

**2013 Resolution #1
Sexual Abuse Screening by Nurses
Submitted by Elsa Durr, RN, SANE-A**

WHEREAS, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18, and
WHEREAS, physical and psychological issues such as chronic pain disorders, depression, guilt, anger, denial, and post-traumatic stress disorder can arise or develop because of sexual abuse, and

WHEREAS, according to victims of sexual abuse, healthcare professionals need appropriate education to improve competent care; and

WHEREAS, consistent screening through a primary care provider or evaluation at each healthcare visit is the most cost-effective and overall healthful route and would facilitate the flow of increased information from patients to their health care provider, decreasing the chances for future abuse;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association encourage hospitals to identify one or more nurses who will be certified as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support the implementation of screening for sexual abuse of patients regardless of their age or sex in any environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association encourage nurses to develop skills to foster an environment that facilitates disclosure and responses that are culturally sensitive; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support ongoing education of nurses and competency assessment in the care of victims of sexual abuse.

Implementation Steps:

1. Prepare an article for the Iowa Nurse Reporter on the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in Iowa.
2. Encourages all nurses to evaluate their patient/clients for being a victim of sexual abuse.

Cost: \$100

Propose Priority: Medium

**American Nurses Association
2012 House of Delegates
Resolution #2**

**Nurses' Role in Recognizing, Educating, and Advocating for Healthier Energy Choices
Submitted by Betty Lord-Dinan, RN**

WHEREAS, the "Scope and Standards of Practice for the Registered Nurse" includes practicing in an environmentally safe and healthy manner and the American Nurses Association (ANA) adheres to the "Precautionary Principle" to guide nursing practice, policy and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the environment and our health are inextricably linked; and
WHEREAS, human and ecological health risks are directly related to the use of coal-fired power plants, mountaintop removal of coal, offshore and onshore oil and natural gas drilling, and hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking;" and

WHEREAS, nurses are well positioned to help educate other health professionals, the general public, and policy makers about the relationship of human health to critical energy issues that will require our thoughtful focus in the very near future; and

WHEREAS, nurses can help to encourage policies that promote and incentivize the healthiest options for long-term energy sources, energy conservation and sustainability; and
WHEREAS, the ecological impacts of coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use are contributing to contamination of drinking water for humans and farm animals, air pollution, reduction of water volume in local streams, increased noise levels, drilling accidents, and vehicular accidents; and
WHEREAS, adequate health monitoring, reporting mechanisms and regulations have been insufficient to ensure the health and public safety of individuals and communities where coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use is taking place;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support education of its members about health issues associated with fossil fuel energy and the benefits of energy conservation and renewable energy sources; and

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support partnerships to address health issues associated with energy use through education and policy/advocacy; and

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support activities that monitor, reduce, and remediate environmental health risks for individuals and communities where coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use are occurring and legislative initiatives that require monitoring, reporting and regulatory reform to protect public health and the environment; and

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support efforts to collaborate with others in calling for a national moratorium on new permits for unconventional oil and natural gas extraction (fracking) throughout the country until human and ecological safety can be ensured; and

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support efforts to collaborate with others on energy policies that incentivize energy conservation and the development and use of safer, healthier alternative and renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar; and

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association encourage nurses to be alert for activities related to natural gas extraction (fracking) that is currently being pursued in North east Iowa (Alamakee County); and

Implementation Steps: Article in Iowa Nurse Reporter, add web links to the INA website on environmental health issues

Cost: \$100

Proposed Priority: Medium

American Nurses Association

2012 House of Delegates

Resolution #3

Workplace Violence

Submitted by Betty Lord-Dinan, RN

WHEREAS, national data depict that health care is disproportionately impacted by non-fatal workplace violence accounting for almost 60% of non-fatal workplace violence across all industry sectors; and

