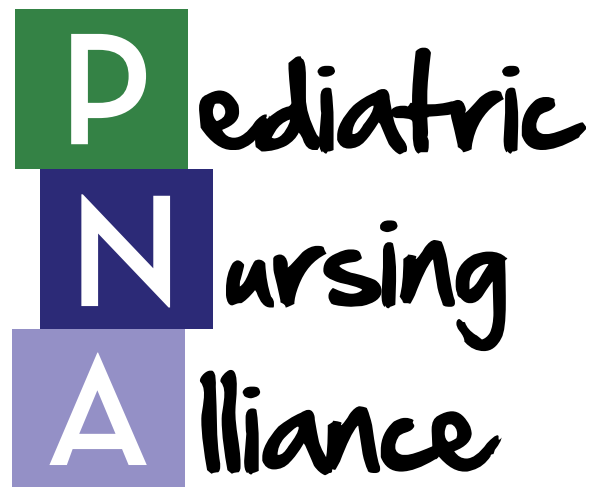


A WHITE PAPER OF THE



***SECURING THE FUTURE OF
CHILDREN'S HEALTH***

**REPORT OF THE
PEDIATRIC NURSING
INVITATIONAL FORUM**

**Hosted by the
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board**



**NOVEMBER 11-12, 2009
RESTON, VA**

The Pediatric Nursing Alliance is now the Institute of Pediatric Nursing (IPN).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Securing the future of children's health and thereby creating conditions for healthy communities is challenged by socioeconomic, disease and disparity issues. The estimated 74 million children in the United States represent one quarter of the nation's population. Yet, health care services, health insurance and wellness elude them.

Today, 18% of children are uninsured (1). Eight in ten of the uninsured (children and adults combined) are in working families with approximately two-thirds of the uninsured are poor or near poor (1). Children in poor families are five times as likely to be in fair or poor health (5%) as children in families that are not poor (1%) (2). Approximately 30% are afflicted with health issues ranging from asthma to depression to special care needs. Injury, birth defects, homicide and cancer threaten children's lives as the predominant causes of death (3, 4, 5, 6).

Coupled with these health issues and risk factors is the changing landscape of health care reform and policy in the nation. Forces of social change, policy action, technology and economics are creating unprecedented impact on all aspects of health care. Securing children's health will be addressed in response to this change.

Pediatric nurses are the defining element of any health care environment serving children. This specialty is pivotal to securing positive health outcomes for children and their families. As expert knowledgeable providers, pediatric nurses lead and contribute daily through their intellectual prowess and competency skill sets to securing children's health, one child and family at a time. As the largest corps of pediatric health care providers, pediatric nurses serve not only as caregivers but as change agents as well. They are at the front line of care and work tirelessly to improve children's health, systems and communities. However, challenges such as workforce shortages, resource maldistribution and increased complexity of systems and care required compromise their ability to maximally contribute and influence the future of children's health.

This landscape of children's health and pediatric nursing was the catalyst for a historic summit of seventeen organizations with vested interest in child health and pediatric nursing. Not in the history of the specialty has such a landmark event occurred. The collaboration and consensus

reached during this summit heralds the beginning of a sea change in securing child health through collaboration and pediatric nursing contributions.

Concept, Purpose, Desired Outcomes

The **Pediatric Nursing Invitational Forum** was initiated by the **Pediatric Nursing Certification Board** to bring together experts and thought leaders in pediatric nursing to examine the specialty and its role in shaping a healthy future for children, their families and the nation. These diverse stakeholders in pediatrics with education, practice, administration, policy, credentialing and research backgrounds, knowledge and expertise came together to find common purpose for maximizing the contributions of the pediatric nursing specialty to the future of children's health. Over the course of 1.5 days, more than 30 individuals from seventeen organizations brought their best thinking to bear on issue identification and strategic solutions.

The purpose of the Forum was to:

Strengthen and secure the well being and welfare of children and their families through the contributions of pediatric nursing.

The desired outcome of the Forum included:

- Identification and agreement on the most urgent issues before children's health and pediatric nursing
- Consensus on a collaborative platform to address the issues
- Formulation of a plan to realize the preferred future of children's health and the pediatric nursing specialty

Context and Process

The future can be predicted and planned for with a certain degree of accuracy when approached with strategic intentionality. When considered from a preferred point of view, or what is desirable, experts are able to develop outcomes oriented approaches which build on the ability to continuously adapt.

Employing a strategic learning approach, the Forum experts focused their deliberations and decisions on learning (what is the environment in which success is needed?), focusing (what are the priorities that must be done exceedingly well?), aligning (what will success look like and what must happen?), and executing (how will the strategies be implemented?). This approach was coupled with a pre-Forum survey, small and large group discussion and the nominal group process.

