What is the Colorado Nurse Practice Act?

Donna Strickland, MS, RN, PMHCNS-BC, CSP
President

You’ve probably heard by now that Colorado’s Nurse Practice Act will go into Sunset Review in 2020. Before we talk about Sunset (in the next article), let’s first look at just what a Nurse Practice Act is all about.

More than 100 years ago, state governments established boards of nursing (BONs) to protect the public’s health and welfare by overseeing and ensuring the safe practice of nursing. The practice of nursing is a right granted by the state of Colorado to protect those who need nursing care.

Today, BONs regulate and oversee nursing practice by enforcing the nursing laws of Colorado.

BON structures and decision-making powers and authority are unique for each state. Individuals who serve on a BON are appointed or elected to their position. State law dictates the membership of the BON, which typically includes: RNs, LPNs, APRNs, and Consumers. In Colorado, BON members are Governor appointees.

Responsibilities of a BON vary from state to state but generally include:

- Enforcing the state’s nurse practice act (NPA) and nurse licensure
- Accrediting or approving nursing education programs
- Developing practice standards
- Developing policies, administrative rules and regulations and
- Addressing violations of the NPA (one example, is that every felony should be reported to the BON)

Every nurse in the U.S. is responsible for knowing the state’s NPA and regulatory requirements for nursing for every jurisdiction in which they hold a license. Since laws, rules and regulations may change over time, it is also found on each BON’s website.

CNF President continued on page 2
A violation of the NPA is serious and can result in a complaint being filed with the BON. Some examples of violations of NPA are negligence, impaired practice by a nurse, falsifying records, boundary issues, and other requirements outlined in the law. The range of activities and services as well as the relationships of the nurse and “scope of practice.” The first person who said, “ignorance is bliss” was probably not a nurse because not knowing information in your Nurse Practice Act can result in disciplinarian action against your license, ranging from reprimand to suspension, or even revocation. So, are you ready to read your NPA? Don’t know how to find your NPA? Of course, you can locate your Nurse Practice Act on the Colorado State Board of Nursing website (https://www.ncsbn.org/npa.htm) which has a map with contact information (LINK) for every nurse in Colorado. Your BON is working diligently to support nurses in this effort. The next Colorado Nurse will talk about the upcoming Sunset Review of the NPA.
At the 2017 Annual DNA 16 Sponsored Legislative Dinner, Colorado State Senator Irene Aguilar (District 32) announced an interest in talking with any RN’s who are willing to work with her on nursing workforce and staffing issues in critical care. Senator Aguilar shared that constituents of hers had brought to her concerns of critical care nurses not having enough staff to consistently deliver the surveillance and interventions required for safe patient care.

In follow up, in May of 2017, myself as Executive Director of Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) and as a previous critical care nurse and hospital administrator, partnered with a current critical care RN member of CNA, and the CNA lobbyist Gil Romero to meet with Senator Aguilar. What followed was a yearlong series of meetings with the above-mentioned individuals along with representatives from Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). CHA represents Colorado hospitals and health care systems, and CDPHE licenses facilities that provide acute, long term, assisted living, and home based care.

Initially, we explored the potential of a legislative approach, i.e. a nurse-staffing bill. We were cognizant of many factors that could influence the success of that effort. Some of those included known workforce shortages, particularly in rural areas, and, Colorado’s history of resisting mandated nurse:patient ratios, including a stakeholder based process in the 2008 legislative session. Those efforts resulted in a pilot study being able to report “near misses” in care delivery related to quality and safe staffing. We had a shared knowledge of the CDPHE “complaint line.” Our discussion highlighted that, in fact, there is currently a method to confidentially report staffing, or any work environment, related concerns that put patients at risk. CDPHE leadership recommended that we collaborate on a strong and formal communication of the available existing systems. Further, CDPHE shared their plan to then report those complaint trends annually to the CDPHE governing board, the Colorado Board of Health.

CNA would like to thank Senator Aguilar, CHA staff Gill Finely, CDPHE staff Randy Kuykendahl and Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH, and Gil Romero in advising, supporting and advancing this conversation. Where we started in this process is different from where we ended, not uncommon in the world of policy and politics. The outcomes achieved are the result of persistent and collaborative efforts to work towards a solution. We insisted on achieving a change that was focused on patient safety and would support increasing awareness and action for responsible RN staffing.

Please watch for more detailed communication from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding the utilization of the “near miss” reporting line.

In the event you want to make a report, please do so at this link: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/health-facilities-complaints.

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Casa Real Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is a trusted name in our community, with staff members that have worked here over 20 years, and we WANT YOU to be a part of our team!

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- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Certified Nurses Aides

Sign-on bonuses available for full-time positions:
- RN: $5,000
- LPN/LVN: $3,500
- CNA: $3,000

If you would like to become part of our interdisciplinary team, please contact us today!

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CasaRealNursing.com
kristina.schmidt@pcitexas.net

We are hiring Registered Nurses to function in our Care Teams and act as liaisons between the patient and health care teams to optimize patients’ health and quality of life. For more information, career opportunities and to apply, visit us online at peakvisita.org/careers.
Highlights from the 2018 Colorado Legislative Session

Angela Petkoff, BSN, RN
MSN-AGNP Student at University of Colorado - Anschutz

Colorado Nurses Association’s Government Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) committee has been hard at work since January. Lawmakers have proposed a number of significant nursing and healthcare-related bills in this year’s legislative session. This article presents some of the legislation GAPP has focused on through mid-March 2018, when this article was written and submitted.

Most significantly, the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC), Senate Bill 27 (SB18-027), was a major success at the start of the session. CNA and GAPP advocated for the bill, and it whipped through both chambers with swiftness rarely seen in the legislature. SB18-027 arrived on Governor John Hickenlooper’s desk a mere seven days after it was introduced, and it was the first bill he signed into law this session. The quick adoption of the eNLC prevented gaps in licensure for RNs holding a multistate license.

This bill extends indefinitely the ‘Child Mental Health Act’ and renames it the ‘Children and Youth Mental Health Treatment Act’ with some revisions to the act. This bill allows a parent or guardian of a child or youth who is not eligible for Medicaid to continue to seek mental health services for the child or youth without unwarranted child welfare involvement.

GAPP advocated for the bill, and it whipped through both chambers with swiftness rarely seen in the legislature. SB18-027 arrived on Governor John Hickenlooper’s desk a mere seven days after it was introduced, and it was the first bill he signed into law this session. The quick adoption of the eNLC prevented gaps in licensure for RNs holding a multistate license.

Other bills GAPP has supported this session include:

SB18-024: Expand Access Behavioral Health Care
This bill provides appropriations money from the marijuana tax cash fund to develop a loan repayment and scholarship program for behavioral health care providers working in underserved areas.

HB18-1136: Substance Use Disorder Treatment
This bill utilizes money from the marijuana tax cash fund to increase access to inpatient and residential substance use disorder services by adding these services to the Colorado Medical Assistance program.

SB18-022: Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing
This bill contains measures to increase safety in opioid prescribing including limiting amount of opioids that may be prescribed in particular instances, requiring query of the prescription drug monitoring program upon prescribing first refill and allowing for opioids to be prescribed electronically.

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HB18-1003: Opioid Misuse Prevention
This bill establishes an opioid and other substance use disorder study committee.

HB18-1006: Infant Newborn Screening
This bill updates Colorado’s current newborn screening program by requiring more timely newborn hearing screening.

HB18-1094: Children and Youth Mental Health Act
This bill extends indefinitely the ‘Child Mental Health Treatment Act’ and renames it the ‘Children and Youth Mental Health Treatment Act’ with some revisions to the act. This bill allows a parent or guardian of a child or youth who is not eligible for Medicaid to continue to seek mental health services for the child or youth without unwarranted child welfare involvement.

More highlights from the 2018 legislative session will be shared in the August issue of the Colorado Nurse. If you would like to be informed sooner or receive more detailed information, check out the GAPP online forum on the CNA website, coloradonurses.org.

