APRN Transformational Leadership: Implementation of Advanced Practice Leadership Structure within an Academic Medical Center

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Learning Objectives

 Discuss strategies associated with transformation of skilled APRNs into leadership roles.

 Describe circumstances supporting APRNs in leadership roles.



Vanderbilt University Medical Center





Vanderbilt University School of Nursing





THE HISTORY OF ADVANCED PRACTICE AT VUMC



National Imperative

With a national imperative for cost effective, quality healthcare, APRNs and PAs are considered providers of choice.

As billing providers, APRNs and PAs generate revenue; however, far greater value is gleaned through clinical coverage and quality outcomes.



Healthcare Challenges: Opportunities for Advanced Practice

- To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System
- Crossing the Quality Chasm
- Health Profession Education: A Bridge to Quality
- The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health



Advanced Practice Providers

- Advanced Practice Registered Nursing
 - Certified Nurse Midwives
 - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
 - Certified Nurse Practitioners
 - Clinical Nurse Specialists
- 267,000 APRNs across the United States (NCSBN, 2014)
 - 190,000 Nurse Practitioners (AANP, 2014)
- 90,000 Certified Physician Assistants (AAPA, 2013)
- 830+ APRNs and PAs within VUMC system



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Office of Advanced Practice

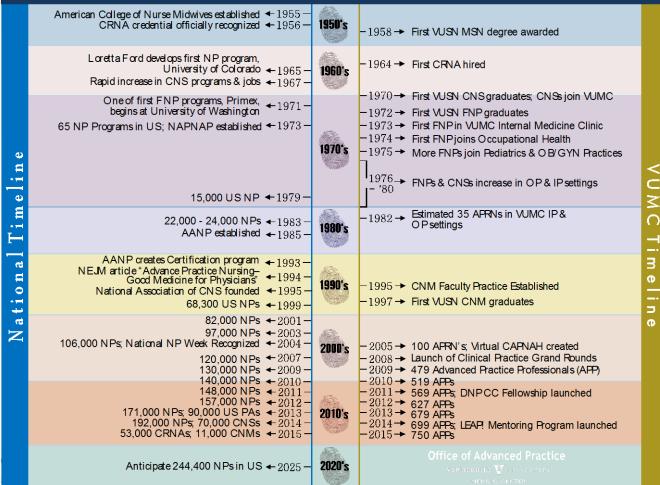
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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF ADVANCED PRACTICE



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VUMC Advanced Practice (early 2000)

- Rapid growth across system
 - Access
 - Volume
 - Quality
 - Continuity
- Center for Advanced Practice (2005)
- Extension of AP Leadership (2010)
- Organizational Changes (2014)



TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURAL EMPOWERMENT



Transformational Leadership

- Initially described by Burns (1978)
- Has become a well accepted leadership theory for nursing
- Essentially differentiates leadership behaviors that are transformational in nature versus transactional



The transformational leader engages in....

- leadership that develops followers through creating a vision that provides meaning and motivation (Bass, 1999),
- and behaviors that challenge the process, inspire a shared vision, enable others to act, model the way and encourage the heart (Kouzes & Posner, 1987),

The relationships that exemplary leaders build with followers are said to be focused upon transforming individuals within the organization into leaders (Jackson & Parry, 2011).

(Hutchinson & Jackson, 2013, p. 12)



Transformational leadership has been the theory behind the development of the APRN leadership structure at VUMC ...

As a fundamental platform that informs both the behaviors of Senior Nursing Leaders and the development and mentoring of emerging APRN leaders.



Another Fundamental Concept – Structural Empowerment

- Structural empowerment is defined as those environmental and situational characteristics that promote empowerment (Manojlovich, 2007).
- Empowerment can be defined as enabling someone to act (Chandler, 1992, p.65).
- Laschinger (1996) states that employees must have "access to resources, information, support, and opportunity" (p. 26) to be empowered.