Beliefs and Visions

Consensus among the experts was reached on several key beliefs that influence the vision of pediatric nursing's contribution to securing children's health. These beliefs include:

- All children require a healthy, safe environment to prosper.
- All children require access to culturally appropriate health care services.
- Pediatric nurses are uniquely qualified to provide holistic, integrated, cost effective care to children and their families.
- Pediatric nurses are the provider of choice for the child population.

As agreed to by the Forum experts, the **vision** for the preferred future of children's health is:

Culturally sensitive family centered care provided within communities, with emphasis on health promotion, disease and injury prevention, wellness and healthy development delivered by expert practitioners who are knowledgeable, competent and skilled in the care of children and their families.

Priority Action Areas and Success Measures

Guided by this vision and their individual and collective knowledge, the experts identified and agreed upon five priority areas and success measures for immediate action. These areas are:

- **Access**
 1. Position qualified pediatric nurses at logical points of access to care, beginning with school nursing.
 2. Ensure health language in the "No Child Left Behind" legislation.
 3. Ensure education and funding of pediatric nurses at points of care access.

4. Increase visibility of pediatric nursing in lay publications.
- **Advocacy**
 1. Include child health antecedents and consequences in national and federally funded projects.
 2. Assure that a pediatric nurse expert is available wherever children are cared for.
 3. Create a network of pediatric nurses to serve and support parents as advocates, offering both science and advocacy resources.
 - **Care coordination**
 1. Achieve consensus on the definition of health care home and care coordination in pediatric nursing, creating a unified voice for the care of children.
 - **Education**
 1. Develop national consensus based pediatric nursing core competencies for all undergraduate nursing programs.
 2. Include infant and pediatric content and practice application in appropriate APRN program coursework.
 3. Ensure competency use in national standards and guidelines for curriculum development, resulting in identifiable and sustained pediatric nursing content in undergraduate and graduate programs.
 - **Quality, safe, evidence based care**
 1. Increase the size and expertise of the pediatric nursing workforce in all practice settings that care for children and adolescents across the continuum of health and illness.
 2. Develop resources to assure evidence based care of children and adolescents in all settings.
 3. Support a national interdisciplinary forum for pediatric patient safety.

Strategies for achieving each success measure were developed for each of these priority areas, the result being a consensus plan for securing the future of children's health.

Recommended Next Steps

Through group discussion and consensus, Forum participants agreed to recommend the following next steps:

- 1) Development of a Pediatric Nursing Invitational Forum Report and White Paper for publication in professional journals, newsletters and websites.
- 2) Securing organizational support for continued collaboration and endorsement and dissemination of the report.
- 3) The development of a Leadership Advisory Team (LAT) composed of representation from hospitals, education, research, community (including primary care and schools), sub-specialties and credentialing to lead the future work.
- 4) Charge the Advisory Team to:
 1. create a strategy for widespread dissemination of the Forum's work.
 2. review, synthesize and prioritize the action plan.
 3. establish organizational entity and secure funding/sponsorship for plan implementation.
 4. identify other stakeholders to engage.
 5. develop evaluation measures for uptake of the plan.
- 5) Reconvene a Pediatric Nursing Forum on an annual basis.
- 6) Continuation and population of a website, www.pedsalliance.org.
- 7) Acceptance of the staff support from the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board.

Commitment to the new Pediatric Nursing Alliance

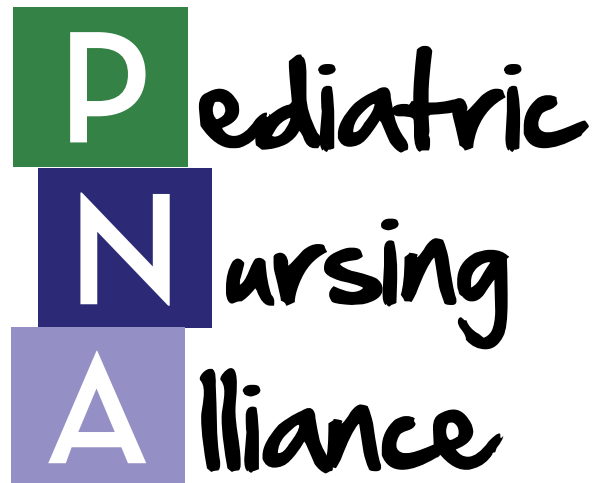
In the months following the Forum, the Leadership Advisory Team has formalized the establishment of the new **Pediatric Nursing Alliance (PNA)**.

The Vision of the Pediatric Nursing Alliance is to:

Maximize pediatric nursing contributions to child and youth health through unified leadership, knowledge and expertise, influencing nursing education; health care access; child and youth advocacy; care coordination; and safe, high quality, evidence based care.

The Mission of the PNA will focus the work towards the *creation of a healthy future for our nation through a unified network of pediatric nursing professionals working through education, research and practice to secure child and youth well-being.*

The expert participants expressed their commitment to continue participation in implementing the next steps and for activating the priority action plan. They committed to continuing to come together to support the endeavor for the future of children's health.



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