

# Consensus Work Group Report

---

Jean Johnson PhD, FAAN, RN  
April 11, 2006

# Work Group Background

- AACN and NONPF proposal to Alliance to develop consensus statement on credentialing of APNs (2004)
- 50 stakeholder organizations invited with 32 attending conference in DC June 2004
- Work group convened representing 21 organizations to address issues delineated by conference
  - APN definition
  - Specialization
  - Sub-specialization
  - regulation

# Reasons for Consensus Group

- Concern about regulatory restriction
- Varied state requirements for licensure
- Emergence of narrowly defined specialties
- Lack of understanding among certifiers, accreditors and boards of nursing

# Goals of the Consensus Work Group

- Strive for harmony and common understanding in the APN community
- Develop futuristic vision for APN education, credentialing and regulation
- Establish a set of standards to protect the public but does not limit access to NP care
- Produce a written statement reflecting consensus

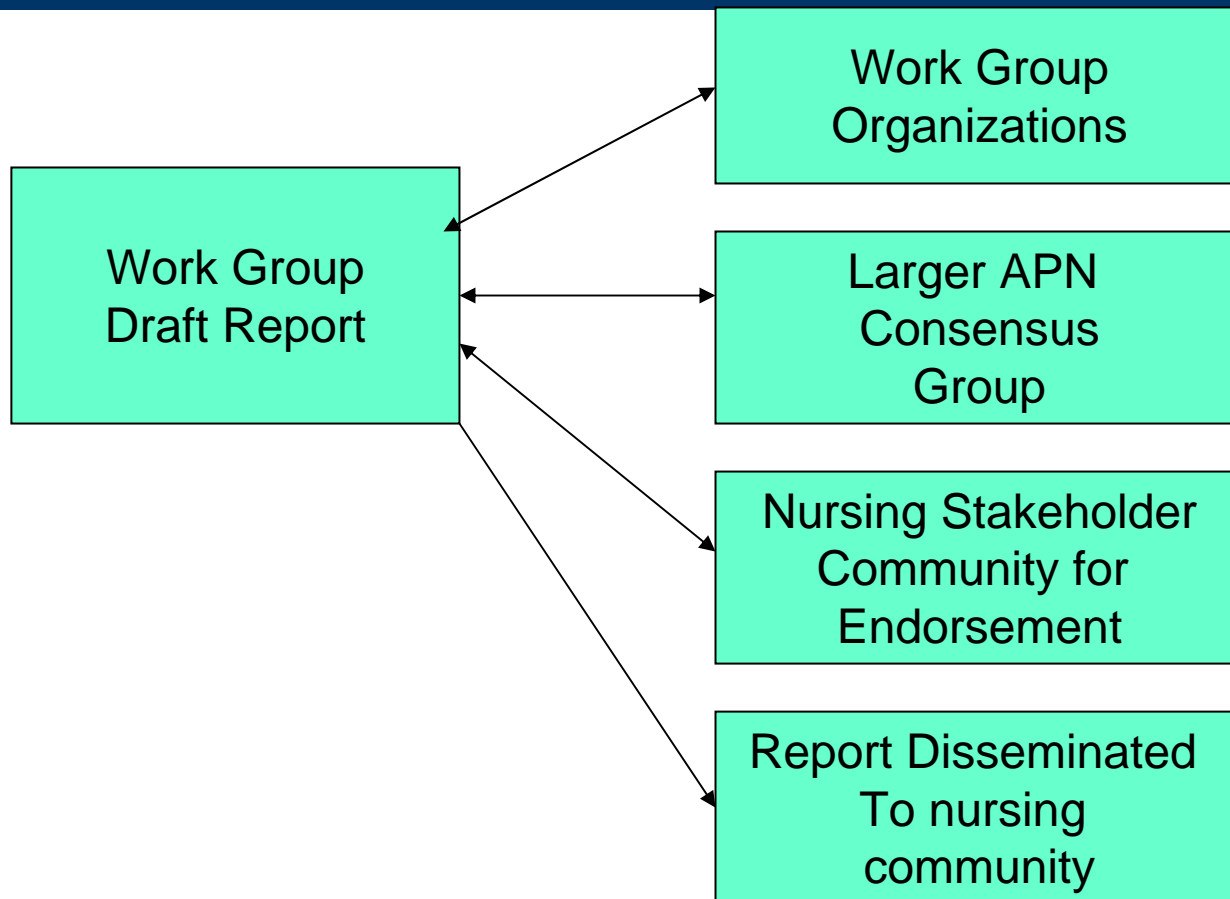
# Assumptions of the Work Group

- Recommendations must address current issues facing the APN community
- Must be forward looking
- Goal of regulation must be forward looking and do no harm

# Process for Consensus

- Goal of unanimous agreement **BUT**
- Unrealistic
- Consensus defined as 2/3 majority by members present
- Each organization at table has one vote
- Opportunity for dissenting opinions in final report

# Process for Reaching Consensus in the Community At Large



# Recommendations

- Consensus definition of APRN
- Criteria for recognition of APRN Roles
- Criteria for recognition of APRN Specialty
- Process for Developing Nationally Recognized standards
- APRN subspecialties
- Regulation of APRNs



