

I attended the National Conference in New York City. I have purchased a school nurse promotion kit that is useful for media and legislative meetings. I would like to work on getting some material and folders developed that we can use on a regular basis and make sure all of the regions have a copy. We need a standard focused message.

Meeting with Senator Stivers regarding Medicaid funding on July 21. Sam Whitaker, Gabi Karpowicz, Debbie Albert, Lee Tracy, and I met with Senator Stivers and another Senator, whose name I will misspell if I try (Niehaus?), regarding our concerns that Ohio has still not resolved its issues regarding Medicaid funding and its effect on school and school health funding. The senators were very positive and agreed with our position. Additionally they are willing to help get things moving and have stayed involve in the process since our meeting. During this meeting Senator Stivers requested to meet again regarding another issue that was brought up regarding the school nurse role in public health, disaster preparedness, and pandemic planning. He expressed great interest in this topic. Sam will set up another meeting specifically to discuss this.

The medical surge bed capacity committee will be meeting again on August 22. I will be attending that meeting and have a more updated report on its work and how school nursing is affected or can help after the next meeting. So far, the meetings have been involved in defining various resources and how they match up with federal definitions. This committee is working on a plan to expand health care resources in a pandemic or disaster situation in which our normal facilities become full and overwhelmed.

PLEASE, let me know and start to think now of people who say they would like to get involved more with OASN. We need a new slate of officers for next year, but it would be helpful to both the volunteers and the board if they had an opportunity to work on a few projects THIS YEAR. For example, we need a vice president next year. It would help that person to be involved with the program committee THIS YEAR, before taking it over next year. Come to the meeting with ideas and contact information.

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