Greetings APNA Florida Chapter members, spring is here and summer is just around the corner. APNA’s Florida Chapter Spring Educational Conference was held on Saturday March 25 at the beautiful campus of the University of Tampa. Our keynote speaker Dr. Kelly Posner was mesmerizing as she discussed her passion of Suicide Prevention and the Columbia Suicide Severity Scale. The conference was packed with innovative topics and discussions. I would like to thank all those who attended the conference. Special thanks to the Conference Planning Committee for their expertise and work on the Conference.

A Special Thanks to Dr. Cindy Parsons who graciously hosted the Conference at UT and coordinated the day’s events with precision and finesse. FYI: There has been discussion that the 2018 Conference will be held on the east coast between West Palm and Ft. Lauderdale areas.

I love how the media has picked up on the concept of Mental Health and Wellness. I was happy to see the Prince of Wales, Price William and Lady Gaga chatting back and forth about breaking the stigma of Mental Health disorders on television in the UK and US. We all need to be promoting the message of Whole Health begins with Mental Health.

During our annual membership meeting at the conference it was voted on that there will be two scholarships to be awarded to attend the APNA 31st Annual Conference, Whole Health Begins with Mental Health, October 18-21, 2017 at the Phoenix Convention Center Phoenix, Arizona. One scholarship will be for $1,000 dollars to an APNA RN member who works in Mental Health and one for $500 dollars for an APRN. Scholarships will be chosen from entries on their discussion of how they incorporate this year’s theme of “Whole Health Begins with Mental Health” into their daily nursing practice and their lives. Information on scholarship entries and deadlines will be coming out in June so start thinking and taking notes. Will your entry be the winner???
Another important issue coming up soon will be the Chapters Board Elections. There are 5 open offices this year. **Members of all educational levels and geographic locations in the state are encouraged to consider running for the board.** Inclusion of all members makes the Chapter **stronger.** Being on the Board will require one to be able to be on a phone conference call meeting once a month. These calls are usually in the evening for one hour. Board members are also active in the planning, preparation and implementation of the Annual Spring Educational Conference. Think about getting involved and making a difference in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing in Florida by being part of the APNA Florida Chapter Board

*Information and announcement for board opening will be sent out in emails in the next weeks. Election will be end of May beginning of June. Please make sure you that you take time to VOTE for the Candidates of your choice at Election time.*

The open positions are:
- **President-Elect:** which is a three year term; including one year as President Elect; President and Past President positions.
- **Secretary:** two year term; recorder and keeper of the records of the Chapter, communicates with the national office as needed.
- **Member-at-Large:** two year positions; three open positions; MAL’s are involved with membership education; part of the planning committee for the annual conference.

On other topics; Legislation in Tallahassee is running fast & furious. Apparently, the state does not see Mental Health as a priority again this year. We are 50th out of the 50 states in Funding for Mental Health Treatment and CMHC’s. It is a shame that the legislators do not see the savings of proactive mental health and substance abuse treatment, decreasing homelessness and educating law enforcement and communities about the importance of mental health care. As Psychiatric Mental Health workers, providers and prescribers, we need to continue to take the lead here in Florida to Educate, Communicate, and Advocate for the millions of Floridians who seek out services and treatment every year. Continue to strive for what is right for our patients on a daily basis. I’ll reach out to all of the membership again before the elections.

Stay well & be safe,

*Susan*

Susan Archacki-Resnik MSN ARNP PMHNP BC
APNA Florida Chapter President
Important Dates

- **2017 NEI Synapse**
  May 5-7, 2017
  Mandarin Oriental
  Washington, D.C.

- **New England Conference on ADHD**
  June 10, 2017
  Manchester, New Hampshire

- **APNA 15th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute**
  June 8-11, 2017
  Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor
  Baltimore, Maryland

- **Psych Congress**
  September 16-19, 2017
  New Orleans, Louisiana

- **APNA 31st Annual Conference**
  October 18-21, 2017
  Phoenix Convention Center
  Phoenix, Arizona

- **Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment of Women During the Reproductive Years**
  October 19-20, 2017
  Sarasota, Florida

- **Massachusetts General Psychopharmacology 2017**
  October 19-22, 2017
  Boston, Massachusetts

- **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
  October 23-28, 2017
  Washington, D.C.

