

## **Report on the Health Policy Advisory Council (HPAC)**

Below is a summary of major highlights on AACN's progress in advancing its Health Policy Advisory Council (HPAC), which was created to provide contextual and policy guidance on issues requiring insight from nursing academia. Since AACN's Fall 2015 meeting, the following activities have occurred:

- In October 2015, the inaugural HPAC members were invited and announced in a press release.
- HPAC has convened twice over conference call in January and February. The group reviewed the charge and worked out several logistics in terms of communication structures and online shared documents. A Google drive was created to assist the group in organizing agendas, minutes, important documents and feedback / input requests. The group has agreed to a standing monthly meeting.

HPAC meeting agendas are structured around the four major components of the advisory council's charge. Below is a summary of the topics discussed to date pertaining to each tenant in the charge.

### Health Policy Advisory Council Charge:

#### ***Provide strategic guidance on federal level rules and regulations, notices, and requests for comment***

- HPAC Reviewed the Senate Finance Committee [Chronic Care Policy Options](#) Document.
  - Outcome: AACN signed [APRN Work Group Collaborative document](#) that focused on the importance of APRNs in care coordination for individuals with chronic conditions and pointed out concerns about the lack of information in the document regarding chronic pain management.
- HPAC introduced to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for [Confidentiality in Substance Use Disorder Patient Records](#).
  - Outcome: HPAC reviewed the NPRM and decided that academic nursing could be most effective if we focused an AACN comment on sharing patient data for the purposes of research. The comment is due April 11 and will be discussed at the March meeting.

#### ***Identify emerging policy issue areas that impact academic nursing***

- HPAC began discussing priority areas in health policy where AACN can be most impactful and will continue to discuss at the in-person meeting in April. Initial topics discussed include the following:
  - Nursing Workforce and the Acquisition of Actionable Data
  - Palliative Care (across the lifespan)
  - Telehealth
  - Higher Education Access – Barriers to improving diversity and increasing financial aid
  - Climate Change and the Environment
  - Mental Health & Substance Use

#### ***Review policy statements, analyses, and member docs regarding AACN's position on national policy issues***

- No discussion to date.

#### ***Identify and vet individuals to serve as experts to represent academic nursing on federal level groups***

- To date, HPAC has been asked for ideas on opioid experts, MedPAC, and MacPAC.