# Consensus Definition Elements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

- APRN is professional framework for roles of CNM, CRNA, CNS and NP
- Completed graduate education
- Acquired specialized clinical knowledge and skills
- Build on RN practice
- Prepared to assume responsibility and accountability for use and prescription of pharmacologic and non pharmacologic interventions

# APRN roles

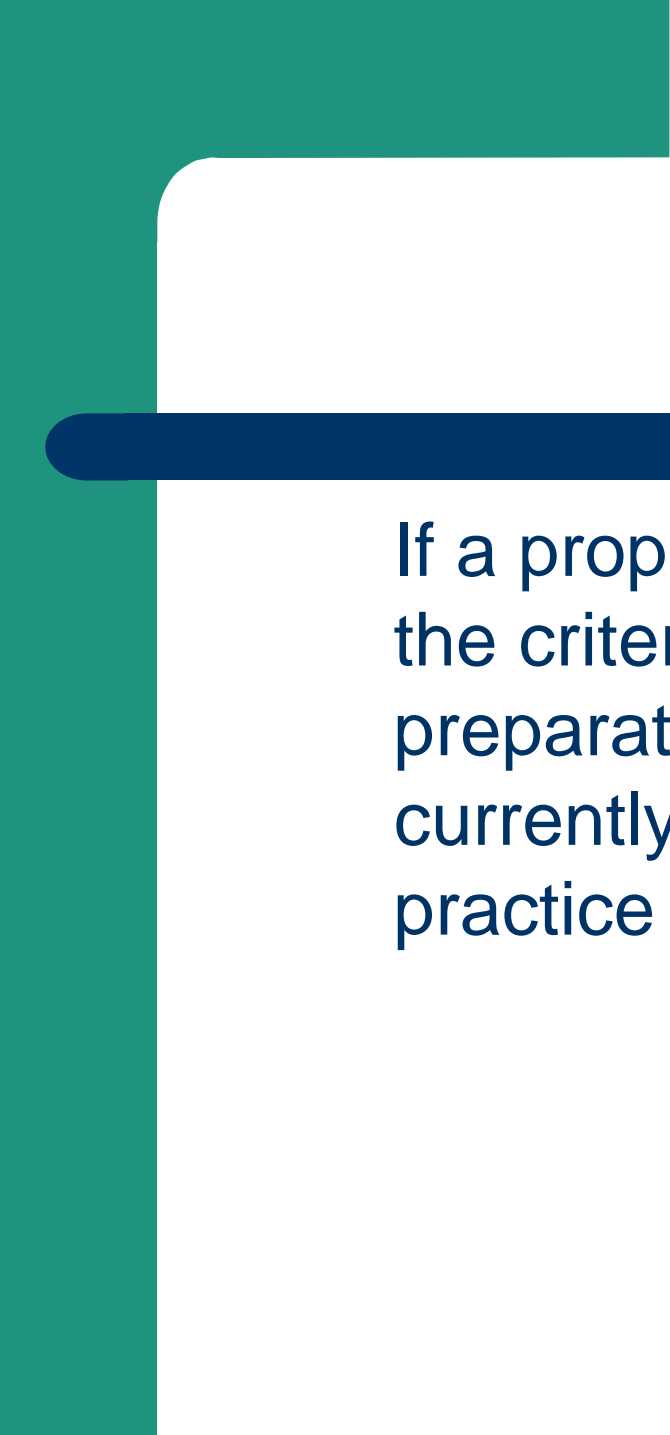
- CNM
- CRNA
- CNS
- NP

# Criteria for Recognition as a Role

- Nationally recognized education standards and core competencies
- Accreditation of education programs by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- Professional certification that is psychometrically sound, legally defensible and meets nationally recognized accreditation standards

# Criteria for Defining APRN Specialty

- Meet ANA (2004) criteria for specialty
- Meet nationally recognized educational standards and at the graduate level
- Programs must be accredited by a nursing accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- Nationally recognized core competencies for role **and** specialty
- Certification by a psycho-metrically sound, legally defensible and meets nationally recognized accreditation standards
- Educational preparation includes role and specialty competencies



If a proposed area of practice does not meet the criteria for a specialty, then broad preparation and certification in one of the currently recognized specialty areas of practice is necessary

# Principles for Developing Nationally Recognized Role and Specialty

- National in scope
- Inclusive
- Transparent
- Accountable
- Initiated by nursing
- Consistent with national standards for accreditation and certification
- Evidenced-based
- Consistent with regulatory principles

# Defining APRN Subspecialties

- Evolves out of a specialty
- Additional knowledge and expertise in discrete area
- Recognized and credentialed in an APRN role
- May become a specialty if meets criteria
- Do not recommend regulation at this level

# APRN Regulation

- Regulation occurs at role level
  - Recognition of accredited APRN Program:
    - Nationally recognized APRN education standards and core competencies
    - Nationally recognized **role** educational standards and core competencies
    - Applicable APRN specialty educational standards and specialty competencies
- Recognition of nationally accredited and legally defensible professional certification process evaluating role and specialty competencies as applicable
- Individuals in each APRN role should be required to meet the standard for one nationally recognized, accredited certification process for regulatory purposes



# Next Steps

- Hear from you
  - Understanding of document
  - Impressions to date