

Title:

SPECIAL SESSION: Influencing Health Through Policy: The Dynamic Role of Nurses in the Boardroom

Presenters:

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Type:

Oral

Keywords:

governance, leadership and policy

Summary:

During this session, speakers will address the importance of nurses serving in leadership and governance roles in all sectors, including corporate, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

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. Acting not only as individuals, nurses are also members and coordinators of inter-professional and multi-sector teams through which balanced action can be undertaken with broad levels of support.

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. The committee's report "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" acknowledged the significance nurse leaders have in promoting change and improvement to America's healthcare system.

Although NOBC is currently a United States initiative, it has broader implications and a tremendous potential impact for healthcare. There are more than 20 US-based organizations participating as members of NOBC. By 2020, the Nurses on Boards Coalition will conclude its campaign goal to improve the health of communities and the nation through the service of 10,000 nurses on boards by 2020. "Thousands of healthcare organizations, hundreds of disease-focused organizations, and innumerable nursing organizations will be greatly improved when informed nurses serve on their boards" (Curran, 2015).

During this session, speakers will address the importance of nurses serving in leadership and governance roles in all sectors, including corporate, governmental and

non-governmental organizations. Content will include rationale for importance of nurses to not just participate but lead governance boards and organizations, to set policy, establish direction and ensure sustainable development in social, governmental and corporate entities, representing the culture of our societies. The current status of nurses in governance roles will be discussed, including various governmental mandates to improve the rate of nurses' participation. The key skill sets needed to effectively function on boards and in governance roles will be outlined, including descriptions of each. Last, various opportunities available to nurses to develop these skills will be discussed.

Final Number:

H 22

Slot:

H 22: Monday, 30 October 2017: 2:45 PM-3:30 PM

References:

Curran, C. (2015). Nurse on board: Planning your path to the boardroom. Indianapolis, Indiana: Sigma Theta Tau International.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will be able to state the importance and status of nurses in governance roles.	See PowerPoint
The learner will be able to identify opportunities available to nurses to develop these skills.	See PowerPoint