

TPHA Nursing Section Meeting

Date: 08-28-08

The TPHA Nursing Section held their annual business meeting at 7:30am at the Marriott-Cool Springs, Franklin, TN during the TPHA Annual Meeting.

Meeting called to order by Kaye Ball, Section Chairman

Invocation made by Kathy Shearon.

History of Public Health by Dr. Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN

(See attached Powerpoint presentation)

- Acknowledged nurses help and support in this endeavor
- 30 years of service: Celebrating Nashville's community health nursing 1965-1995
- Public Health Nurses come from all different backgrounds (various degrees and various communities). Public health is always local. Dr. Haushalter talked about Davidson County. That is where her story comes from but encouraged all of us to record our own story.
- Roots of public health nursing started in England. Florence Nightingale museum is there.
 - Based on poverty, class and based on disparity
 - History is the account of who we are professionally and it connects the past, present and future.
 - History needs to be individually and collectively documented.
 - Define who we are and how public health nursing is different than any other nursing.
 - A recorded history gives us a sense of pride but gives us a knowledge base to learn and go forward.
- It is so important to record who we are. She moved into action and did research. Dr. Haushalter found very limited literature exists on public health nursing and most history has not ever been recorded.
- Project purpose is to document things for future use.
- Project overview – completed a video and oral histories (very labor intensive),
- Methods: reviewed literature, reviewed historical documents, completed oral history interviews and got all that information archived. She noted of the memorandums, law suits, photographs, etc. -much of the writing is written with what is historical of the times.
- Findings: Oral History Interviews (very few males). Focused on a time period where there were very few or no males as nurses. All different academic levels and money levels. Most were dedicated to their community. They worked Mon-Fri, 9-5pm and these hours allowed the nurse during that time period to be independent and balance work and home duties. In those days the nurse must be flexible and be the “jack of all trades”. #1 problem was poverty and limited literacy. This meant these people could not manage their disease processes. Impact on poverty on children was very detrimental.
- Public health is empowering others to take care of themselves.

- 100% of stories were about hope!! Each could share just one story they shared the hope. With camera off then they would tell a funny story and did not want people to be offended to anyone.
- What advice to give nurses of PH – this is not for everyone, must work in a non-judgmental way.
- Encouraged all of us to record our own story. Preserve the story!! Put it in a place and archive it. Only place these things were found was in the MD section of libraries. We had no section of our own. Doing this allows future generations to look back and learn from us.
- Videography done – fun, and aired on Channel 3.
- You will find or have found things kept in people’s desks, etc. Turn over to metro archives.
- Do a web page on your local web.
- Recommendations:
 - Do writing, photos, and oral history.
 - Give those a copy of their video when done
 - Collect and preserve historical nursing documents
 - Conduct, preserve and disseminate history.

Questions and Answers by Commissioner Susan R. Cooper:

- Robert Wood Johnson brief is coming out this month.
- Tennessee had one of the first public health nursing directors in the nation.
- The state of Vermont called on Commissioner Cooper. She had the opportunity to testify to their legislature. She told them it is OK to have someone other than MD to be a state commissioner.
- She introduced Veronica Getts-Gunn, MD. Commissioner commented, “She is an MD that thinks like a nurse”.
- We will meet the challenging times ahead. We will hear about no money. We will be coming to each and every one of you to help us do what we do best.
- Talked about future initiatives:
 - Keep focused on the basics.
 - Protect promote and improve
 - We need to do the “need to do’s” and not the nice to do’s. If we are doing the “need to do’s” the others will come.
- Agenda going to the governor’s office right now. Federal funding getting cut. No cost initiatives.
- We are forging new partnerships such as Wal-Mart and others to help us get things done.
- The state is looking to all of us to get initiatives done.
- Commissioner says “This has not easy and by the end of the day I am the one who is accountable for this. Be upset with me if you don’t like a decision. I make the best decision I can with the information I have. At the end of the day, I am only here for a short period of time and will move fast and furious to get things done”.
- Sports physicals – a recommendation all 7-9th graders. State Board of Education has rescinded the regulation and it is only a recommendation right now.