Save the Date

Be sure to check CNA Calendar for All Activities at www.coloradonurses.org

2018 ANA National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2018
Nurses Inspire Innovate Influence
Free Webinar
Reach Out to Colorado Nurses Event – CNA Wants to Hear from You
May 2, 2018 Medical Center of the Rockies
Longs Peak Room
4pm – 8 pm

Call for Nominations Colorado Nurses Association Board of Directors
Please check Colorado Nurses Association website for:
Bylaws with description of Board Roles
District & Regional Map for Visual of Director Representative Areas
Links for Nomination Submission
Submission due date July 31, 2018

Positions Open:
- President-Elect (1 year as President Elect and 2 Years as President)
- Vice President (2 year term)
- Region 1 Director (2 year term)
- Region 2 Director (2 year term)
- Region 3 Director (2 year term)
- Director At Large (2 year term)
- Nominating Committee (2 year term)

Colorado Nurses Association Annual Membership Assembly & Job Fair
September 15, 2018
Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast
1-225 & Parker Rd
7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Advocacy & the Colorado Nurse Practice Act

Government Affairs & Public Policy Committee
Peer Assistance

Interactive App Teaches Skills for Conversations about Alcohol and Marijuana Use

In September 2017, Peer Assistance Services, Inc. launched a statewide public awareness campaign called One Degree. Available online and as a mobile application, the One Degree campaign provides Coloradans with a free, easy to use platform to learn how to have conversations about alcohol and marijuana with friends, family members, and coworkers. The goal of One Degree is to empower its users to talk to each other about making small changes to improve their health.

Twenty-five percent of Americans drink at levels that could lead to health or other problems – yet, most people who drink too much do not have a serious alcohol use disorder – or what we used to call “alcoholics.” Talking with those around us about use of alcohol and other substances can help prevent those disorders, avoid disease and injury, improve family and work life, and promote overall well-being.

Peers Assistance Services, in partnership with application developers, Kognito Solutions, has been able to bring this campaign to 7 counties in Colorado through paid media. Employing strategies such as radio ads, bus tails, print, and social media has made the One Degree campaign a success. Since its inception, the campaign has been viewed over 24 million times statewide. Although the first round of paid advertisement was concentrated in Denver, Otero, and Morgan counties, the campaign reached many other counties, such as El Paso, Larimer, Arapahoe, Broomfield, and parts of the San Luis Valley. Recognizing the importance of the simulation's message, media outlets have chosen to feature the campaign in their publications including Westword, The Mountain Mail, and the Colorado Springs Gazette.

The second round of the media campaign began in January 2018 and ran through the end of March. This round focused on the following counties: Logan, Las Animas, La Plata, and Eagle.

For more information on the One Degree campaign and to download the app, please visit www.shifttheinfluence.org.

So Glad You’re A Good Influence

Looking for a change? You could be here!

You belong at Banner Casa Grande Medical Center! Here you can have the opportunity for a broad range of activities year round to keep your work/life balance, just a few examples that Casa Grande has to offer!

• We have 200+ days a year of sunshine
• you can get to the beaches in San Diego or Mexico within hours
• options close by to enjoy skiing, hiking or snowboarding
• museums and cultural centers in close proximity

BCGMC is a 141 bed acute care hospital in a growing area where you can live in a charming small historic town and yet still be minutes away from the excitement and urban areas of Phoenix and Tucson.

At Banner Health, we understand that talented health care professionals appreciate having options. We are proud to offer our more than 50,000 employees many career and lifestyle choices throughout our network of facilities. The people of Banner Health are focused on making healthcare easier and life better. In return, we are committed to excellence in personal development for all our employees.

In Your Honor

At Centura Health, our incredible nurses and caregivers impactfully live their mission and make a difference around them, changing lives for the better. With boundless gratitude, we celebrate their spirit of compassion and dedication, and their unstoppable drive to help and to heal.

If you want to work for an organization that honors the unique talent and mission of every individual, we invite you to explore opportunities at our hospitals and clinics throughout Colorado and into western Kansas.

careers.centura.org

Banner Health

Talk to a recruiter directly regarding what Banner Health can offer you! Contact Donna Dioses at donna.dioses@bannerhealth.com or call 602-747-2526.

Colby Community College Nursing Program, listed among the nation’s top three percent of vocational, career, and community college nursing schools by Nursing Schools Almanac, offers practical and associate degree nursing programs in two locations.

We are seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING INSTRUCTOR - Full Time in Colby

QUALIFICATIONS:
• Kansas RN license and CPR certification required
• MSN required

SALARY: Mid-30s

For complete job description visit www.colbycc.edu

To apply, submit a letter of application, resume, all postsecondary transcripts and references to Human Resources, Colby Community College 1255 S. Range • Colby, KS 67701, materials may be emailed to hr@colbycc.edu

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. EOE
The Dynamic Voice of Colorado Nurses Was Heard and Nurses Need to Continue to Use Their Voices to Influence Health Care Policy

Patricia Abbott RN
CNA & SIG 30 Member

Thank you to all the nurses in Colorado who used their impassioned voices and commitment to patient safety to convince legislators, Democrat and Republican of the need to support SB 18-027, Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC). When signed by Governor Hickenlooper, it became the first bill to be passed into law in the 2018 session and one of the fastest bills to be passed in the Colorado Legislature. The voice of Colorado nurses helped to ensure the bill was passed. Your commitment to ensure public health and safety showed legislators the impact and strength of a unified nursing profession.

On the American Nurses Association website, it is stated that nurses offer a unique and expert perspective that influences every aspect of the health care system. Nurses do have a key voice in ongoing efforts to improve public health. The timely passage of SB 18-027 is an example of what the nursing profession is able to offer the health care system. [https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/]

This show of strength to advocate for patients and safe care is a commitment that needs to be ongoing. Throughout the 2018 Legislative Session there have been many bills that directly affect patient care and safety. It is empowering to see that nurses, throughout the state, are contributing to policy discussions using the Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) on-line forum.

“If Not Now, When?” was an article in the Colorado Nurse, February 2018, submitted by Sara Jarrett EdD, RN. In this thoughtful reflection, Dr. Jarrett stated, “Nursing needs to acknowledge and act with a sense of urgency to address the ever changing healthcare and nursing landscape.” [https://cna.memberclicks.net/colorado-nurse-newspaper]

Colorado nurses did act with a sense of urgency and positively influenced the passage of SB 18-027. We must keep up this momentum and continue to be engaged in public policy that affects so much of what we do as a profession. Now is the time for nursing to use its strength in numbers, its expertise from their frontline strength in numbers, its expertise from their frontline experience, to positively influence the health care system in the State of Colorado.

Nursing Sensitive Measures in Colorado

Elizabeth Adle, MAT, BSN, RN, NEA-BC

Colorado Hospital Association (CHA), which represents and serves more than 100 hospital and health systems throughout the state, is committed to providing relevant and meaningful nursing sensitive measures data. With that in mind, the Association is currently working with Colorado nursing sensitive measures and has upcoming plans to remain current with evidence-based best practice.

In 2008, Governor Bill Ritter signed into law Senate Bill 08-196 concerning the inclusion of nursing sensitive quality measures in the comprehensive hospital information system. The nursing sensitive measures were implemented to address nurse satisfaction as well as patient outcomes influenced by nursing care. The Colorado measures include: skill mix, nursing care hours per patient day, involuntary turnover, nursing education and certification, patient falls prevalence, patient falls with injury and the practice environment scale (PES) that measures scores for the following subscales: nurse participation in hospital affairs; nursing foundations for quality of care; nurse manager ability, leadership and support of nurses; staffing and resource adequacy, and collegiality of nurse-physician relations.

SB 08-196 authorized the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Executive Director to designate CHA with managing the data collection and public reporting of the nursing sensitive measures for hospitals with 100 or more licensed beds. In Colorado, there are 30 hospitals that meet this designation.

At the 10-year mark of the Association’s work to develop Colorado’s nursing sensitive measures, CHA believes it is essential to evaluate current evidence-based practice to ensure the measures reported are indicative of nursing practice and meaningful to those reviewing the data. This data is currently available to the public via the Colorado Hospital Report Card site.

The Association’s plan of action includes asking some of Colorado’s major health systems to designate an appropriate direct-care nurse to assist CHA in reviewing current best practices and research and develop recommendations for improvement. As defined in SB 08-196 a “Direct-Care Nurse means a registered nurse who is engaged in direct patient care responsibilities in an inpatient hospital unit setting for more than 50 percent of his or her working hours.” Additional voting members will include two at large representatives from the Colorado Nurses Association, a CDPHE representative and a registered nurse and project manager from CHA. Meetings will be open to the public. CHA also plans to include two non-voting members: a nurse researcher and a graduate nursing student to assist with research and analysis.

The focus will be two-fold: to evaluate the current practice including the measures utilized and data obtained and delineating recommendations and plans including specific and pertinent nurse sensitive measures as well as creating an annual report to be submitted to CDPHE and the Board of Health. Questions can be directed to Gail Finley, CHA Vice President Rural Health & Hospitals, at gail.finley@cha.org or 720.330.6027.

