

President's Message



I hope you had the opportunity to attend the APNA-Florida State Conference in Orlando March 7. It was a wonderful experience and a great learning opportunity. The DSM-5, new psychotropic medications in the works, genetic testing along with the new mandatory 2 CEUs on the nursing licensing laws was offered. I enjoyed getting to meet so many of the members.

I also need to share with the membership that two board members have had to resign from the Florida board. Jerry Gradek, President-elect, had to resign due to employment constraints. MAL John Repique moved out of state. Please congratulate the three members who stepped up to serve out their terms. Sandra Cadena has assumed the president-elect position and Carole Kain and Florence Keane have assumed the MAL roles.

The board will be on retreat August 1-2 to plan the next year. Please forward any ideas or concerns you may have to anyone on the board to us to discuss.

Patricia Brown

President
APNA Florida Chapter

APNA Florida Chapter State Conference a Success March 7, 2013

The APNA Florida Chapter state conference, **What's 'News' in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing**, which was held on Friday, March 7, was a big success on many levels. Organized by members-at-large Janet King, Nel Thomas, Judy Flanagan and Sandra Cadena, the conference at Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando covered a variety of topics and was well received by the many attendees. Dr. Sandra Cadena presented remotely from South America on DSM-5 and ICD-10 and her presentation was also broadcast to schools in Columbia, Peru, Chile and Mexico. Raymond Lorenz PharmD spoke about Psychiatric Pharmacogenomics, Donna Linette presented Best Practices for Inpatient Settings, and Dr. Robert Molpus spoke about Novel Psychiatric Medications. We were lucky enough to get Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick RN, BSN, who is Chair of the Florida Board of Nursing, to present the new 2 hour required CEUs on Laws and Rules that Govern the Practice of Nursing in Florida. The interactive presentation was lively and held everyone's attention. The conference allowed more time for networking and ended with the APNA Florida Chapter membership meeting. 5.0 Contact Hours were awarded to attendees by Central Florida Behavioral Hospital.



Phyllis Perlow, PMH-NP

CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING

Implementation of a Professional Organization for S. TI Psychiatric APNs

MISSION STATEMENT

to promote, support, and advocate for Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurses on issues related to clinical development, professional development, professional practice, and establishing evidence-based practice, and establishing research.

GOALS

- to provide a forum for the development of research, practice and continuing education for Psychiatric APNs
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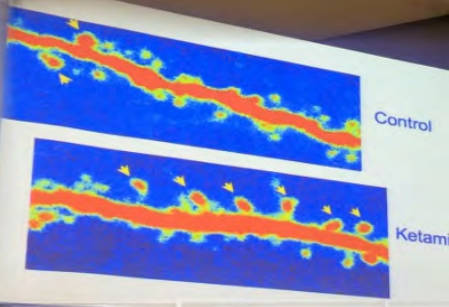
Implications for APNs

- Legacy for current & future professionals
- Influence current/future professional practice
- Link professionals with evidence-based practice
- Benefit client care as well as a collegiality, professional growth, and research

MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS WITH DSM-5 Basics

SECTION I

DSM-5 Basics



APNA South Florida Practice Conference

Phyllis Perlow, PMH-NP

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APNA Florida Chapter Membership Call

April 17, 2014 @ 7:30 PM

Members on the call: Pat Brown (President), Judy Flanagan (Secretary), Sandra Cadena (President Elect), Paulette Perlowin, Florence Keane, Lisa Hensler (Cocoa), Ruth Milstein, Kim Hickman (St Pete), Audrey Crider (Jacksonville), Karl Koenig (St Pete), Sue Resnik.

1 – Taking the first step in education – Ruth Milstein

DNP vs PhD? The DNP is for the person interested in the clinical area vs the PhD which is for someone more interested in research. Eventually, Nurse Practitioners will probably be required to get the DNP. To teach, a Doctorate will be required. Initially the requirement for the doctorate degree was going to be implemented in 2015, but that will not occur. NOTE: Both programs will “better the life of the patients”.

2 – Introduction of new Board members – Judy Flanagan

Sandra Cadena (a MAL) has agreed to accept the President-elect position when Jerry Gradek resigned. Sandra will become President in July 2014. Carole Kain is replacing John Repique as a MAL (current year through June 2015). Florence Keane is assuming Sandra Cadena’s MAL position (current year through June 2015).

Positions open beginning July 2014 (elections in May): President-elect (3 year commitment), Treasurer (2 year commitment), Media Coordinator (2 year commitment), two MAL positions (2 year commitment).

Please contact me at judy.flanagan5@gmail.com if you would like to run for a position. Nomination form is due by April 25th.

3 - Legislative Update – no information.

4 – Last call for nominations for ballot – Pat Brown

5 - What’s happening around the state? For South FL information, go to Facebook and request to be included in the South Florida Advanced Practice Council; this Council meets the second Thursday of each month. Volusia County (Daytona Beach and New Smyrna) needs 2 Nurse Practitioners.

The next Board meeting call will be May 1st at 7 PM.