WHEREAS, California, Washington, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have laws requiring comprehensive workplace violence prevention which include data collection, hazard assessment, hazard controls, training, environmental controls, front line employee involvement, post assault support and transparent recordkeeping; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) and its interested affiliates have engaged in the following actions: improved data collection, health care facility prevention programs, increased inspections, enhanced penalty legislation and a national effort to promote legislation mandating workplace violence prevention programs in all health care facilities; and
WHEREAS, research has shown that state laws are effective in increasing the amount of violence prevention programming in health care facilities; and
WHEREAS, federal OSHA Standards such as the Blood borne Pathogen Standard have been effective in increasing prevention programming, training, safety needles, Hepatitis B vaccine acceptance and reporting of needle stick injuries, and effective in reducing sharps injuries. The utilization of this model standard could also successfully decrease the serious occupational risk of workplace violence;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association support ANA efforts to petition the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to promulgate code language requiring health care and social services employers to develop comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs which include: management commitment and employee involvement; risk assessment and surveillance; and hazard controls that include environmental, architectural and security controls, training and education, post assault programs and recordkeeping.

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Nurses Association will support educational opportunities for Iowa nurses on work place safety/violence and support nurses in the hospital and health care facilities to pursue education in the areas of OSHA standards and other programs that address workplace safety/violence.

Implementation Steps: Article in the Iowa Nurse Reporter

Cost: \$ 100

Proposed Priority: Medium

2013 INA Resolution #4

Youth Mental Health Issues in Schools and Communities

**Submitted By: Darcy Koehn, MSN, ARNP and
Sharon Guthrie, PhD, ARNP, CPNP, NCSN**

WHEREAS; Youth mental health is critical to optimal academic success and life satisfaction.

WHEREAS; Mental health is determined by the inter-relationship of genetic, physical, environmental, social and psychological factors and is an integral part of every youth's healthy development.

WHEREAS; The 1999 Surgeon General's Report revealed that the prevalence of mental health needs for youth in high school is about one in five youth have a diagnosable mental health condition. Approximately 14.5% of youth had a parent who talked with health care provider or school professional about their youth's emotional or behavioral difficulties in the last 12 months.

WHEREAS; The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, a highly respected survey of high school students, indicates even higher rates of emotional distress reported by the youth themselves (35.8% of girls and 21.2 % of boys report feeling sad or hopeless in the last month). In addition, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) indicates that during one year 4.1% of youth ages 12-15 have a major depressive episode. These percentages increased to 11.5% of 16-17 year olds and greater than 70% of those episodes are severe or very severe. The National Co-morbidity Survey of Adults found that 75% of all mental health disorders over a lifetime have onset before age 25 and 50% of disorders have onset by age 15.

WHEREAS; Untreated mental health disorders in youth lead to increased rates of academic difficulties, juvenile incarcerations, school dropout, and substance abuse.

WHEREAS; School nurses play a vital role in supporting early assessment, planning, intervention and follow-up of youth in need of mental health services. There is a clear need to prevent mental health problems early in life and to identify and treat those that do occur as early as possible.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association encourages education regarding youth mental health issues to the broader community and support for the County Board of Supervisors who will be responsible for developing and funding mental health service in their communities,

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association supports evidence based mental health screening for Iowa's youth,

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association supports the provision of professionals in school settings with additional education regarding mental health concerns,

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association supports the evaluation of the inclusion of school health in the electronic health record, to have interoperable electronic health record, health home model of care, and care coordination efforts include school nurses,

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association supports the original laws passed in 2007 (SF277) for a minimum of one school nurse for every 750 students,

RESOLVED; Iowa Nurses Association supports the exploration of alternative methods to fund school nurses and opportunities of mental health services using telehealth.

Implementation Steps:

1. Prepare article for Iowa Nurse Reporter regarding youth mental health concerns.
2. Encourage all nurses to be a part of local community conversations regarding youth mental health concerns.
3. Provide information for representatives to state efforts related to electronic health records, health home model of care, and care coordination programs.

Cost: \$100

Proposed Priority: High