It is time for the new APNA Florida Chapter Board to move forward in leadership. I would like to thank the membership for APNA FL Chapter for the past year of working for you.

Upcoming things to look forward to is the Essay Contest for members for scholarship to the National Convention. A 500 dollar scholarship will be awarded for an Advance Practice Nurse and a thousand dollar stipend to a RN member of the chapter. Information on both of these will be coming after the new board has their first meeting in August.

I would like to thank the past Board of Directors for a great year. Many opportunities will be coming up in the next year or so for legislative changes in Nursing. Keeps the fight moving forward for Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. “Whole Health begins with Mental Health” keep that in mind as you make your plans for the National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in October.

Best regards,

Susan

Susan Archacki-Resnik MSN ARNP PMHNP BC
Immediate Past President APNA FL Chapter
**Important Dates**

- **FNPN Conference - NPs Transforming Healthcare 2017**
  August 10-12, 2017
  Lake Buena Vista, Florida

- **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

- **11th Annual Psychopharmacology Institute and 20th Annual Conference**
  April 10-14, 2018
  Tempe, Arizona

- **2018 NEI Synapse**
  April 20-22, 2018
  Las Vegas, Nevada

Find us on Facebook @
APNA Florida Chapter or
Florida Chapter APNA:
https://apnafl.nursingnetwork.com
Florida Chapter Advanced Practice Council:
https://appnf.enpnetwork.com
Conference Registration is Open!

WHY ATTEND THE APNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

Take a proactive approach to your practice!

- **Promote** mental health through 4 days of information exchange and perceptive conversation.
- **Pursue** a comprehensive program that offers more than 126 continuing education contact hours to attendees in-person and online.
- **Produce** real-world applications of new discoveries through interactive sessions with nursing experts.
- **Propel** yourself to the next career level through professional development and networking.
- **Provide** the best possible care when you return home armed with best practices, innovative approaches, and current research.
Election Results Are In!!

Thanks to all who voted in our recent election. We are looking forward to an exciting year. More details to follow after our annual board retreat in August. Welcome to our new and returning Florida Chapter board members!

President: Lisa Burton, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC

President-Elect: Deborah Salani, DNP, PMHNP-BC, ARNP, NE-BC

Immediate-Past President: Susan Resnik, MSN, ARNP, PMHNP BC

Secretary: Beth M. King, PhD, ARNP, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC

Treasurer: Cheryl Kaufman, MSN, ARNP, PMHNP-BC

Media Coordinator: Karen McNeely, DNP, ARNP, PMHNP-BC

Members-at-Large:

Diane Esposito, PhD, ARNP, PMHCNS-BC

Cindy Parsons, DNP, ARNP-BC, FAANP

Madeleine R. Kelley, BSN, RN

Merredith Oakes FNP, PMHNP

Suzan Blacher, MSN, RN, CARN

* A very special THANK YOU to Emily Bell, Donna Linette, Mary Stone, and Laurie Zeitlin for their commitment to our Florida Chapter. You will all be missed and we are very grateful for your service!!!
Advanced Practice Update

The South Florida Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses Council continues to hold monthly meetings that are well planned and attended. The July 13th meeting was held at the Capital Grille, and was sponsored by Alkermes. Dr. Aldo Morales spoke on **Vivitrol: Changing the narrative of opioid and alcohol dependency treatment**. 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 Diane Esposito at: dianearnp@gmail.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. Our July 20th meeting was held at Seasons 52. Dr. Richard Petty presented **Vraylar: A Clinical Overview**. 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 of 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.

Now Available: Apply for a Waiver

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](#).

APNA offers the full 24 hours of training required at no cost. [Here](#) is a link to the information.

NPs and PAs may send copies of their training certificates to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov or fax them to 301.576.5237. These waiver applications are forwarded to the Drug Enforcement Administration (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.

Applications can also be made via SAMHSA’s mobile app MATx. [Click here](#) to learn more about MATx.

To be redirected to SAMHSA's website, [click here](#). To be directed to APNA’s website, [click here](#).

Implementation

On November 17, 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that NPs and PAs can immediately begin taking the 24 hours of required training to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (please see below for more information on training). NPs and PAs who complete the required training and seek to prescribe buprenorphine for up to 30 patients will be able to apply to do so beginning in early 2017. Once NPs and PAs receive their waiver they can begin prescribing buprenorphine immediately. Any NP or PA who begins to prescribe buprenorphine before applying for and receiving a waiver will be in violation of federal law.

HHS is also announcing its intent to initiate rulemaking to allow NPs and PAs who have prescribed at the 30 patient limit for one year, to apply for a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for up to 100 patients.

Requirements for NPs and PAs to be eligible to apply for a buprenorphine waiver, they must complete 24 hours of training that covers the following topics: opioid maintenance and detoxification; clinical use of all FDA-approved drugs for medication-assisted treatment; patient assessment; treatment planning; psychosocial services; staff roles; and diversion control.

To qualify, NPs and PAs must:
• Be licensed under state law to prescribe Schedule III, IV, or V medications for pain
• Complete not less than 24 hours of appropriate education through a qualified provider
• Through other training or experience, demonstrate the ability to treat and manage Opioid Use Disorder
• If required by state law, be supervised or work in collaboration with a qualifying physician (physician must be waivered) to prescribe medications for the treatment of OUD

- Written by Karen McNeely based on information provided by ASAM, APNA, and SAMHSA.

**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](https://www.aanp.org) 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](https://www.aanp.org) (AANP) and the [American Academy of Physician Assistants](https://www.aapa.org) (AAPA)

- Obtained from the America Society of Addiction Medicine website

Here’s a link to APNA’s APRN Scope of Practice [interactive map](https://www.apna.org).

**Effective Treatments for Opioid Use Disorders**

Continuing education webinars for all nurses developed by the American Psychiatric Nurses Association to provide needed knowledge and help answer the question, “*What can nurses do?*” to address the epidemic of opioid use and overdose in the U.S. *Almost 4 million nurses can make a difference!*

Each of the webinars is available for continuing nursing education contact hours at no cost.

[Learn More Here](https://www.anp.org)
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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