



## **Minnesota Celebrates 100 Years of School Nursing: View of the Next 100 Years.**

### **School Nursing Will Be An Integral Component of the Health Care Delivery System**

The school nursing profession anticipates continuing to provide effective care for the children of the future. School nurses will respond to the increasingly complex health needs of students, the growing complexity of the health care system, the rising expectations for academic success and the escalating high risk factors in the lives of children and families. School nurse leaders envision a future in which school nursing is an integral and integrated component of the health care and the education systems. School nurses will become increasingly more effective in caring for children and supporting the success of the next generations of children and young people.

### **Technology Will Transform the School Nursing Process and Service Delivery**

The nursing process of assessment, diagnosis, outcomes identification, planning, implementation and evaluation will be transformed by information technology. Technology will support nurses in implementing cost effective, evidence-based practice and will facilitate critical analysis and decision-making. The student health record will merge with the Electronic Health Record allowing for orders, plans and outcomes to be documented and communicated electronically between the school nurse and health care providers in the community. The result will be improved chronic disease management, communication with families and safer delivery of care through consistency across systems. Tools that school nurses now access such as Immunization Registries, on-line disease reporting, on-line learning opportunities, and email communication with students, parents and teachers will become increasingly sophisticated, available and productive. Patient care technology will continue to evolve providing self-care management tools, improved disease outcomes, and improved quality of life. Examples include-insulin pumps and blood sugar monitoring devices. There will be opportunities for telemedicine in the school health office allowing for diagnostic and follow-up with primary care and medical specialists. School nurses will utilize technology to engage students in their own health management, empowering youth and positively affecting health outcomes.

### **School Nurses Will Respond to Changing Disease Trajectories**

School nursing will continue to respond to the changing patterns and trends that occur in children's health status and in childhood diseases. The increase in chronic health conditions that result from life-style behaviors will continue to challenge all health care providers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Emerging communicable conditions such as Methicillin Resistant Staph Infections (MRSA) and H1N1 Novel Influenza Virus will continue to require education, individualized interventions and planning for the school community.

### **Health Care Delivery Will Shift to School**

As a result of changing disease patterns, continued working patterns of parents, technological improvements and as yet unknown health care system changes that will result from national Health Care Reform, more health care and more complex care will be delivered in the school setting. Health care services, provided during the school day, will increasingly be reimbursed by third party payers just as the same services are reimbursed in other health care settings. Providers will value the cost effective care delivered by qualified school nurses and advanced practice nurses in schools. As health care for

children shifts to the school, school nurses will utilize practice strategies and models that have proven effective. The Healthy Learner Model (HLM) for Student Chronic Condition Management which includes leadership, evidence-based practice, capacity-building and resource nurse components, is an example of the structure that school nurses will adopt to build school based care systems.

### **School Nurses Will Lead Through Collaboration**

The Coordinated School Health model provides a framework for implementing coordinated health programming across eight areas: health services, health and physical education, counseling, nutrition services, employee health, environmental health and community involvement. The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) inaugurated in July, 2009 is an opportunity school nurses will have to collaborate with local public health partners, health care providers, work places, the community and the 8 areas within school health to change the environment in this state. Under the leadership of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the profession is embarking on a new era of partnerships and collaborations to strategically position school nurses to impact public policy for children's health and educational success and to advocate for school nursing services for every child. HR 2730, the Student to School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2009, if enacted, will evaluate the effectiveness of school nurse interventions in several states. Minnesota school nurses developed and will continue to implement the HLM which demonstrated that partnerships linking health care providers, families, and schools are imperative to optimize the health and school performance of students with a chronic condition. Such successful collaborative efforts will continue.

### **School Nursing Will Provide High Quality Care and Positive Health Outcomes**

School nurses will utilize evidence-based practice guidelines developed through research led by nurse researchers and practicing school nurses. High quality, consistent care in the school setting will be expected by school administrators, students, parents and the health care community. Based on effective care and positive health outcomes for students, school nursing services will be sought by managed care organizations and will be reimbursed. School nurses will continue to advocate for children, and school nursing services by confidently describing positive results for students - improved health and academic success. Increasingly, school nurses will be sought for their knowledge of childhood health issues, their passion for students and their position on the frontline of health care for the children of tomorrow.

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