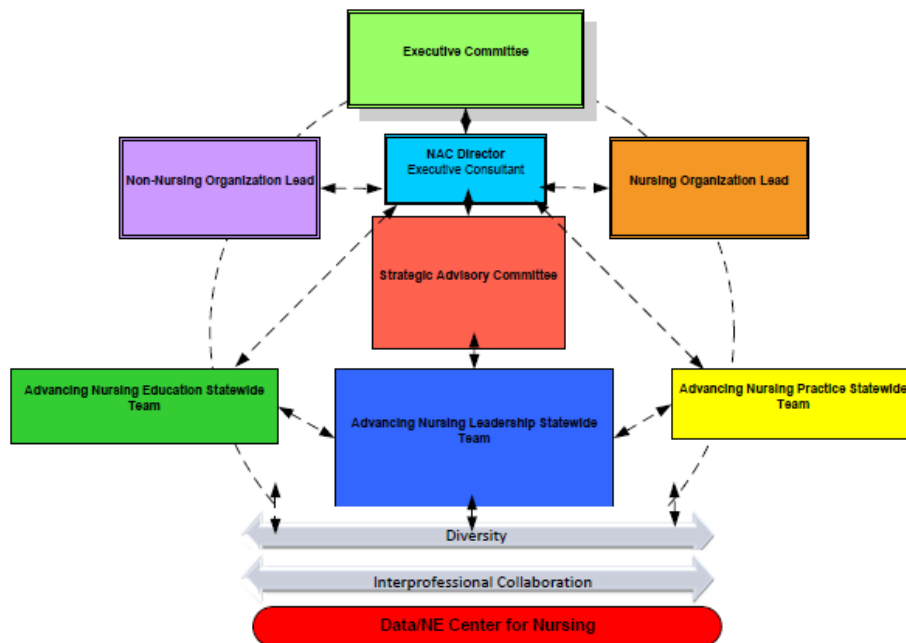


Our Mission

To improve healthcare access, quality, and cost-effectiveness in a manner that embraces and reflects diversity in Nebraska through collaborative partnerships with consumers, providers, policy makers, and businesses.



Thank You to All of Our Project Supporters.

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Join Us in This Important Work!

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FUTURE OF NURSING™

NEBRASKA ACTION COALITION



Our Vision:

- ◆ **Transform Leadership** ◆ **Embrace Diversity** ◆ **Promote Best Practices**
 - ◆ **Provide Quality Healthcare**
-

History of the Nebraska Action Coalition



The Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action* marks the implementation of a landmark October 2010 study and report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Called the RWJF Initiative on the Future of Nursing, the study occurred over two years and resulted in a robust report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, and recommendations outlining how

nursing can contribute to an improved American health care delivery system. Recognizing the value of this effort and the critical need in the state to address the IOM recommendations, the Nebraska Action Coalition (NAC) was formed in March, 2011, and in September, 2011, the state of Nebraska was chosen by the RWJF and AARP to assist in leading the effort to implement key recommendations from this report across the country. The Nebraska Action Coalition is working toward developing partnerships across the state to include nursing and non-nursing representatives. A director was chosen in February 2012, and the Coalition is working to successfully implement the key points of the IOM report over the next four years.

What are the key points of the IOM report?

The 2010 IOM report indicated four key areas of greatest need for the transformation of health care in the United States. These include ways to solve the nursing and nurse faculty shortage in the United States, and ensure that the benefits of nurse-led models of care can be realized throughout the health care system.

The four key recommendations the NAC is working to implement in Nebraska include:

- Enabling nurses to practice to the full level of their education and training;
- Improving nursing education;
- Preparing and enabling nurses to be full partners with physicians and other health care professionals to lead change; and,
- Improving workforce data collection and analysis for more effective workforce planning.



Why is this important in Nebraska?

- There is a severe shortage of primary care physicians in Nebraska and this shortage is only expected to worsen. Currently 13.8% are 65 years or older, as compared to 12.4% in U.S. The number of aging and retired primary physicians in Nebraska is projected to increase to 68% by 2030.
- The nursing shortage in Nebraska is nearly 10% and expected to grow to 20% or more by 2020.
- Nebraska has many eligible applicants applying to become nurses, but the shortage of faculty across the state resulted in a significant number of eligible applicants being turned away in 2012 and 2013.
- 65% of Nebraska counties are designated as health professions shortage areas (2011).
- 33 of 93 counties in Nebraska have no advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and those practicing in the rest of the state are limited by Nebraska's Integrated Practice Agreement, a collaborative agreement between a nurse practitioner and a physician, a barrier to care. In 19 states and the District of Columbia nurse practitioners do have full practice authority, including Colorado, Iowa and Wyoming. In fact, mental health practitioners often leave the state to practice in states with less restrictions.

Of any profession, nurses have the strongest capacity to improve healthcare delivery. According to Gallup, nurses are the most trusted profession in the United States and have been for the past decade. Nurses number 3.2 million in the U.S. and 30,000 in Nebraska, and are frequently a patient's first point of contact. They deliver the most direct patient care and coordinate across many settings, playing a unique role in prevention, wellness and chronic disease management. They are the largest segment of our health care workforce, and the linchpin for improving the system. It is vitally necessary that nurses are enabled to practice to the full extent of their education and training and able to access higher levels of training and education, so they are prepared and enabled to lead change.

Why is this important to me?

Nebraska's citizens deserve better access to higher quality health care, at a price that is affordable. This is a daunting challenge, yet the solution is in sight.

The transformation of Nebraska's health care means healthier families and healthier communities, yet lower costs for all of us. The Nebraska Action Coalition's goal is to implement the IOM recommendations by 2020, yet positively affect our local communities and the entire state for decades to come. Health care is important to each and every one of us, from the very young, to the very old. Your leadership and support is important to this initiative and serves as a commitment to Nebraska, and your local community. You CAN make a difference in the lives of all Nebraska citizens! Please join with us now!