New Graduate RN Corner

Early Career Nurses

Adam Diesi, BSN, RN
CNA Board Member – Representative Recent Graduate

Greetings New Nurses and Happy Nurses Week! This week we celebrate you and your dedication to Inspire, Innovate, and Influence! Congratulations on choosing a career that has the power to touch the lives of so many. You have joined the ranks of 3.6 million other nurses nationally and over 80,000 nurses in Colorado. The American Nurses Association and The Colorado Nurses Association are here to assist you with your professional development needs as you move forward in your new career as a nurse. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team or connect with us on social media. #Nursesweek2018

Be Well,
Adam

Elevated Living

St. Vincent Hospital in Leadville is seeking E.R. and Acute Care RNs to fill FT, PT, & PRN positions. 12 hour day and night shifts available. Apply at jobs.wgh.org

EOE/DV

We love living at 10.2 and you will too!
Sigma Theta Tau International
Alpha Kappa Chapter at
Large Scholarship Awards

Thank you to all who celebrated and honored our scholarship recipients this year. We awarded $9,000 in scholarships to the following students:

**Colorado Christian University**
- Susan Adamson – CCU BSN Scholarship
- Rikki Haskins – CCU BSN Scholarship
- Tiffany Parsons – CCU BSN Scholarship

**Regis University, Loretto Heights School of Nursing**
- Mackenzie Laird – Margaret Metzger Scholarship

**University of Colorado, College of Nursing**
- Jessica Anderson – M. Jean Watson Scholarship
- Caitlin McCarthy – Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Morgan Nestingen – Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Ann Wlosiowski – Henrietta Loughran Scholarship

Congratulations to these well-deserving nursing scholars.

If you have questions about scholarships for next year please contact the committee chair Dr. Cris Finn at cfinn@regis.edu.
Continuing the tradition of recognizing excellence in nursing professional engagement and citizenship, the Colorado Nurses Foundation will honor 52 outstanding nurses at the 33rd Annual Nightingale Luminaries Awards gala to be held Saturday, May 12, 2018 at CU South. Nurses in Clinical Practice and Nurses in Administrator, Educator, Researcher, or Non-Traditional Roles are nominated for Advocacy, Innovation, and Leadership. Meet the luminaries for 2018:

**ADMINISTRATOR, EDUCATOR, RESEARCHER, OR NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES**

**Elyse Bueno** is a Nurse Manager at University of Colorado Hospital nominated for her innovation in creating an ICU Procedure Team to improve the quality, safety and continuity of patient care for patients needing a tracheotomy or PEG Tube Insertion in the ICU.

**Andrea Burch** is Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Lutheran Medical Center. She is nominated for her leadership in improving the patient experience as well as improving employee engagement.

**Deb Center** is Education Program Director and Lead Coach at the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence. She is nominated for leadership in a project designed to develop highly functioning and impactful interprofessional teams at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

**Lauren Cittadino** is a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at Swedish Medical Center nominated for innovation in improving the outcomes of patients with aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage through the creation of a multidisciplinary protocol for the prevention and treatment of cerebral vasospasm.

**Laura-Anne Cleveland** is a Critical Care Director at Swedish Medical Center Southwest ER. She is nominated for advocacy in serving with the Colorado Disaster Recovery Team in Texas, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands after a series of five hurricanes.

**Deborah Fleming** is a Nurse Manager at UC Health Memorial Hospital nominated for innovation in decreasing wait times and improving the patient experience and employee engagement in the Outpatient Oncology Infusion Clinic.

**Cassondra Franco** is Public Health Nurse Clinical Coordinator at Chaffee County Public Health nominated for advocacy for mothers needing breastfeeding support. She created the Healthy Start program to address the needs of these mothers and their families.

**Katherine Glass** is Care Coordinator and Clinic Manager at Valley View Hospital. Kati is nominated for advocacy in coordinating care for high-risk cardiovascular patients during transitions of care.

**Jacinda Heinzelman** is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at CSU Pueblo. She is nominated for innovative research to study the effects of cannabis use during pregnancy on fetal development and pregnancy outcomes.

**Nate Hinze** is an educator with UC Health Life Line Critical Transport nominated for innovation in developing creative simulations for training Life Line Emergency Nurses.

**Brianna Hoffer** is Assistant Professor, Lead Advanced Practice Provider, and Nurse Practitioner in Medical Oncology at University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is nominated for her leadership in achieving the goal of providing patients with same day access to care for symptom management relating to their cancer treatment utilizing a Nurse Practitioner led model.

**Laura Johnson** is Associate Chief Nurse, Inpatient Mental Health, Grand Junction Veterans Health Care System. She is nominated for innovation in instituting a protocol for proactively identifying veterans at risk for suicide related to chronic pain.

**April Kendall** is a Senior Manager at East Morgan County Hospital in Brush, Colorado nominated for her advocacy in the development of a program to provide information and education specific to Women’s Healthcare needs.

**Sylvia Kuch** is Manager of Education Resources at Penrose-St. Francis Health Services. She is nominated for advocating for Penrose-St. Francis associates and nursing students to obtain needed training in the EPIC electronic medical record system.

**Sarah Lancaster** is Clinical Nurse Manager in the Emergency Department at St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Grand Junction. She is nominated for leadership in making the Penrose Provider In Triage process a reality at St. Mary’s Hospital to improve patient care in the Emergency Department.

**Kathleen Martinez** is Clinical Policy Oversight Manager and Interim Director of Nursing Innovations and Outcomes at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is nominated for innovation in creating a Policy and Procedure on line management system to make clinical policies easy to find, easy to read and easy to follow.

**Kristen Oster** is a Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist at Porter Adventist Hospital. She is nominated for leadership in making the Penrose anesthesia provider a reality at St. Mary’s Hospital to improve patient care in the Emergency Department.

**Victoria Owens** is Vice President, Emergency Services, Swedish Medical Center nominated for advocating for emergency department patients by working to change pain management and narcotic prescribing practices in the ED.

**Christine Peyton** is Clinical Practice Specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is nominated for advocating for Pediatric and Young Adult Congenital Heart patients in addressing their palliative care needs.

**Brandi Schimpf** is Mobile Stroke Program Manager at University of Colorado Hospital nominated for creating an innovative program to decrease time from onset of stroke symptoms to treatment by bringing advanced technology directly to the patient.

**Kierra Shaffer** is Clinical Nurse Manager, Senior Behavioral Health, at Lutheran Medical Center. She is nominated for her advocacy of aging behavioral health patients, including those who have been incarcerated and have either probation or pending parole.

**Mary Shry** is Case Management Supervisor at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango. She is nominated for her advocacy in assisting an auto accident victim and his family with a difficult situation.

**Lou Ann Chlesocky** is a Nurse Home Visitor with the Valley Wide Health Systems Nurse Family Partnership Program in Alamosa. She is nominated for advocating for first time mothers and their children.

**Charee Taccogno** is Chief, Utilization Management, US Air Force Academy. She is nominated for leadership in improving access to patient care by partnering with clinic staff, solving problems, and re-engineering processes for patient referrals.

**Brenda Tousley** is Senior House Manager at Banner Fort Collins Medical Center. She is nominated for her leadership in improving access to patients needing inpatient care.

**Linda Young** is Director of Clinical Services at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango nominated for leadership in obtaining equipment and providing education to improve the care of morbidly obese patients and to reduce injuries to staff caring for these patients.

**CLINICAL PRACTICE**

**Jessica Anderson** is Director of the Center for Midwifery and Assistant Professor at University of Colorado Denver College of Nursing. She is nominated for her leadership in creating an active Colorado nurse midwifery affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwifery with the goal of strengthening nurse midwifery statewide and meeting the needs of women and their families.

**Emily Bankhead** is a Nurse Practitioner and Certified Diabetes Educator at Evans Army Community Hospital in Fort Carson, CO. She is nominated for her advocacy in improving the care of diabetic patients through development of Team Based Diabetic Management courses.

**Krisen Blair** is a Labor and Delivery Nurse and Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator at Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo. She is nominated for her advocacy of creating an ICU Procedure Team to improve the quality, safety, and continuity of patient care for patients needing a tracheotomy or PEG Tube Insertion in the ICU.

**Carol O’Meara** is a Nurse Manager at University of Colorado Hospital nominated for her innovation in creating an ICU Procedure Team to improve the quality, safety, and continuity of patient care for patients needing a tracheotomy or PEG Tube Insertion in the ICU.

