

## **Increasing Numbers of Nurse Practitioners in Nevada**

As our taskforce moves forward with reviewing and recommending initiatives for the state, it will be helpful to find ways to support the development of all healthcare providers and ensure that Nevada has adequate educational opportunities for each discipline. The following are factors which can positively influence the increase of Nevada Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

- **Incentivizing APRNs from other states to move to and stay in Nevada:**
  1. There are currently approximately 1000 active Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Nevada. It is believed that the passage of AB170 has resulted in an influx of APRNS to Nevada.
  2. Establish and implement uniform standards and procedures for APRN applications to the hospital medical staff and granting of clinical privileges.
  
- **Support for maintaining adequate funding for Title VIII programs and funding the Nurse Managed Health Clinics program authorized under Title III is crucial.** Federal funding for Advanced Nursing Education in fiscal year 2012 totaled \$64 million. This is the only federal funding source for nurse practitioner education programs.
  
- **Increased preceptor/clinical training sites for APRNs.** Limited numbers of practice sites are **the** major barrier to increasing NP graduates.

Other states have entertained some innovative options in the last year for NP, PA and medical students:

1. A few states are looking at providing tax-credits to providers that take on this role. A bill in Georgia was initially introduced that would have provide \$1000 for preceptors working with a medicine student, but only \$750 for preceptors working with NPs or PA students. That Georgia measure was subsequently amended to have the same dollar amount for all providers and is expected to be taken up again in the 2015 session.
  
2. Other states are looking at tax-waivers for clinicians that migrate to underserved and rural areas. These potential offerings may help promote experienced clinicians—not just those with outstanding loans to repay—to consider practicing in underserved areas.
  
3. Offer CEU opportunities or other university privileges such as use of the library and adjunct faculty designation for those serving as preceptors.

- **Increased Nurse Practitioner faculty**

Barriers include:

1. Low salaries for educators in public institutions compared to salary opportunities for practicing Nurse Practitioners.
2. Clinical practice time requirements in order to maintain practice skills.

**Recommendation:**

Solutions that we propose as a taskforce should consider the clinical educational opportunities for all healthcare providers in Nevada. In light of this, my proposal is the creation of an advisory council to identify gaps, needs, and opportunities for APRNs in Nevada and to make recommendations to the Governor accordingly.