

INITIATIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF NURSING CA Regional Action Coalition

Future of Nursing Report

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released the report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," in October 2010. The report, a collaborative effort of the IOM and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, calls for enhancing nursing's leadership role in health-care redesign, increasing the capacity of nurses to address growing societal need, and raising the education level of the nursing work force.

As a result of its evidence-based deliberations, the IOM committee identified four key messages that structure the discussion and recommendations presented in its report:

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
3. Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
4. Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

The report also outlines several recommendations that address a range of system changes, including innovative ways to improve health-care quality and address the health-care workforce shortage that continues to threaten the availability and quality of care in the United States.

1. Remove scope-of-practice barriers
2. Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts
3. Implement nurse residency program.
4. Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020
5. Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020.
6. Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.
7. Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.
8. Build an infrastructure for the collection and analysis of interprofessional health-care workforce data.

California Regional Action Coalition

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in partnership with the Center to Champion Nursing in America at AARP, appointed the California Regional Action Coalition (RAC) as one of five states selected to lead implementation of these recommendations. The coalition is the driving force of the overall initiative to move key issues forward at the local, state and national levels. The coalitions will develop long-term, sustainable actions to improve health in California.

The California RAC currently includes more than 30 nurses and health-care leaders who recently identified five goals for the statewide initiative:

1. Develop achievable action steps that lead toward the actualization of the eight Future of Nursing recommendations
2. Engage a broad base of stakeholders
3. Create statewide structures that support the work to be accomplished
4. Ensure regional engagement throughout the state
5. Inform the national campaign

The coalition seeks nurses and health-care leaders statewide to participate as stakeholders to build momentum and provide linkages across our communities, and to secure funding for further implementation.

Summary

The Initiative for the Future of Nursing Campaign will transform California's health-care system so that the people of our state have access to high-quality, family-centered care where they live, work, learn and play.

Nurses have the capacity to improve health-care systems and advance health for our population, and will play an increasingly important role in this agenda. Full enactment of the nursing role will require changes in nursing education, both in increasing broad knowledge and skill and in streamlining educational advancement.

This initiative will require all of us to put aside stereotypes and consider new possibilities so that nurses can contribute fully in a vastly improved health-care system. Nurses play critical roles at the bedside and in the boardroom, in all the places where care is delivered, and in communities where health can be improved. The population of California is diverse, encompassing vast geography and diverse communities. With the growing demand for health care, we must improve both access and quality of the care we deliver.

That's why this initiative was launched – to make sure people across California have access to the care they need, where and when they need it.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to represent ORNCC in this important work. I look forward to keeping our membership informed of the issues and progress.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Sarlatte