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**Mary Shry** is Case Management Supervisor at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango. She is nominated for her advocacy in assisting an auto accident victim and his family with a difficult situation.

**Lou Ann Chlesocky** is a Nurse Home Visitor with the Valley Wide Health Systems Nurse Family Partnership Program in Alamosa. She is nominated for advocating for first time mothers and their children.

**Charee Taccogno** is Chief, Utilization Management, US Air Force Academy. She is nominated for leadership in improving access to patient care by partnering with clinic staff, solving problems, and re-engineering processes for patient referrals.

**Brenda Tousley** is Senior House Manager at Banner Fort Collins Medical Center. She is nominated for her leadership in improving access to patients needing inpatient care.

**Linda Young** is Director of Clinical Services at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango nominated for leadership in obtaining equipment and providing education to improve the care of morbidly obese patients and to reduce injuries to staff caring for these patients.

The Colorado Nurses Foundation (CNF) currently has scholarships that are awarded every year. Many of the scholarships are designated and other awards are open to “all” who meet the basic requirements that are available on our website at www.coloradonursesfoundation.com.

We encourage you to consider making a donation in honor of a nurse, a nurse mentor, or a nurse who has had a major influence in your career as a nurse. Every nurse can identify an exceptional individual(s) who has served her development in some way. The CNF encourages you to take time and reflect on your career. Who are those individuals who helped you develop, find that niche role or job, challenged you to be better and stronger? Who has been a mentor, or a nurse who has had a major influence on you? We invite you to recognize your mentors by making a donation to this scholarship fund.
The Official Publication of the Colorado Nurses Foundation in partnership with the Colorado Nurses Association

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Colorado Nurses Foundation Honors Nightingale Luminaries

women, friends and family experiencing perinatal loss through establishing processes and providing knowledge and support to hospital staff.

Shelly Cannon is a Staff Nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Lutheran Medical Center. She is nominated for advocating for the safety of patients receiving opioids in the hospital setting by promoting the use of Opioid Patient Risk Assessment Tool.

Nancy Cole is a Staff Nurse at Ute Mountain Ute Health Center in Towaoc, Colorado. She is nominated for advocating for betterment of maternal and child health of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Community through clinical care, education, and public health outreach and community collaboration.

Michelle Deuto is a Recovery Nurse Advocate at West Pines Behavioral Health and Lutheran Medical Center. She is nominated for advocating for pregnant and newly delivered addicted women through creation of a support program.

Maggie Devlin is a Registered Nurse at UC Health in Fort Collins. She is nominated for advocacy of older adults and people with serious and chronic illness through education and utilization of advanced directives.

Nicole Downs is a Clinical Nurse in Labor and Delivery at Penrose St. Francis Health Services in Colorado Springs. She is nominated for innovation in designing and implementing a practice change to reduce postpartum hemorrhage in new mothers.

Natalie Fiore is Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator at The Medical Center of Aurora. She is nominated for leadership in establishing and expanding a program to provide a safe environment for the examination of sexual assault victims as well as providing experience and expertise to have these cases successfully prosecuted.

Christine Gray is a Case Manager at Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo. She is nominated for innovation in creation of Policies and Procedures and a Performance Based Evaluation Tool for Storina Site marking and for the creation of an Osmolyte Support Group.

Michele Hayo is a Registered Nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Durango nominated for leadership in addressing the issue of Emergency Nurse Lost Compassion resulting in the provision of more holistic care.

Karen Kaley is Specialty Shift Coordinator at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Denver. She is nominated for advocating for newborns to reduce the need for unnecessary antibiotics and increase the time new mothers spend with their babies.

Kimberly Kassab is a Charge Nurse at Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver. She is nominated for leadership in implementing a process for nursing assessment of the aggressive patient and establishing a team for consultation and intervention in the management of these patients.

David Lammers is a Clinical Resource Specialist in the Emergency Department at St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Junction. He is nominated for leadership in partnering with the cardiac group to ensure that ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction metrics were met.

Carmencita Lorenzo Lewis is an ICU Registered Nurse at Porter Adventist Hospital. She is nominated for innovation in creating a nurse driven evidence-based program to mitigate alarm fatigue in the critical care unit.

Kristen Lynch is a Certified Nurse Midwife at East Morgan County Hospital in Brush, Colorado. She is nominated for innovation in implementing a “Spa Pap” to promote relaxation for women having Pap Smears, which increased the number of patients coming in for preventative care.

Jodi Olson is Structural Heart and Valve Disease Program Coordinator at the Cardiovascular Institute of North Colorado/Banner Medical Group Western Region. She is nominated for leadership in creation of the Valve Clinic and the Structural Heart and Valve Disease Program that increased the options for care for patients in need of advanced catheter based therapy in Northern Colorado.

Kim Powell is a Family Nurse Practitioner in the HIV Primary Care Clinic at Denver Health. She is nominated for advocating for transgender individuals by developing a training curriculum to improve transgender care and initiating a transgender primary care clinic.

Vivian Rodriguez is a Registered Nurse in Obstetrics at SLV Health in Alamosa. She is nominated for being an advocate for expectant parents by teaching childbirth education classes as a volunteer community service in order to reduce anxiety and improve the birthing experience.

Gineenne Sullivan is an Education Coordinator at Children’s Hospital. She is nominated for her innovation in using technology to teach utilization of nasal midazolam for seizure prevention to health care professionals in rural areas.

Kelly Kuntz is a Charge Nurse at University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. She is nominated for innovation in implementing acute stress disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder screening for Burn Center patients, allowing for early identification and treatment.

Deborah U-Ren is a Registered Nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St. Mary’s Hospital and Medical Center in Grand Junction. She is nominated for advocating for minimizing antibiotic use in newborns with the goal of reducing unnecessary NICU admissions and reducing the separation of infants and mothers.

Kate Volle is a Critical Care RN at Penrose St. Francis Health Services in Colorado Springs. She is nominated for leadership in creating an evidence-based program to improve clinical outcomes for intensive care patients by increasing patient mobility.

Shelly Weber is a Staff Nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver. She is nominated for innovation in reducing Central Line Blood Stream Infections through creation of an improved central line dressing kit and instructional video and by ensuring competency certification for bedside nurses.

Stephanie Wong is a Clinical RN Level III at UC Health in Aurora. She is nominated for her leadership in unifying seven policies related to epidual use into a single policy, thereby decreasing variability in practice and improving compliance with evidence based standards.

Nadia Yanez is a Nurse Manager at Valley Wide Health Systems in Alamosa. She is nominated for leadership in improving tobacco cessation rates among the patients at Cesar Chavez Family Medical Center. This intervention will help reduce morbidity and mortality related to COPD, Cardiovascular Disease and Lung Cancer.

These nurses represent the best of the over 80,000 nurses in Colorado. They demonstrate commitment to actions and outcomes in caring for their patients, their profession and their community. Twelve of these nurses will receive Nightingale Awards. Read about the twelve Nightingale Recipients and their accomplishments in the August issue of Colorado Nurse.

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Nightingale Luminaries

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Bipartisan cooperation was a common theme at the 18th Annual Legislative Connection Dinner held January 30th at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Every year the event brings together the State’s lawmakers and nurses from multiple specialties, student nurses to discuss the health issues affecting the people of Colorado. The evening had the highest attendance ever with 56 nurses, 56 students and 18 legislators for a total of 170 guests. The event was organized by DNA #16 with C.J. Cullinan serving as mistress of ceremonies, with DNA 23, SIG 23, SIG 30, SIG 31, Colorado Center of Nursing Excellence, Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetist, Front Range of Association of Neonatal Nurses as sponsors.

Bipartisan cooperation was already evident in the remarkable accomplishment of the near unanimous passing SB18-027: Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact within eight days of its first reading at the opening of 71st General Assembly. Sponsoring Senator Jim Smallwood describes it as a win-win for nurses and patients by improving the application for multistate nurse licensure candidates. Gil Romero, from Capitol Success Group and lobbyist for CNA, introduced each legislator and inquired about upcoming sponsored bills. Several lawmakers shared the goals of transparent billing and increasing the number of healthcare professionals in rural counties. Senator Irene Aguilar wants to establish channels for nurses to report unsafe patient care situations. Many legislators expressed respect for nurses’ dedication and essential role in Colorado’s future.

Next several nurse leaders informed the audience about upcoming legislative bills supported by CNA. Patricia Abbott and Angela Petkoff who chair the Government Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) committee are closely following HB18-1086: Community College Bachelor Science Degree in Nursing and HB18-1114: Licensure of Genetic Counseling and several bills addressing opioid addiction and treatment. Another benefit of the legislative dinner is connecting with student nurses and giving them an early start in advocating for the profession. For many students, the Legislative Dinner is their first encounter with CNA.

