



Advocacy in Nursing

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Objectives

- Describe what Advocacy means
- Describe the history of nurses and advocacy
- Explain why nurses are so critical
- Describe current focuses of regional area coalitions (RAC's)
- Describe current topics in the government
- Describe what we can do as nurses
- Explain next steps

What is *Advocacy*

Intro



- **Nurses and advocacy**
 - Need nurse advocacy to make structural changes
 - improve patient care
 - affect change in the healthcare system

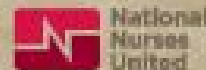
History

- History of nurses shaping healthcare
 - Florence Nightingale-recommended performing frequent hand hygiene to reduce infection.
 - She used her power and recognition by her upper class status in England to advocate for the Parliament to send soap to the soldiers in the Crimean War
 - Lillian Wald-nurse and advocate for those that are disadvantaged, promoted the first school nurse role-outdoor playground and strong advocate for social programs (Schub & Strayer, 2016)





LAVINIA DOCK



“As the modern nursing movement is emphatically an outcome of the general woman movement and as nurses are no longer a dull, uneducated class, but an intelligent army of workers...

What is to be our attitude toward full citizenship? Shall we be an intelligent, enlightened body of citizens, or an inert mass of indifference?”

1858-1956

Born in Pennsylvania

Nurse, Suffragist, Equal Rights Advocate

NURSE ADVOCATE HERO

Why nurses?

Nurses have power in numbers which equals reward power

- The power to grant favors and reward others
- Size of nursing workforce! 2.9 million RN's in the US, and a large proportion that vote = voting block!
 - Nurses have some of best voting track records in US, 1 in every 44 votes are cast by a nurse, and 1 in 17 votes cast by women is cast by a nurse (Schub & Strayer, 2016)
- Nurses have referent power, they have the respect and admiration of others
 - Public loves nurses! Nurses rank first nearly every year on Gallup's annual poll for professional honesty and ethical standards (Schub & Strayer, 2016)



2.9 million

RN's in the US (Schub & Strayer, 2016)

#NursesUnited

Why Nurses?

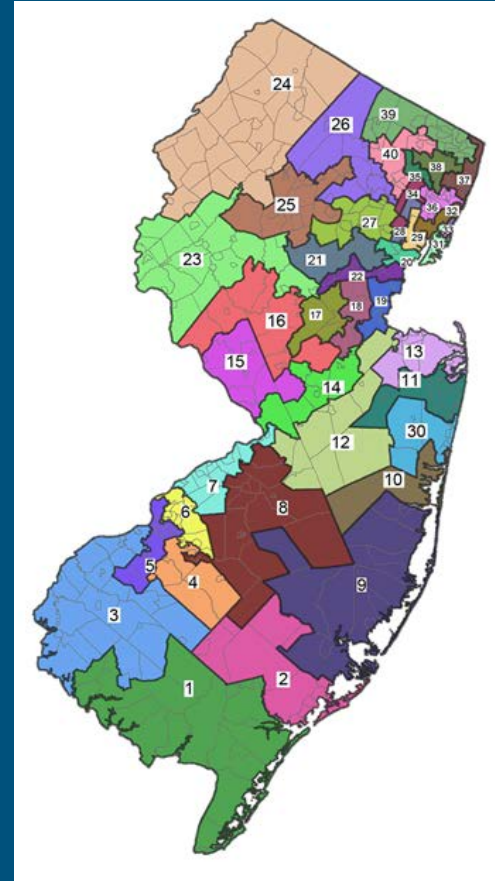
- Nurses can use their expert power to influence public policy, which is gained through knowledge, expertise, and experience
 - Because of our role in healthcare, we are the first to encounter any insufficiencies in the delivery of healthcare as related to
 - Safety and satisfaction
 - Access to services
 - Clinical outcomes
 - Health disparities
- More and more nurses earning their masters and doctoral degrees and work in advanced practice settings
 - Gaining more power and increasing the ability to influence others
- Legitimate power = positional power
 - RN's have legitimate power by virtue of their license to practice and the rights and responsibilities associated with that license

