

OASN Report  
Professional Issues Committee  
August 2006

There are two components to this report: the main work of the committee since the last report; and an update on the 2005 NASN position statements and issue briefs.

A. The main activity of this committee has been the work with the Ohio Department of Education to secure a process for approving School Nurse License Preparation Programs in Ohio. Nancy Rini, Dorothy Bystrom and Susan Praeger have been meeting with Dr. Michele Lehman of the Ohio Department of Education. The most recent meeting was on August 1, 2006. At that meeting, Dr. Lehman reviewed the materials presented by the group for consideration and provided feedback.

Background: With the adoption of the Ohio licensure standards, Ohio professional preparation programs must be based on professional society guidelines. In the case of school nursing, our learned society is the National Association of School Nurses. This means that the standards, by which programs are reviewed, need to be based on the NASN standards. Once the process for Ohio School Nurse Licensure Preparation Programs is approved, the Ohio Department of Education will present a training for universities and colleges wishing to have an approved school nurse licensure program so that they understand the program review process and are able to prepare the materials for submission.

Issues: There continues to be on-going issues with this process.

1. In 2005, a major issue was that NASN-ANA standards are copyrighted and the posting of the standards on the Ohio Department of Education website would be a copyright violation. According to our conversations with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), we (nursing) are the only learned society that charges the public and its members to have access to the standards. Because the document prepared by this committee last year was based on the NASN standards, it could not be posted for colleges and universities to have access to the materials. We were advised to develop "Ohio Standards".
2. At the August 1, 2006 meeting, we presented Ohio standards based primarily on the standards for nursing care established by the Ohio Board of Nursing and as reflected in Ohio law. Each of the NASN standards could be matched with Ohio rules, regulations, and OASN materials. Unfortunately, according to our discussion at ODE, the learned society guidelines must be the standards, so Ohio rules cannot be used as the standards for school nurse preparation programs. It was suggested that we could modify the NASN standards and make them uniquely Ohio's.

However, as a group, we felt that this was not feasible. For instance: if assessment is an NASN standard, we did not believe that it made sense to come of with a synonym for assessment, and on down the line with diagnosis, implementation, etc.

3. According to our conversation at ODE, it is typical for the learned society to review the programs. NASN does not have this as an initiative at this time. However, if the process was such that NASN could review the programs, they could set the guidelines for program review, which could include the requirement that programs use the NASN standards. (If you are thinking that this report is somewhat confusing at this point: join the club!)

#### Status:

At this point, Dr. Lehman is going to once again consult with Legal Advisors for ODE. It might be possible to ask the Chair of the Special Interest Group of NASN, the Consortium of School Nurse Educators (CSNE), if that group would be willing to review programs. Since members of that group represent national school nurse educators, there are certain advantages of this approach: a national perspective from expert educators could be obtained; a means to minimize the potential on in-state bias in the review process; since that group is an NASN Special Interest Group (SIG), the use of standards could be required but would not have to be printed on the ODE website.

If the legal counsel agrees, then Dr. Lehman would contact the CSNE chair, Dr. Barbara Zimmerman to determine the group's interest and availability of taking on this process. If they agree, then ODE would present an Ohio-specific training to that group so that they would be able to serve as reviewers of Ohio programs. ODE would also then conduct training for colleges and universities in Ohio in terms of preparing a document for review.

The committee is currently awaiting feedback from Dr. Lehman.

B. The following position statements or issue briefs were adopted or revised by NASN during 2005. If the OASN board believes that a unique position or brief specific to Ohio needs to be addressed by this committee, or that a summary of these statements or briefs should be included for members in the OASN Newsletter each year, please let us know.

#### Position Statements

- Asthma Rescue Inhalers in the School Setting, The Use of (Revised 2005 - previously titled, "The Use of Asthma Inhalers in the School Setting")
- Bioterrorism Emergency Preparedness and Response, School Nurse Role in (Revised 2005 - previously titled, "School Nurse Role in Bioterrorism Emergency Preparedness)

- Chemical and Radiologic Threats, School Nurse Role in Emergency Preparedness and Response to (Revised 2005 - from content previously included in the Statement titled, "School Nurse Role in Bioterrorism Emergency Preparedness")
- Environmental Impact Concerns in the School Setting (Revised 2005 - Previously "Healthy School Environment")(see also the Joint Statement on Role of Occupational and Environmental Health Nurses and School Nurses in Promoting Safe and Healthful Environments for Working Youths)
- Epinephrine Use in Life-Threatening Emergencies (Revised 2005)
- Expert Witness, The Role of the School Nurse as an (Adopted 2005)
- Indoor Air Quality (Revised 2005)
- Mental Health of Students (Revised 2005)
- Reproductive Health Education (Revised 2005)
- Sun Protection, The School Nurse and (Revised 2005)
- Violence Prevention, Role of the School Nurse in (Revised 2005)
- Volunteers for Health Services, The Use of (Revised 2005)

#### Issue Brief

- Mental Health and Illness (2005)

In the meantime, if the OASN board has any position statements, issues briefs or other professional issues concerns that they want addressed, please forward them to me. I regret that I am unable to attend the Summer 2006 Retreat of the OASN Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Praeger