APRN Interviews

- Interviews of 10 current Acute Care APRN within VUH
- Convenience sample based on schedule availability
- Components of interviews
 - -Provided with definition of structural empowerment
 - -Structured series of questions
 - -Given concept map and asked to mark each element as Important (I), Somewhat Important (SI) or Not Important (NI)
 - Recorded, transcribed and sorted for themes



Interview Questions

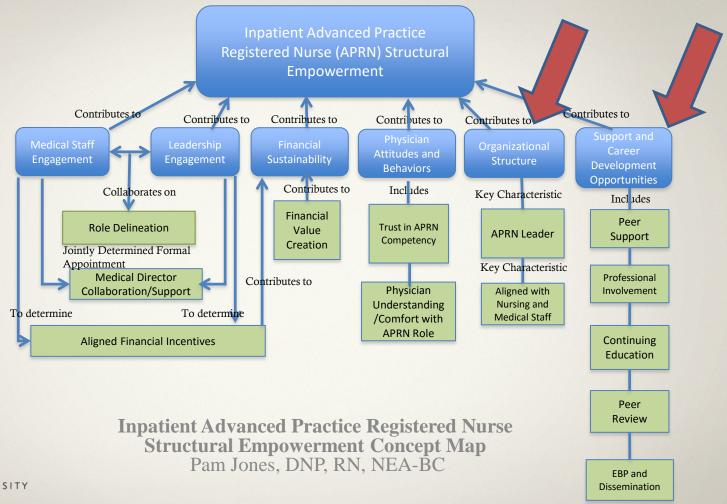
- Given your experiences as an APRN, please describe what makes you feel empowered?
- Are there specific processes, structures or relationships that increase your feelings of empowerment?
- Please describe what decreases your feelings of empowerment.
- Can you provide suggestions for strategies to mitigate these barriers?
- Anything else you would like to add?



Leadership

		Participant Number									
Themes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Percent
Leadership Characteristics											
Overall leadership support Medical director support Specific leader for APRNs				Е	Е		Е			Е	50%
									Е		20%
		Е	Е	Е	Е	Е			Е	Е	80%
Importance of leader being an APRN		Е	Е	Е	Е	Е			Е	Е	70%
Organized internal APRN network (CAPNAH)				Е	Е						20%







APRN Leadership using transformational leadership and structural empowerment!



APRN/PA WORKFLOW ANALYSIS



APRN/PA Workflow Analysis (2014)

Initiative focused on identifying opportunities to optimize professional work at top of license, create capacity and support revenue growth

- To identify best practices within our organization and leverage that knowledge to support our APRNs, PAs and their teams in maximizing time spent working at the top of their license.
- To focus on optimization of quality and value creation for patients and professionals.



Perspective 1: Mission Alignment

- All APRN/PAs contributed to the development of key missions, activities and products or services associated with each activity
- Each group mapped their work to mission related activities
- APRN/PA feedback indicated the need to define "other" activities, non-mission related or non-value added work added to activities



Perspective 1: APRN/PA Mission Alignment

Mission 1	To function as a provider to provide evidence based ca	ire
Mission 2	To document encounter of care	
Mission 3	To coordinate multidisciplinary patient care across con	itinuum
Mission 4	To continuously improve quality and safety processes	
Mission 5	To provide education and training based on evidence	
Mission 6	To administratively support nurse practitioners	



Methodology

- Multispecialty, interdisciplinary teams, including physician and nursing leaders
- APRN/PA focus groups
 - Discussion and categorization of mission focused work activities
- Survey to identify barriers to optimal mission achievement
- APRN/PA and practice financial models and productivity
- APRN/PA associated outcomes



Sample Outpatient APRN/PA Service Results

Missions

Mission 1: To function as a provider to provide evidence based care

Mission 2: To document encounter of care

Mission 3: To coordinate multidisciplinary patient care across continuum

Mission 4: To continuously improve quality and safety processes

Mission 5: To provide education and training based on evidence

Mission 6: To administratively support nurse practitioners and physician assistants

FTE Distribution by Mission





Total 12.6%

APRN LEADERSHIP MODEL



VUMC APRN Leadership Model

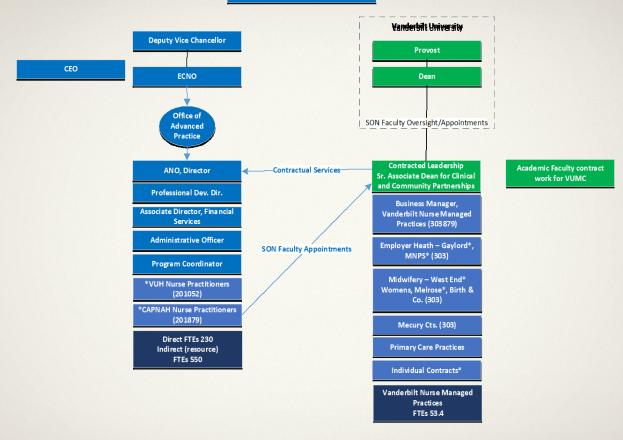
The Advanced Practice Leader is an integral part of the VUMC Advanced Practice team, supported through the Office of Advanced Practice and the area specific operational and clinical leadership team.