- **2017 NEI Congress**
  November 8-12, 2017
  Colorado Springs, Colorado

- **4th Annual Mood Disorders Summit**
  December 1-2, 2017
  Orlando, Florida
It was great seeing so many of you at our Spring Conference. Hopefully you found this a great educational and networking opportunity. With the conference now behind us, it is time to focus on developing your leadership team for the next year.

Are you willing to step up and get involved (or re-involved) with the organization? We are looking for people who are willing to share their talents and time for the Florida Chapter APNA. The following positions will open for election next month. Please review and take this opportunity to be a part of the mission of APNA Florida.

**Position Descriptions:**

The **President-Elect** shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in case of the President’s absence or incapacity. The President-Elect shall perform such duties as from time to time may be assigned to her/him by the President or by the Board of Directors, and after serving a one-year term, shall serve the next one-year term as President with the following term as past president.

The **Secretary** shall keep a record of all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board, of all votes taken by mail and of all matters of which a record is indicated by the Chapter. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep a roll of the members of the Chapter, and carry out other duties as indicated by the Chapter.

The **Members-at-large** shall plan and coordinate meetings and continuing educational offerings. These individuals shall function as liaisons between membership and the Board and follow up on recruitment and retention of membership.

Please watch your email in the next couple of weeks for nomination information.

*Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. –John F. Kennedy*
Advanced Practice Update

The South Florida Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses Council continues to hold monthly meetings that are well planned and attended. The March 9 meeting was sponsored by Sunovion and Dr. Trujillo spoke on the benefits of Latuda prescribed for Bipolar Depression. The group met again on April 13 in Ft Lauderdale, where Dr. Wendy Weinstein from SUNY Buffalo spoke about treating women with Bipolar Depression with Latuda. After the dinner meeting, a complimentary 1 hour CME was provided, when Jessica Aron, Psy.D, gave a wonderful talk on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. Leadership of the group continue to share updates about becoming a Controlled Substance provider including applying for a DEA number. Updated protocols need to be sent to the Board of Nursing at: mqa.nursingappstatus@flhealth.gov. They can also be sent via USPS. Our next meeting will be held on May 11, location TBD. For further information about the group, you can contact Keith Jones, the Chair of the group at: kjonesklj@aol.com or S.Fl.PsychAPNCouncil@gmail.com.

The chair of the Orlando/Central Florida APC group is Hannah Phillips. This is a very active group that meets monthly. Anyone interested in joining their group can contact Hannah at: Hannah.elizabeth.phillips@gmail.com.

At the time of this publication, the Treasure Coast APC is undergoing reformation. For information about the Treasure Coast APC, please contact Mary Stone at: maryst58@hotmail.com.

The West Coast Advanced Practice Council has become very strong. In addition to Emily Bell, Sharon Krieger and Marguerite Moon have been working to plan meetings for this group. Contact Emily for more information about this group at Emily.e.donelson@gmail.com.

The Miami Advanced Practice Council will be planning more activities in the coming months. The chair, Lisa Burton welcomes all inquiries or comments. She can be reached at: lisamburtonphd@gmail.com or text her at 786-300-5776.

The North Florida Advanced Practice Council meets in the Jacksonville area and remains a very active group and continues to grow in membership. We had a packed house at our meeting on April 20th. The meeting was sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceuticals at The Capital Grille. Dr. Jose Rey led a lively discussion on the role of Invega Sustenna and Invega Trinza in long term disease management. Stay tuned for the details of our May meeting. We typically meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact Karen McNeely at: n.fl.psychapncouncil@gmail.com.

Keep checking Member Bridge for further updates on ALL our wonderful Florida APC’s!!
Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants Prescribing Buprenorphine

Section 303 of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2016, made several changes to the law regarding office-based opioid addiction treatment with buprenorphine. ASAM’s complete summary of CARA is available here.

One of these changes is that prescribing privileges have been expanded to nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) for five years (until October 1, 2021). The below information and resources will help members and the public understand this specific change.

Medication Assisted Treatment Waiver Training for APRNs as of March 31, 2017

APNA and PCSS-MAT will be jointly providing, at no cost, the 24 hours of training required for nurses and physician assistants to obtain waivers to prescribe buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid use disorder. This page will include links to the free medication assisted waiver training for APRNs once the process has been finalized. In the meantime, please see the below information and fill out this form to receive email updates.