Barriers to Advocacy of Nurses

- Lack of awareness of the power nurses possess
 - Due to gender stereotyping
 - View of nurses as subordinates to other healthcare professionals
 - View that power is a corruptive not influential tool
- Low number of nurses involved in professional organization that advocate for healthcare policy
- Failure of nursing profession to establish a single, minimum educational entry point to profession, Hospital vs university setting
- Lack of basic nursing education regarding issues and strategies to healthcare advocacy (Schub & Strayer, 2016)

New Jersey's Legislature

- 40 Legislative Districts
- 1 Senator per district
- 2 Assembly seats per district
- NJ Legislature www.njleg.org



Who's Who in NJ Politics

- Governor Phil Murphy
- Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver
- Senate President Sweeney
- Senate Majority Leader Weinberg
- Senate Minority Leader Kean
- Assembly Speaker Coughlin
- Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald
- Assembly Minority Leader Bramnick



2018 Legislature Calendar

Two Year Legislative Session (2018-2019)

January – New session begins, new Murphy Administration

March – Governor delivers Budget Address for FY 2019

April, May - Budget Break

June – Legislature returns, focus on Budget Bill

June 30 – Governor must sign Budget Bill by June 30

July 1 – Fiscal Year Begins

July – August – Summer recess

Fall – Legislature returns

December – Legislature deliberates bills, takes break from Christmas to first week in January

Key Legislation

- Staffing ratios
- BSN in 10
- Nurse multistate Licensure compact
- Nurse educators to NJ BON (Just passed recently now will have 2 nurse educators on NJ BON)
- May 2018 signed a bill to allow for tougher training and educational standards for getting a school nurse certification, including new clinical experience requirements



Current Legislation

- 5/21/2018 State senate health committee approved a bill that would enter NJ into national nurse licensing agreement
 - The bill combines NJ S954 and NJ S1699, and allow RN to practice in 29 other states
 - RN's must meet 11 requirements to obtain
 - Measure advance, not needs to be hear in Assembly Professions Committee
- 5/21/2018 Bill S -1612 that establishes nurse aid ratios in nursing homes, passed in Senate Health Committee
- April 20, 2018, the national Organization of Nurse Practitioners made commitment to move all all entry level NP to DNP degree by 2025.
- Hep C bill
- Budget-opioid abuse and legalized marijuana

ONL NJ PAC

- Established in June 2015
- Provide campaign contributions to candidates who support nursing and quality healthcare
- Goal is to protect and promote safety and quality of patient care in NJ
 - Influence legislation at state level

AONE-Advocacy Day 2019

- May 15, 2019
- Support Title VIII Reauthorization
- Reauthorize Nursing Workforce Programs
- Had topics for that day
- Capitol Hill Visits



AONE Advocacy 2017



What can we do?

- Learn about the power of nurses to influence public policy
- Register and vote in all elections
- Know new healthcare policies, and visit healthcare policy websites
- Legislation active in Congress at <http://www.congress.gov>
- Academy of Medical-Surgical nurses at <http://www.amsn.org>
- American Nurses Association at <http://www.nursingworld.org>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at <http://www.hhs.gov>
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid at <http://www.cms.gov>
- Network with other nurses to advocate for policy change
- Join professional practice organizations at the state and national level
- Develop relationships with legislators by phone, email, letters
- Make yourself available to testify at public hearings related to health care policy



What can we do?

- Invite your legislator to visit your unit to look at what you do up close and personal
- Start a letter writing campaign related to a specific healthcare policy issue
 - Templates can be found on websites such as the ANA
- Consider working on a campaign to elect a candidate that you share similar opinions regarding healthcare policy
- Consider running for public office
- Conduct research to strengthen evidence based nursing practice
- Come to AONE Advocacy Day in Washington DC, in September 2018

“How very little can be done under the
spirit of fear”



- Florence Nightingale

Speak Up!

You have the Power!



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