Key responsibilities:

- Collaborate in the development and execution of key advanced practice initiatives.
- Collaborate with entity and/or PCC leadership and participate in area specific initiatives.
- Develop and support APRN leaders and APRN practice in respective area and throughout the enterprise, in alignment with the enterprise vision and strategic plan.



VUMC Office of Advanced Practice with Vanderbilt Nurse Managed Practices





VUMC Office of Advanced Practice

- Executive Chief Nursing Officer (ECNO), VUMC Nursing
- Associate Nursing Officer (ANO), Advanced Practice,
 Director, Office of Advanced Practice
- Director of Professional Development, Office of Advanced Practice
- Associate Director, Administration and Finance, Office of Advanced Practice
- Administrative Officer, Office of Advanced Practice
- Program Coordinator, Office of Advanced Practice



VUMC Office of Advanced Practice – Partnership with VUSN

- Senior Associate Dean for Community and Clinical Partnerships
 - Program Manager



Office of Advanced Practice

System-Wide Professional Practice Support

- Advanced Practice Leadership Structure
- Professional Practice Evaluation and Advancement
- Continuing Education and Professional Development Support
- Structured Resources for Staffing Models and Business Case Development
- Strategic Partnership for Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits
- Licensure, Certification and Regulatory Guidance
- Support and Development of Quality Metrics for APRN/PA Practice
- Shared Governance Model for APRN/PA Decision Making
- Networking Opportunities through APRN/PA Councils and Committees
- Support for Interprofessional Initiatives



Advanced Practice Leaders

The Advanced Practice Leader is an integral part of the VUMC Advanced Practice team, supported through the Office of Advanced Practice. Key responsibilities:

- Collaborate in the development and execution of key advanced practice initiatives.
- Collaborate with area and/or PCC leadership and participate in area specific initiatives.
- Develop and support APRN leaders and APRN practice in respective area and throughout the enterprise, in alignment with the enterprise vision and strategic plan.

Goal – To have every APRN supported by an APRN leader...



APRN/PA Leadership Levels

Team Lead

- <20 APRNs/PAs</p>
- 10-20% Administrative effort
- 80-90% Clinical effort
- Schedule, orientation, protocols, team initiatives

Manager

- <50 APRNs/PAs</p>
- 75% Administrative effort
- 25% Clinical effort
- Team Leads
- OPPE/FPPE, Schedule, orientation, protocols, team initiatives

Assistant Director

- 50-150 APRNs/PAs
- 70-90% Administrative effort
- 10-30% Clinical effort
- Managers and Team leads
- OPPE/FPPE, Schedule, orientation, protocols, team initiatives, operational and financial oversight

Associate Director

- 150+ APRNs/PAs
- 90% Administrative effort
- 10% Clinical effort
- Managers, Team leads
- OPPE/FPPE, Schedule, orientation, protocols, team initiatives, operational and financial oversight
- Internal and external expert in advanced practice leadership



TOTAL OF 12 APRN/PA LEADERS AT THE ASSOCIATE/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OR MANAGER LEVEL



Selection

- Formal and informal succession planning process to identify emerging leaders.
- Strong clinical skills, emotional intelligence, demonstration of potential for transformational leadership competencies
- LEAP! Mentoring Program (started 2014)
- Formal interviewing process including physician leaders



On-boarding and Ongoing Development

- Formal on-boarding program coordinated by OAP
- Ongoing education including didactic
- Mentorship for other Senior leaders
- Peer interactions and support



New Pilot Program

- In 2015 launched a formal succession planning program
- Pilot group of 16 leaders (including 2 APRN leaders) in year long program
- Uses AONE Manager Leadership Competencies as foundation



Where Do We Go From Here?

• The 2008 Magnet model states that "Solid structures and processes developed by influential leadership provide an innovative environment where strong professional practice flourishes and where the mission, vision and values come to life to achieve the outcomes believed to be important for the organization" (American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), 2008, p. 5).



Questions?





References and Other Resources

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