Lysa Mikes from Front Range Community College responded that she was “excited to bring change to the healthcare industry and make safer working environments for nurses who endure injuries and assaults.”

District 16 thanks everyone who made the event a success, and is grateful to the staff of Scottish Rite Masonic Center, and also to First Baptist Church for extending use of their parking lot. And also thank all the following legislators for their attendance.

Senator Irene Aguilar: District 32
Senator Larry Crowder: District 35
Senator John Kefalas: District 14
Senator Tim Neville: District 16
Senator Smallwood: District 4
Senator Nancy Todt: District 28
Senator Rachel Zenzinger: District 19
Representative Susan Beckman: District 38
Representative Jeff Bridges: District 3
Representative Janet Buckner: District 40
Representative Daneya Esgar: District 46
Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp: District 29
Representative Susan Lontine: District 1
Representative Barbara McLachlan: District 59
Representative Paul Rosenthal: District 9
Representative Cole Wist: District 37
Continuing Education Opportunities

- Bone Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN®) Review Class (Metro Denver)-May 22nd – 23rd
- Stroke Symposium (Northern Colorado)- May 23rd – May 24th
- Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum 1 Day Provider Renewal (Metro Denver)-June 1st
- Quality in Cancer Care (Northern Colorado) – June 16th
- Advanced Burn Life Support® (Metro Denver) - June 19th
- Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum (Metro Denver) - July 19th – 20th
- ELNEC (Northern Colorado)-September 12th – 13th
- Advanced Practice: Leading Healthcare into the Future (Metro Denver)-September 28th

For more details or additional courses, please go to: uchealth.org (Click on Classes & Events Tab)
Coalition to develop strategies to promote folic acid, of Public Health, and was instrumental in forging in the area of health promotion for Delaware Division care for Delaware's migrant population. She worked Health where she began her been in the field of Community and small group settings focused upon health promotion and wellness. Her professional interest focuses on vulnerable population health, the spirituality of caring in nursing, complementary and alternative healing, and promoting a culture of curiosity in nursing education. Dr. Morris has pending publications in the Journal of Holistic Nursing and The Clinical Nurse Specialist. In addition, she serves as a member of the Graduate Committee for Wesley College, and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Delaware Nurses Association, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the National Association for Clinical Nurse Specialists, and the American Holistic Nurses Association. Denise was recently honored with Excellence in Teaching Award for her contributions to nursing and health professions education. Denise can be reached at denise.morris@wesley.edu.

Transgender individuals have been a part of world cultures historically, yet the support for the healthcare of such populations has only received attention in recent decades. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) published Standards of Care (7th edition) in 2012, which focused on the medical and psychological approaches to the highest of care for this vulnerable population (Coleman, et al, 2012). While these standards support an understanding of surgical, hormonal, cosmetic, and psychological care, it does not identify nursing care and nursing related etiologies for transgenderism. Further, an extensive review of the literature offers few evidence based articles related to nursing care or nursing implication for transgender individuals. According to Berreth (2003), the dearth of literature regarding nursing care for the transgender person puts this community at risk for a community of problems associated with uniformed nursing care. For nursing to properly address the needs of this special population, it is incumbent upon nurses to conduct patient-centered research that is based upon the life experiences of the transgender that is grounded in a conceptual framework specific for nursing care and nursing education.

Negative Outcomes

As holistic practitioners, nurses are positioned to explore these life experiences and to create a conceptual framework (McCabe, 1988). The absence of a framework to guide nursing in the provision of care that is without assumption can easily lead to unintended prejudices and discriminatory behaviors (McCowell, 2016). Examples of such unintended consequences are referring to the patient by non-preferred pronouns, room assignment by gender, gender insensitive assessment tools, HIPAA violations, assessment of high risk behaviors and potential negative outcomes such as suicide. A lack of curricular preparation in gender-affirming care creates additional barriers resulting in health inequities and adverse outcomes. According to Resiner et al. (2015), a community sample of transgender patients indicated a 24% incidence of discrimination which resulted in the postponement or delay in needed care. In addition, these patients screened positive for depression and other negative psychosocial symptoms. Grant et al. (2011) indicated key barriers to seeking healthcare included stigmatization, discrimination and fear of being refused care because of their gender status, and even verbal harassment and physical attack.

Lack of Knowledge

One key functional barrier to transgender care is the lack of provider knowledge without assumption. The current nursing curricula inadequately defines and addresses appropriate transgender care and may contribute to false thinking that may lead to heterosexism and homophobia (Zuolo, 2014). In addition, the Transgender patient is forced to educate the nurse on the limited knowledge currently available for his or her care. Transgender people are already marginalized, feeling oppressed, grappling with social and healthcare disparities, and in need of medical attention, and now they must stop and educate the person they expect to help them (Biederman, 2016). This lack of knowledge will clearly affect the confidence level of the patient and prevent seeking care or withholding key information that supports informed decision making. Nurses can do better. Nurses want to know.

A Guiding Framework

Using a combination of the critical (Weaver and Olsen, 2006) and interactional paradigms (Gills & Jackson, 2002) we created a model entitled “Care without Assumption” (see Figure 1). This model is grounded in key assumptions that nursing practice must move toward the elimination of social struggle and oppression in society, while fostering the examination of the phenomena through the eyes of the people experiencing it. The model aims to shift the paradigm for nursing to that of a gender transcendent world view. Nursing ontology is innately caring, therefore, to be a nurse, one is called to develop the full potential of caring expressed ethically and without bias. Like many nursing models the components include the nurse assesses appropriate transgender care and addresses appropriate transgender care and advocates for LGBT equality. She is a prolific writer in poetry and short stories on Medium.com where she publishes her works.

Patsy was born in 1959 as William Patrick Starke. She is a 1996 graduate from the University of Delaware with a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing and a minor degree in Biological Sciences. Patsy’s focus in nursing has always been in the field of Community Health where she began her career providing migrant health care for Delaware’s migrant population. She worked in the area of health promotion for Delaware Division of Public Health, and was instrumental in forging a partnership with the March of Dimes Folic Acid Coalition to develop strategies to promote folic acid, of Public Health, and was instrumental in forging in the area of health promotion for Delaware Division care for Delaware’s migrant population. She worked Health where she began her been in the field of Community and small group settings focused upon health promotion and wellness. Her professional interest focuses on vulnerable population health, the spirituality of caring in nursing, complementary and alternative healing, and promoting a culture of curiosity in nursing education. Dr. Morris has pending publications in the Journal of Holistic Nursing and The Clinical Nurse Specialist. In addition, she serves as a member of the Graduate Committee for Wesley College, and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Delaware Nurses Association, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the National Association for Clinical Nurse Specialists, and the American Holistic Nurses Association. Denise was recently honored with Excellence in Teaching Award for her contributions to nursing and health professions education. Denise can be reached at denise.morris@wesley.edu.

Patsy received the Dr. Katherine Esterly Award for lifetime contribution to Perinatal Development in Delaware from the March of Dimes. Patsy has worked in the field of Hospice for the last 15 years, and is a Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse (CHPN). Patsy began her Transition to her true self, as a Transgender Woman, in April of 2016, and she refers to that as her second birthday after a lifetime of struggles with her gender identity. Patsy now dedicates her life and nursing career to: End of Life Care, LGBT healthcare, mainly Transgender Health Care, and advocacy for LGBT equality issues. She is a proud member of WPATH, GLMA, SAGE, and HPNA. She is a prolific writer in poetry and short stories on Medium.com where she publishes her works.

Wanted: Full-Time IVF Nurse Coordinators

Full-time IVF RN nurse coordinators are needed for world-renowned infertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF) center in Denver Metro Area.

- Four 10-hour days a week and every fourth to sixth weekend.
- Two years previous RN experience required.
- Background in women’s healthcare preferred.
- Position is perfect for compassionate RN’s who enjoy patient teaching and primary care nursing.

Please send resume to Diane Tindall at dianetz@colocrm.com.

Colorado Nurse | May 2018
Awards Committee Seeks Nominations

The CNA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the 2018 CNA Awards which will be presented at the 2018 CNA Membership Assembly on September 15, 2018. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

• Margie Ball Cook Award for a CNA member who has advanced equal opportunities in nursing for members of minority groups.
• Sara Jarrett Award for a CNA member who has contributed to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity.
• CNA Leadership Award for a CNA member who has served as a leader in CNA through service on the Board of Directors or on a committee or task force.
• CNA Emerging Leader Award for a CNA member who has been a nurse for no more than ten years and who is emerging as a leader in CNA or a DNA.
• Carol O’Meara Award for a CNA member who has made sustained contributions to CNA.

