Title:
SPECIAL SESSION: Decision Maker vs. Action Taker: Nurses on Governance and Policy Boards

Keywords:
leadership, nurses and policy

Summary:
This presentation will introduce NOBC's Board Leadership Competencies Model and discuss avenues for nurses to advocate for global health through policy engagement in a variety of settings and levels. Additionally, this presentation will detail the methodology behind the creation of the model and its significant importance within the nursing profession.

Abstract Text:
Nurses play an essential role within healthcare, as front-line service providers, managers and directors of care, as well as vital decision makers. They bring a unique and invaluable perspective to patient care that allows them to work with their colleagues in other disciplines and sectors to 1) identify gaps in the healthcare system and 2) provide answers as to how to address those gaps.

Nurses undoubtedly have the ability to advocate for global health and policy change. They are able to do this through data collection, research dissemination, relationship development and improving value and respect for healthcare providers overall. The fact that these activities can be executed at local, regional and global levels, further strengthens the impact of their efforts. Therefore, it is crucial that these individuals are engaged at policy-making levels to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring, as well as forge new partnerships.

Global bodies such as the World Health Organization have articulated the importance of an interdisciplinary approach, and strong collaboration within various healthcare professions. For nurses to effectively govern policy-making bodies, it is essential that they develop their knowledge and skill in a variety of areas, from self-leadership to organizational leadership, and even civic / professional leadership. Nurses who are trained in a variety of leadership styles will then have the needed confidence, emotional intelligence, strategic planning skills, reputation and respect to move policy forward in their roles on boards.

In 2014, the Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC), was convened with the overarching goal to improve healthcare for all Americans through having the right information and skill set at the governance table where healthcare decisions are made. NOBC's creation stems from the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report committee's recommendations, which included removing barriers to practice and care, the achievement of higher levels of education and training, and expanding opportunities for nurses to serve as leaders. As a result, NOBC has created a unique Board Leadership Competencies Model to facilitate in preparing nurses for governance roles.

This presentation will introduce NOBC's Board Leadership Competencies Model and discuss avenues for nurses to advocate for global health through policy engagement in a variety of settings and at all levels. Additionally, this presentation will detail the methodology behind the creation of the model and its significant importance within the nursing profession.

References:
(https://www.nursesonboardscoalition.org/about/, 2018)
(http://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/en/, 2018)
(NOBC - Board Leadership Competencies Model, 2018)

Content Outline:
Introduction - There is a need for nurses on boards and influencing policy

Body -

Main point - Nurses have the ability to advocate for global health and policy change.

Example - They collect data, disseminate research, develop relationships and improve value and respect for healthcare providers overall.

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Author Summary: Cynthia Vlasich is the Director of Global Initiatives at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International and has served as an international nurse leader in a variety of roles throughout her nursing career. Such roles include serving both as Vice President of Professional Services and Advertising at Gannett Healthcare Group and as Chief Nurse and division director at the American Red Cross.

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Professional Experience: Kimberly Harper, MS, RN, is the chief executive officer of the Indiana Center for Nursing. She also co-chairs the Nurses on Boards Coalition and is past-president of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers. Having more than 35 years of healthcare experience, Ms. Harper supports the attainment of a high quality nursing workforce prepared to meet the demands of the future.

Author Summary: Kimberly Harper is the chief executive officer of the Indiana Center for Nursing in the US, co-chairs the Nurses on Boards Coalition and is past-president of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers. Edel Owens manages a state of the art practice in Beacon Clinic in Dublin where she is actively engaged in Sleep Medicine and continues to enhance the quality of life for many patients and their families diagnoses with sleep disordered breathing.