Current Status
(March 31, 2017) Here are updates to the three aspects of the MAT waiver process for APRNs: the required 24 hours of education, the process for issuing MAT waivers, and the regulations for implementing the CARA 2016 legislation.

- Educational Content for Required Training
  APNA continues to work with our partners at PCSS-MAT to finalize the updated content and optimize it for continuing nursing education contact hours. We anticipate that the program will be ready during the month of April.

- OMB Approval of MAT Waiver Issuance Process
  From SAMHSA Website as of February 28, 2017:
  NPs and PAs who have completed the 24 hours of required training may seek to obtain a DATA 2000 waiver for up to 30 patients by completing the Waiver Notification Form. Effective February 27, 2017, SAMHSA will only accept electronic submissions of the NOI. NPs and PAs may send copies of their training certificates to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov or faxed them to 301-576-5237. These waiver applications will be forwarded to the DEA, which will assign the NP or PA a special identification number. DEA regulations require this number to be included on all buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid dependency treatment, along with the NP’s or PA’s regular DEA registration number. SAMHSA shall review waiver applications within 45 days of receipt. If approved, NPs and PAs will receive a letter via email that confirms their waiver and includes their prescribing identification number.

- HHS Regulation to Implement CARA 2016
  No further HHS regulation is needed before eligible NPs or PAs with a properly authorized waiver can begin prescribing buprenorphine, subject to applicable statutory patient limits.
Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants Prescribing Buprenorphine

Please ensure that your state regulations allow you to prescribe buprenorphine and other medications to treat OUD before you apply for the waiver. Some states may have overriding state legislation that will prevent NPs from prescribing these medications even if Federal law allows it. Nurse practice laws and regulations are specific to each state. AANP has created an interactive map to provide licensure and regulatory requirements, as well as practice environment details, for all 50 states and the U.S. Territories. AANP also has a list of state practice laws and regulations categorized by type.

NPs and PAs can begin the training immediately by taking the 8-hour buprenorphine courses offered by ASAM or that other stakeholders offer. The remaining 16 hours will have to be completed with one training provider. ASAM is in the process of developing multiple 16-hour training course options and formats, including collaborations with:

24-Hour Buprenorphine Curriculum Collaborative with the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)

- Obtained from the America Society of Addiction Medicine website

**APNA is offering free Continuing education webinars for all nurses. Click on logo for details.**
Florida Chapter
2017 Spring Conference

Addressing Mental Health Priorities Across the Lifespan:
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses Leading the Way

The Spring Conference was a HUGH success!!
Conference Presentations are available on Member Bridge.
Please join us in South Florida Spring 2018!

Preconference networking event at Seasons 52 in Tampa
L-R: Cherie Vancura, Pat Brown, Pam Rillstone

Networking dinner sponsored by PsychU. Our Speaker Aneta Fornal(L) with Cindy Parsons
Keynote Speaker Dr. Kelly Posner presents “On the Road to Zero Suicide”

Dr. Linda Mays presents “Medical Marijuana in Florida: A New Frontier”
Pat Brown (L) and Nancy Newbury (R)

Attendees taking advantage of break time to visit our vendor tables.
Debbie Salani getting the latest information!

Thank you to all of our vendors!
Education Council Co-Chairs, Beth King (L) and Diane Esposito (R)

Packing up at the end of a very busy day, Cheryl McGahn (L) and Merredith Oakes (R)
May is Mental Health Month

Click on logo for more information

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. 1 in 5 Americans will be affected by a mental health condition in their lifetime and every American is affected or impacted through their friends and family. Take action today to help others as we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care.
**Around the State**

We want to hear from you! Please let us know what you are doing in your area so we can highlight your accomplishments in the newsletter. Some examples include:

- Unit Council Magnet Projects
- Professional Presentations
- Community Initiatives
- Research Projects
- Evidence based practice changes

Please submit your information via Member Bridge or to the media coordinator @ karensmcneely@gmail.com

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- Active APNA members receive a 50% discount on ads!
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- ½ Page $100.00
- Full Page $200.00
- Contact Media Coordinator Karen McNeely DNP, ARNP-BC
  
  Phone: 954-592-4789   karensmcneely@gmail.com