Nominations will also be accepted for the CNA Hall of Fame. The CNA Hall of Fame was established in 2004 to honor CNA Members whose dedication and achievements have significantly affected the Colorado nursing profession. Nominees for the Hall of Fame may be living or deceased. Criteria for the Hall of Fame are:

1. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership that affected the health and/or social history of Colorado through sustained, lifelong contributions in or to nursing practice, education, administration, research, economics or literature.
2. The achievements of the nominee must have enduring value to nursing beyond the nominee’s lifetime.
3. The nominee must have been prepared in a formal nursing program.
4. The nominee must have worked in or represented Colorado.
5. The nominee must be or have been a CNA member.

To nominate an individual for any of these awards, send a statement to the CNA Awards Committee which describes why the nominee should receive the award. Include the name of your nominee as well as your name and contact information. Please limit your statement to two double-spaced pages. Email your statement to carolomeara@aol.com. Deadline for receipt of nominations is August 1, 2018.

The Awards Committee may seek additional information regarding the nomination. In addition to these state level awards, each DNA is invited to designate a DNA Nurse of the Year. Selection of the DNA Nurse of the Year is determined by the DNA Nurses of the Year will be honored at the Awards Presentation at the CNA Membership Assembly. DNA’s should submit the name of their DNA Nurse of the Year, along with a statement about why the nurse was selected to the Awards Committee by August 15, 2018. Email information to carolomeara@aol.com.

Contact Carol O’Meara, Awards Committee Chair, 303 777 4963 or carolomeara@aol.com with any questions regarding CNA Awards.
Introducing the Colorado Nurses Association 2017-2018
Board of Directors Part II

Board of Director Members:
Mary Clambell, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC
Kathy Shaw, DNP, RN

In the February 2018 Colorado Nurse, you were introduced to half of the Board of Directors. As promised, this article introduces the other half of our current Board. In the interim, Dr. Terry Schumaker DNP, RN has resigned her position from the Board of Directors. The Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) and the Board of Directors thanks her for her years of service to DNA 7 and to the Board. In September 2018 we will be electing a President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, three Regional Directors and an At Large Director. For more information about the roles and responsibilities of the officers and Board members, please consult the CNA. By-laws on our website www.coloradonurses.org.

Region II Representative: Lori Rae Hamilton, RN, MSN lives and works in Region II which encompasses Colorado Springs, Pueblo and a large portion of the south eastern and southern portion of Colorado. Ms. Hamilton is the Dean of Instruction for Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado which has both LPN to ADN programs and an associate degree program. She also serves as an advisor for the Colorado Student Nurses Association for the past several years. Lori Rae is a member and Past-President of DNA 4. Ms. Hamilton is focused on engaging undergraduate nursing students in both associate and baccalaureate programs in their student association and championing new graduate nurses as they transition to practice.

Region II Representative: Hilary St. John, RN, MSN, BSN lives in Region II and has worked in a variety of emergency, surgical, oncology, plus medical and surgical areas during her 13-year nursing career. Most recently Hilary has been an Assistant Nurse Manager at two different hospitals. Hilary was born in England, has worked as a flight attendant and traveled extensively. Ms. St. John has also lived in many different countries including the Middle East. Her great passion is leading and inspiring others to improve healthcare delivery and to be responsive to our ever-changing healthcare industry with a special interest in diversity.

Region III Representative: Mary Clambell, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC lives in Silverthorne CO. She is employed by Mind Springs Health, a non-profit community mental health center serving the Western Slope. As a psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist with prescriptive authority she is a long-term member of Special Interest Group (SIG) 31. Dr. Clambell has served in a variety of roles in Andy and Judy state-wide nursing and health care groups. Her current focus is to engage nursing students, registered nurses, graduate students and advanced practice nurses in Region III to develop a thoughtful, unified, evidence based voice during the upcoming Sunset of the Nurse Practice Act.

Region III Representative: position is vacant for 2nd representative.

At Large Representative: Jody DeStigter, MS, RN-BC is employed as the Professional Development Specialist at University of Colorado Health Longs Peak Hospital. She is in the second year of the first term of this position. Ms. DeStigter is an educator at heart and actively participates in a variety of learning opportunities and wants to support others in professional development. Her goal is to share the benefits of the Association, advocate for registered nurses and engage registered nurses in their own professional development. Ms. DeStigter sees the nursing profession as a quilt, many different colorful pieces and different shapes, and when we all work together we are a beautiful piece of art. DeStigter also serves on the CNA Continuing Nursing Education Advisory Council, formerly known as the Approval Board.

At Large Representative: Ingrid Johnson, DNP, MPP, RN works as a project director at the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence and is in her first term as an At Large Director. Dr. Johnson was inspired to run for the BOD because of her contact with nurses who work in rural and underserved areas and observing the impact of advocacy on our profession. She believes that our profession must welcome all registered nurses to the Association to ensure that Colorado has a vibrant nursing workforce for years to come. Dr. Johnson’s hope is to build a stronger and more empowered membership base across Colorado.

At Large Recent Graduate: Adam Diesi, RN, BSN is serving in his second term in this position. He is a Past-President of the Colorado Student Nurses Association where he enjoyed working with, and advocating for, the student nurses of Colorado. He is employed as a Cardiac Intensive Care Unit nurse with a passion to help and to provide a voice for up and coming nurses so that they may be successful in the nascent stages of their careers.

Thank you to all members of the Colorado Nurses Association Board of Directors. It is the work of the Board of Directors to shape the future and prioritize membership voices.

Members of Friends of Nursing (FON) and their friends and families celebrated the season December 1st at a Holiday Event at The Lakewood Country Club. There were 85 in attendance and everyone had a great time while raising funds for nursing scholarships.

The highlight of the evening was a performance by the Skyline Chorus. If you have not seen their performance it is a must see. They do an outstanding show.

Visiting with them were LaFawn Biddle, life member of FON; Dr. Amy Barton (President FON) and Dr. David Barton, Dr. Cris Finn (Past President FON) and husband Ken and family, and photographers Jim Medford and Gerry Case.

FON Co-founder Greta Pollard and husband Donald enjoyed the festive evening with long-time members of emergency, surgical, oncology, plus medical and surgical areas during her 13-year nursing career. Most recently Hilary has been an Assistant Nurse Manager at two different hospitals. Hilary was born in England, has worked as a flight attendant and traveled extensively. Ms. St. John has also lived in many different countries including the Middle East. Her great passion is leading and inspiring others to improve healthcare delivery and to be responsive to our ever-changing healthcare industry with a special interest in diversity.

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Training Includes:
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Friends of Nursing Fundraiser and Celebration

Friends of Nursing welcomes all who are interested in its activities. The organization is governed by elected officers and a board of directors. Its funding comes from membership fundraising efforts. With no office, no paid staff, no overhead, minimal expenses and 100 percent volunteer effort, all monies go totally to support the purpose.

Ingrid Johnson, DNP
At Large Recent Graduate

Dena Jarrett, RN, BSN
At Large Representative
Faith Community Nursing in Colorado
Elaine Taylor, RN

Every day Faith Community Nurses in Colorado are making a difference in our communities. We are more than 300 RNs embedded in familiar community places mobilizing resources so that everyone has access to healthcare. We are working hard to close the gap in health disparities and inequalities. We advocate for whole health care.

You may see us volunteering at the free clinic promoting access to healthcare or encouraging wellness at the health fair. You may see us promoting a walking ministry at the church or serving soup to the homeless. We are the ones with flu shots and aspirin. Because health care is critical to the well-being of our communities, we believe that the work we do as Faith Community Nurses will create change, not only in individual lives but also in our communities.

It has been twenty years since the University of Colorado School of Nursing taught the first course of Faith Community Nursing. Now the Foundations in Faith Community Nursing Courses are available state-wide online. These courses are designed to prepare actively licensed registered nurses with the skills necessary for this specialty practice.