The Board Retreat will be August 1st and 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Flanagan, Secretary

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Condensed from FNP legislative update by Allison Carvajal

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) Scope of Practice

House Bill 7113, House Bill 7071 and Senate Bill 1352 would have significantly expanded the scope of practice for ARNPs. The bill would have allowed ARNPs to prescribe controlled substances within the framework of a physician supervision protocol and would have authorized psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners to release patients from involuntary examination under Baker Act. The House bill also defined a new category for certain independent nurse practitioners that would allow them to practice within their specialized area of certification without a physician supervision protocol. The House sent a series of bills combined into one (train) and sent the Bill to the Senate. The Senate striped off the scope language as well as telehealth, and sent it back to the House, where the bill died. While the legislation was a priority for the House leadership and was passed from the House chamber, it was not taken up by the Senate and, ultimately, failed to pass.

Telehealth

House Bill 751, House Bill 7113 and Senate Bill 1646 proposed measures that would have addressed policy barriers that currently limit telehealth implementation and innovations in Florida. The bill provisions related to definitions for telehealth providers to include physicians, physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners and pharmacist; out-of-state provider eligibility; and special training requirements. The bill faced opposition by the physician community over the belief that the use of telehealth should be reserved only to Florida licensed physicians. FHA supported this legislation that would improve access to care, especially in rural communities. The bills failed to pass in the last days of session.

HB0037 Involuntary Examinations Under the Baker Act: Authorizes physician assistants & ARNPs to initiate involuntary examinations under Baker Act of persons believed to have mental illness. This bill died in the Senate and did not pass.

However we did get farther and had more support than ever before so we continue to move forward with baby steps.

Mental health and the Affordable Care Act

BY R. JOHN REPIQUE

RJOHN.REPIQUE@JHSMIAMI.ORG

With an estimated one in four American adults suffering from a mental disorder in any given year, we cannot lose sight of the fact that mental illness remains a major public health issue of our generation. Nor should we only acknowledge our country's perennial mental health crisis in times of a national tragedy like a mass shooting.

Therefore, it might be time now for the news media and naysayers to refocus and talk about the potential benefits and far-reaching positive impact of the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare. One of these areas is our nation's mental health sector and the millions of Americans it helps.

Unfortunately, the discourse regarding anything "Obamacare" always turn to political wrangling.

Last year, instead of fixing the imperfections of the historic health law, political ideology prevailed. Thus, it was not surprising that public opinion polls conducted in the earlier part of 2013 indicated that only a third of Americans understood how the Affordable Care Act actually worked.

By year's end, arguably, it's not all doom and gloom when it comes to the Affordable Care Act. We also made gains in our quest for the transformation of America's "mental healthcare system" that yet remains inaccessible, costly, fragmented, uncoordinated, and inequitable at best.

Amid the firestorm of pointless political noise, two important milestones during the final months of 2013 are worth noting.

- On November 8, the Obama administration published the long-awaited final rules of the *2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* that would require insurers to cover mental health and substance abuse disorders.

This finally levels the playing field — bringing it on par with physical disorders.

Along with the mental health parity provisions, the Affordable Care Act will provide the largest behavioral health coverage expansion for our generation, covering more than 60 million Americans.

Another historic shift starting in the current year is that insurance companies will no

longer be able to deny you coverage for pre-existing conditions, including a history of mental illness.

- On December 10, during the week of the anniversary of the Newtown tragedy, the Obama administration once again stepped up when it announced that it would increase funding for mental health services by \$100 million to improve access to mental health services and facilities. Part of the funding will come from the Affordable Care Act. Albeit much-awaited and long overdue, the announcement made by Vice President Joe Biden was welcomed news to a nation still grieving over these senseless — and all too frequent — mass shootings.

Some critics believe these changes don't go far enough in overhauling America's broken mental healthcare system.

These days, however, not enough is better than nothing, considering that the current political climate in Washington places ideology over compromise.

Much work still must be done to fulfill the promise and achieve the complete transformation of the nation's fragmented system of mental health care. But no matter how small the win, it remains a win and we have to acknowledge any historic step forward.

Ironically, the forecast is a bit gloomy here in Florida when it comes to healthcare insurance coverage.

With nearly four million Floridians uninsured — an estimated 744,000 uninsured residents in Miami-Dade County alone — our state still lags behind.

Unless the Florida Legislature decides to take the humane step of assuring coverage for the uninsured by not rejecting billions in Medicaid dollars provided by the Affordable Care Act, we stand at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the nation.

Other states have already taken the bold and logical step of transforming their mental healthcare systems for their most vulnerable population – the mentally ill. Let us hope that this year our state's political leaders will stand up for them, too, by accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid.

That would open the door to a new beginning in our effort to provide accessible, affordable, and quality mental healthcare to Florida's poor and mentally ill as they seek treatment and begin their journey towards recovery.

R. John Repique, an APNA member, was senior vice-president/chief administrative officer and chief nursing officer for Jackson Behavioral Health Hospital, Jackson Health System in Miami. He is now CEO of Friends Hospital in Philadelphia. This article was published in the Miami Herald on January 16, 2014.

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2013-2014 APNA Florida Board Members

APNA South Florida Advanced Practice Council

An informal gathering of advanced practice psychiatric nurses that has been meeting for dinner quarterly in Broward County for years is now formalized as a council under the APNA Florida Chapter and is meeting monthly on the second Thursday of every month. Membership is open to all APNs in the Palm Beach/Broward/Dade County area and while APNA membership is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Contact Paulette Perlowin at pauleygop@aol.com or call her at 954-471-2801 for more information.