- Accreditation - Ed Baker is going to talk about it. Really excited about it. The accreditation board has not given us all of the regulations to meet yet but we are on the path.
- The “Buy Out” has made it very frustrating for nursing. Lots of efficiencies and we are looking at how we can use technology better. Work always defaults to someone -“no good deed goes unpunished”. Go back and look at the “need to do” not the “nice to do”. It is not going to get any better here or even in the nation.
- I have been asked “What obstacles have you run into being an RN not an MD in your position”? I don’t know that there have been real obstacles. I have learned how to make a business case vs. an emotional case.
- We set up a lot of barriers in our own minds. If you break the barriers then nothing is difficult to get around. Nurses rule the world!
- Wellness program was taken away because it has to be offered to everyone in the state, not just the department of health employees. An audit finding that it was illegally used.
- Primary care is being evaluated and it may expand or cease. We need more information to be gathered first before a decision can be made.
- Electronic medical records – coming. We want a comprehensive system and we have talked to another system. I am hopeful we will have it within the next 18 months.

TPHA Nursing Recruitment by Deborah Hardin, RN State Nursing Director:

- Started TPHA with 288 members as nurses. We want to talk to others and get them to join.
- Pointers to tell others:
 - Talk about the history
 - Mention awards, presentations and scholarships
 - As soon as officers are elected things have to happen
 - Take place at local level – always a juggling that must take place. Everyone must bring this organization together.
 - Networking is wonderful. Gives you an opportunity to meet others from all around state and talk about public health.
 - Have an opportunity to practice leadership skills. It is hands on learning. Learn among friends.
 - If you are asked to be on a committee or a duty. DO IT! It will be worth it.

Business Meeting:

- 1) Minutes from the November 1, 2007 Annual Meeting were read and the following correction was made - (The name: Barbara Hicks should be Barbara Higgs).
 - a. Minutes will stand with correction noted above.
- 2) Resolutions
 - a. Report attached to meeting packet
 - b. Resolution to be mailed to those who have retired or to the families of those who have passed away.

- 3) Bylaws presented with 2 changes:
 - a. Article II – Section 5 - “.., shall coordinate with the TPHA website personnel and update the nursing section and add or remove nursing things on the website as necessary....and
 - b. Article IV – Section 2, (e) – Add a #8. One Fourth (1/4) of the yearly total dues will be for scholarships. So it is stated; if we want to give more for a scholarship(s) meaning: “go above and beyond our ¼ allocation year to year”, this will be decided year to year depending on the funds available”.
 - c. Both changes approved.
- 4) Treasurer’s report: \$3203.40 checking \$5939.89 savings
 - a. 288 members now (down by 71 members from last year)
- 5) Presentation of Awards – Lynelle Callender
 - a. Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration, Supervision and Management presented to Susan Porter, RN
 - b. Award for Direct Services presented to Mary Ann Harrison, RN
 - c. Award for Nursing Assistants presented to Hazel Inez Brogan, NA
- 6) Presentation of Scholarships
 - a. Susan Cooper Scholarship \$2000. We added a new scholarship this year in honor of Commissioner Cooper in the amount of \$2000. We divided this new additional “Susan Cooper Scholarship” among two people:
 - i. \$1500 to Lynelle Callender
 - ii. \$500 to Sonya Franklin
 - b. Linda Owens Scholarship of \$2000 to Tammy Mansfield
 - c. Patsy McCall Scholarship of \$500 to Sonya Franklin
- 7) Presentation of new officers
 - a. Chair Elect – DeSha Anschuetz
 - b. Vice Chair Elect – Sheila McCloskey
 - c. Secretary Elect– Mickey Harchis
 - d. Treasurer Re-Elect– Jennifer Johnson
 - e. Board Representative Re-Elect– Jewell Shipley
- 8) Passing the gavel – Kaye Ball introduced Tammy Mansfield as the incoming Chair for 2009. The gavel was passed to Tammy Mansfield and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted for Sheila McCloskey,

Mickey Harchis, RN
Bylaws Committee Chairman
Nursing Supervisor for Loudon County Health Department