In Colorado we have a state-wide organization encouraging us in our endeavors: Faith Community Nursing in the Rockies supports all Faith Community Nurses through its website, workshops, networks, and scholarships. (www.fcnrockies.org)

Our organization is supported by membership dues and donations. Its purpose is to advance faith community nursing as a specialty in Colorado. We support research and provide continuing education programs. Over the past 20 years, our experience has shown us that the work being done by Faith Community Nurses has made a positive impact in our community. As an example, Elaine Taylor, MHA, BSN, RN, FCN is one of the many faith community nurses in Colorado. She had the privilege of opening a free clinic. It started with a conversation that generated action. It became a reality due to her persistent effort and unwavering dedication of the church. Who would’ve thought in 2018 there would still be a need for a free clinic. Despite the Affordable Care Act, about 350,000 Coloradans still do not have health insurance. The affordable part of the ACA is still elusive. The high cost of insurance continues to be the number one reason for not having insurance. And 10% of Coloradans say they didn’t get needed doctor care because it was too expensive. (www.coloradohealthinstitute.org)

The Good Samaritan Clinic opened its doors on January 6 and is committed to connecting people with quality health care, meaningful volunteer opportunities and trusted educational experiences.

“We are called as nurses to care about the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of others. If the church is not a place for healing, then where can we go?” says Elaine Taylor.

Everyday in countless large and small ways, Faith Community Nurses make our communities a better place. These moments of advocacy change lives. For more information, contact Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing. (www.churchhealthcenter.org)

“The call to serve involves something special, to which we must be attentive…” Pope Francis

Announcing Colorado Nurses Association as an ANCC Accredited Approver
Colleen Casper, DNP, RN, MS, Executive Director

The Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) is pleased to announce that it is now an Accredited Approver Organization for American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

ANCC Accreditation is a voluntary, peer review process intended to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of continuing nursing education. Approvers demonstrate excellence in evaluating providers of continuing nursing education (CNE) for quality and excellence in curriculum design and delivery. Accredited approver organizations, like CNA are credentialed to assess, monitor and assist CNE providers in adherence to comprehensive, evidence-based ANCC criteria.

As an Accrediting organization, CNA will assess providers of continuing nursing education and ensure they adhere to rigorous global standards set forth by ANCC. Organizations approved by CNA will now be known for providing the highest quality continuing nursing education.

We are proud to be acknowledged by ANCC for our commitment and excellence in recognizing organizations that provide the highest quality continuing education for nurses. Please see the Colorado Nurses Association website www.coloradonurses.org for information/education on the steps your organization can take to become an Accredited Provider of continuing nursing education or to provide individual educational activities. Please note we are offering virtual “Conversations with the Nurse Peer Review Leader” on April 3 & May 23, 2018. Please watch our calendar and website for more information to be able to call or video chat with our Nurse Peer Review Leader, Connie Pardee, PhD, RN, who will answer your questions regarding approved continuing nursing education at your organization.

Colorado Nurses Association Continuing Nursing Education Advisory Council looks forward to working with you and your team to support ANCC accredited continuing nursing education. We can support Individual Activities you may like to sponsor, as well as Accredited Provider status to provide a variety of multiple individual or ongoing continuing nursing education activities. Please contact Colorado Nurses Association for more information or go to our website and click Education for more information.

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- RN-BSN
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice

CNA ACCREDITED

CLASSES START MAY 15 & JULY 3
ColoradoTech.edu

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at Colorado Technical University is approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (https://www.cocoh.org/) and the Plant Agriculture Board of Colorado (PAB) (http://www.pabcol.org/).

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Colorado Technical University is approved by the National League for Nursing (NLN) (http://www.nln.org/).

This program is approved by the Colorado State Board of Nursing (CSBN) (http://www.colorado.gov/csbn/).

This program is designed for students who have a baccalaureate degree and are interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills in the nursing profession.

FAINANSIYAL GRADUATION EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS RATES:
- 80% placement rate for full-time students who complete the BSN degree program in 2018

For more information, call 866.501.5001.

The BSN degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) (http://www.acen.org/).

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (http://www.wascac.org/).
The district 5 held a March meeting to discuss goals for the coming year and how to enhance Western Colorado nurses’ involvement. Those in attendance felt that we need to have a strong focus in order to promote participation. We decided that focusing on palliative care and improving the quality and number of serious illness conversations between health care providers and the community is an important need we should help meet. During the meeting, we searched the American Nurses Association’s website and found that ANA and the Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) have worked together and developed a call to action related to palliative care. The action plan has twelve key recommendations (see American Nurse Today: May 2017, Volume 12, No. 5). The list of action items is quite extensive.

We are not ready to act on them all, but felt that we would start by promoting the conversations through increasing awareness of models, education on how these conversations happen, and supporting both practitioners and patients in moving to open and clear communication about serious illness conversations. We invite you to join us in the conversation.

**DNA 6**

Charlotte Ledonne, RN, BSN, MA, LPC President DNA

The District 6 Colorado Nurses Association and the SLV AHEC hosted the 14th SLV Nightingale Event on February 16th at Adams State University. Reina Chacon, Monica Hinds, Zina Horton, Laura Lewis, Misty Palacios, Patricia Robertson, Vivian Rodriguez, Leroy Romero, T.J. Salazar, Lou Ann Cheslock, Skinner and Nadia Yanez were recognized for their commitment to their patients and providing excellent nursing care. Vivian Rodriguez, SLV Health, Lou Ann Cheslock, Skinner, Valley Wide Health Systems and Nadia Yanez, Valley Wide Health Systems, were selected as luminaries for the statewide event in Denver on May 12, 2018.

Angie Medina, faculty at Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus, was nominated by President Dr. Simone to receive the inaugural Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty recognition by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). She will be highlighted for the difference she makes in the lives of students at the 2018 Annual Convention to be held in Dallas, Texas from April 28 – May 1, 2018. Nominees for the faculty distinction recognition should: Demonstrate passion for the students and the classroom, show willingness to support students inside and outside of the classroom, be inclined to participate in college committees, and go above and beyond what is required to ensure that students are successful in their academic endeavors. Dr. Simone stated, “Your work with our students is first class and from my experience, you have always been willing to pitch in as a valuable team member. You are very deserving of this recognition.” Join us in celebrating this honor for Angie!

It is with great sadness that DNA 6 reports the loss of Louise Sowards, RN, BSN, MSN. Louise was an active member of DNA 6 and her community in the San Luis Valley. Louise loved nursing in various roles and facilities in the San Luis Valley throughout her nursing career. She also loved teaching nursing at numerous institutions over the years and directed the Trinidad State Junior College nursing program from 2009-2012. Louise inspired her daughter Jodi to become a nurse, and Jodi now directs the TSJC Valley Campus nursing program. Thank you Louise for the many patients, students and nurses you have mentored and guided over the years.

For information, call Charlotte Ledonne, nurse coordinator with the San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center at charlotte@slvahec.org or 719-589-4977.

**DNA 16**

Christine Schmidt, President

Our major event of the year, the 18th Nurse Legislator Connection Dinner, was a great success! Measuring the great turnout, the very positive comments in the evaluations received, and the great positive energy resulting from the recent passage of the enhanced nurse licensure compact bill due to overwhelming support from nurses, we continue to be proud to sponsor this annual event. We had a turnout of 174 including 18 legislators and over 80 students. Some comments from attendees included: Excellent – best ever! – good – helpful information about how to connect personally and meaningfully with legislators, and “All was great – good – keep it going – so gratifying to hear appreciation and recognitions from legislators – 1st time attended – valuable!” CJ Cullinan also received high praise for being, “warm, dynamic,” and, “a wonderful presenter.” Much appreciation goes to all our wonderful colleagues who helped set up, host, and take down the event. And many thanks to our generous co-sponsors, SIGs 30 and 31, DNAs 3 and 23, the Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the Front Range Association of Neonatal Nurses, and the Center for Nursing Excellence.

Happy Nurse’s Week 2018

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**District & Special Interest Group Reports**

**SIG 30**

Jamee Moore, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Special Interest Group 30 (SIG 30), Colorado Society of Advanced Practice Nurses group, recently awarded scholarships to three students, Tu Nguyen, Meghan Abrams and Josh Zucker are each the recipients of a $500 scholarship.

In 2017, SIG 30 set out to improve the monthly meetings by expanding the educational content and meeting locations. In February, SIG 30 was successful in this endeavor by hosting the SIG 30 monthly meeting in Arvada and covering pediatric content.

The SIG 30 meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month. The meeting announcements are sent via the ENP network. Sign up for SIG 30 announcements at csnap.enpnetwork.com. Join us at the next meeting.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) will be hosting their 2018 national conference in Denver. The conference will be held downtown at the Colorado Convention Center June 26 - July 1, 2018. For more information visit the AANP website at www.aanp.org/conferences/national-conference.

