional organizations
- Endorse regulations on nurse practice
- Improve quality of OHN practice
- Provide learning opportunities
Members actively advocate for legislation and workplace policies to safeguard the health and safety of workers, their families and surrounding communities.

Members work individually and collectively at the local, state, national and international levels to support legislative, regulatory, and public policy efforts that positively impact occupational and environmental health.
Chapter Networking Group

Discuss issues that affect our practice of occupational health nursing or affect the health and safety of workers, their families and the work environment

Share experiences - help others learn how they can influence an issue in their own state, i.e. Nurse Practice Act

Decide if issues need further investigation to determine the impact of the issue & how AAOHN should respond

Send issues to the policy analysis group for review
Legislative Affairs Chapter Networking Group

Topics of Concern
- Nurse Compact Legislation

Massachusetts  **HB 2006; SB 1060**  2013-2014
Illinois  **SB 3513**  2013-2014
New York  **A07417**  NLC is one of four parts of Military Spouse Act of 2013.  2013-2014
Oklahoma  **HB2554; HB3019; SB1871**  All bills inactive.  2014

- Advanced Practice Nurse Legislation
  [https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn.htm](https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn.htm)

- Other Issues as the Group Determines, such as Violence in the Workplace Prevention, Safe Patient Handling, etc.
Legislative Affairs Chapter Networking Group

Meetings via conference call in April, June, and August 2014

Meetings continue every other month at 3 pm Eastern Time – next on Oct. 15, 2014 and Dec. 17, 2014

Contact Nan Migliozzi at nan@columbus.rr.com to receive notices of the networking meetings

Resource for tracking state and federal legislation: http://www.billtrack50.com
The NIWI is “open to any RN or nursing student (all levels of education) that is interested in an orientation to the legislative process. There is not an application or acceptance process to attend NIWI. You just need to register and pay the registration fee” The Nursing Organizations Alliance, 2014

http://www.nursing-alliance.org/content.cfm/id/niwi
AAOHN Nurse in Washington Internship Grant

The Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI)
• Actively learn about the legislative process
• Gain advocacy skills
• Network with people from other organizations who are engaged in advocacy
• Have an opportunity to meet with your own legislators in Washington D.C.

AAOHN will award a grant of $2,500 to one active member to attend NIWI 2015

• See the AAOHN Webpage under Membership > Individual and Business Awards and Recognitions for more info
• The Deadline to apply for the AAOHN NIWI Grant is November 1st, 2014.
AAOHN Respiratory Protection Education & Resources Web Kit  http://rpp.aaohnacademy.org/
This is the result of a grant from NIOSH

FREE 90-minute, self-paced, 10-module online learning tool designed to prepare the OHN with respiratory protection competencies to perform as their organization's Respiratory Protection Administrator (RPA). Awards 1.5 CNE.
Resources

AAOHN Legislative Toolkit

- AAOHN Advocacy and Professional Organizations
- AAOHN Advocacy at the Federal Level
- AAOHN Advocacy at the State and Local Level
- AAOHN Advocacy Tips for Visits and Phone Calls
- AAOHN Sample Advocacy Letter
- AAOHN Sample Advocacy Email

Workplace Health & Safety

2015 National Conference
For More Information

AAOHN National Office
www.aaohn.org

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