**Updates from the Department of Regulatory Affairs**

The Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) has Arrived in Colorado

Under the new compact, nurses may provide care to patients in other eNLC states without having to obtain additional licenses. There are currently 29 member states in the expanded pool within the eNLC, including Florida, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Georgia, and West Virginia - which did not join in the original compact.

Nurses holding a Colorado multi-state license issued before July 21, 2017 have been automatically placed into the new compact as part of a grandfather provision with no further action needed. But a new fingerprint-based criminal background check requirement is a fresh reality for many nurses in the state, including new applicants. The fingerprint background check is one of 11 uniform requirements within the eNLC, which Colorado joined with the adoption of Senate Bill 18-027 earlier this year.

In addition to new applicants, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who were issued a multi-state license before July 21, 2017 and January 18, 2018 were required to obtain fingerprint background checks and have them reviewed by the State Board of Nursing before April 19, 2018 in order to maintain multi-state licensure.

Nurses falling within the “gap” who missed the April 19 deadline, and still have not had their fingerprints reviewed by the State Board of Nursing, have been reverted from a multi-state to single-state credential. This group should immediately submit their fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (https://www.colorado.gov/cbi/fees-and-forms) for subsequent Board review. Once fingerprints are submitted and reviewed by the Board, these licensees will be converted to multistate status, if qualified.

For more information on the eNLC and updated application requirements, visit https://www.colorado.gov/dora/Nursing_Compact.
The American Nurses Association strives to represent nurses on Capitol Hill, provide support for state nurses associations as they advocate for their own agendas, and work with federal and elected officials to advance policies that will benefit the nursing profession. ANA serves to amplify nurses’ voices as policies are conceived, debated, and implemented. We work to establish a health system where care is accessible, of high quality, and recognizes the nursing profession as an integral component.

Registered nurses represent the largest segment of health professionals, with more than 3.6 million nationwide. Nurses not only represent an incredible force by sheer numbers, but policymakers rely upon their expertise as they work to improve our nation’s health system. For 16 years, nurses have outranked all other professions in Gallup’s annual honesty and ethics survey and are viewed as the most trusted profession. Throughout the year, we will feature examples of ANA members advocating for patients and the profession in various roles and settings, hosted at www.RNAction.org as well as shared through social media. The advocates’ stories will be paired with associated tools and ANA products & services. Each quarter will have a dedicated theme, building from local to more global examples, but overlap with other quarterly themes will occur.

Nurses are advocates every day, so examples are endless and no illustration is too small. Please consider sharing your story and being recognized by ANA and your colleagues. Send either a brief written description (under 150 words) OR a video (less than a minute) capturing your experience: actions, any challenges / barriers as well as strategies and any words of wisdom or tips for colleagues. If providing in writing, please include a high-resolution picture.

Questions or submissions should be directed to Janet Haebler, janet.haebler@ana.org, at ANA.

GET ENGAGED:

BedsideAndBeyond

Each quarter will have a dedicated theme, building from local to more global examples, but overlap will occur.

Q1: Nurses advocating locally (January – March)
Highlighting efforts at the bedside or in the community both for individual and/or groups of patients and/or nurses. Some examples: patient-focused practice changes/process improvements; workplace safety policies addressing issues such as staffing, workplace violence, safe patient handling and mobility; and representing the interests of patients, consumers and/or the profession while serving on a committee, council or board.

Q2: Nurses influencing elected officials and other key decision makers (April – June)
Highlighting efforts to impact change with key decision makers that are local, state, or federal. Could be employer specific, immediate community/context, state legislative/regulatory, or federal. Individual influence as well as participation in a coalition.

Q3: Nurses get out the vote! (July – September)
With the approach of election day, emphasis will shift to political examples. Highlighting nurses leveraging their position as most trusted profession to impact policy change and 2018 campaigns. Will feature nurses who participated in a campaign, currently in or running for an elected or appointed position, and/or have a productive relationship with their elected official.

Q4: Global Impact and Making every year a year of advocacy (October – December)
Continue highlighting nurses who have had an impact within their community, state, or at the federal level, while also expanding to experiences beyond the US borders. Considering 2019 and future policy issues relevant to the nursing profession, will include an analysis of the November election results as well as insight on potential impact of political advocacy, and tips and words of wisdom on how to make every year a year of advocacy at any level in any role and setting.

To learn more about ANA advocacy efforts and what you can do to help, visit: http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy.
Medical Marijuana
Information for providers

Medical Marijuana
Information for providers

General risks of marijuana use

Note: These mainly represent evidence from studies of recreational cannabis users focused on adverse health effects. Only content areas where there is "substantial" research evidence are presented. Furthermore, the studies informing the evidence statements below are "observational" in design, thus, for most of these statements, causality cannot be clearly established (e.g., cannabis use and schizophrenia may "travel together" rather than represent a causal relationship). Thus, these findings should be extrapolated with caution, especially in the context of medical marijuana use.

There is substantial evidence:
- That cannabis use is associated with increased risk of motor vehicle crashes.1,4
- That cannabis users, including adolescent and young adult users, can develop cannabis use disorder.4
- That adolescent and young adult cannabis users are more likely than non-users to use and be addicted to illicit drugs in adulthood.1,4
- That frequent cannabis users are more likely than non-users to have memory impairment (lasting a week or more after last use).4
- That THC intoxication can cause dose-related acute psychotic symptoms.4
- That cannabis use is associated with development of schizophrenia, with highest risk among most frequent users.1,4
- That frequent cannabis smoking is associated with chronic bronchitis.1,4
- That cannabis smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing chemicals as tobacco smoke; however, there is mixed evidence as to whether cannabis smoking is associated with lung cancer.4
- That THC can cross the placenta and into fetuses of women who use cannabis during pregnancy;4 and THC is present in breast milk and passes into breastfeeding infants.4

References

More information
- www.colorado.gov/cdphe/categories/services-and-information/marijuana
- email: marijuana.research@state.co.us

Side effects
- From clinical trials, the following side effects were reported significantly more often among participants receiving cannabis than among controls: dizziness, disorientation/confusion, euphoria, dry mouth, drowsiness/somnolence, nausea, fatigue/asthenia.2

Drug interactions
Note: The lack of a cited interaction does not preclude the possibility that a drug interaction exists (and no studies have yet reported an interaction with that particular drug).

There is no or insufficient evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for all other diseases and conditions, due to lack of published clinical trials.3

Euphoria, dry mouth, drowsiness/somnolence, and passes into breastfeeding infants.4

In Memory
Eve Hoygaard, MS, RN, WHNP
Membership Chair, Colorado Nurses Association

We honor the memory of and acknowledge the work of these recently deceased nurses in our state. Sharing the names and other information about our nursing colleagues is one way we honor their memory.

BALICH, CHRISTINE, RN (94) passed away in February 2018. A graduate from Saint Thomas School of Nursing, she was in the Cadet Nursing Corp. She spent her entire career at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs.

JORDEN, MARY GRETCHEN, RN (91) passed away in March 2018. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWII in 1945 to attend Mercy Hospital in Denver where she later worked.

KNOEPKE, JEAN, RN (87) passed away in March 2018. She worked in Colorado Springs.

NELSON, BERNICE, RN (95) passed away in February 2018. She worked as a RN for 33 years. This included serving 2 years in the US Army during WWII.

TRUBY, JOAN ANNA (MEISTER), RN (86) received RN and MSN at Yale and a Master's in Public Health at University. Her career in Public Health included Colorado State Nursing Director and Director of the Division of Community Health Services.

WOOLEY, MILDRED, RN (97) was a 1942 graduate of Bethel SOM in Colorado Springs. Her 43 year career included different settings prior to 25 years as a Public Health Nurse.

We received information about the death of those nurses honored above. All of them lived in, worked in and/or were educated in Colorado. Membership in the Colorado Nurses Association is not required for inclusion.

To honor a deceased nurse, RN or LPN, in the Colorado Nurse, please send basic information (as full name, city where they worked/ed/ed/received their nursing education with year of graduation, and/or area of practice) to Eve Hoygaard (hoygaard@ mpen.com). We reserve the right to edit material submitted and endeavor to verify all information included in this column. If you note an error, please advise us and a correction will be published. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.
Care Synergy’s Mission is to support, sustain, empower and grow community based, mission driven, values based not-for-profit hospice and palliative care organizations.

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- Halcyon Hospice and Palliative Care, Denver, CO
- Pathways, Fort Collins, CO
- Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care, Colorado Springs, CO

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