Report of the
American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)
to the 2014 ANA Membership Assembly

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The American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) is your resource for psychiatric mental health nursing. A professional organization with more than 9,000 members, we are committed to the practice of psychiatric mental health nursing, health and wellness promotion through identification of mental health issues, prevention of mental health problems and the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disorders. To facilitate professional advancement, APNA provides quality psychiatric-mental health nursing continuing education, a wealth of resources for established, emerging, and prospective PMH nurses, and a community of dynamic collaboration. APNA champions psychiatric-mental health nursing and advocates for mental health care through the development of positions on key issues, the widespread dissemination of current knowledge and developments in PMH nursing, and through collaboration with consumer groups to promote evidence based advances in recovery-focused assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and evaluation of persons with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Annual Review:

• In October 2013 at the APNA 27th Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX, APNA announced our new Premier Organizational Affiliate status with ANA and agreement to offer an ANA eMembership as a part of membership in APNA. Members are excited about the additional resources (journals, newsletters, newspapers) and members-only discounts on ANA events and educational opportunities, as well as continued collaboration with ANA and access to advocacy efforts.

• The SAMHSA-funded APNA Recovery to Practice (RTP) Program Acute Care Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses: Preparing for Recovery Oriented Practice has continued to make excellent progress in the dissemination of the curriculum developed throughout the past four years. The RTP program facilitator training was piloted to 89 attendees at the APNA 27th Annual Conference on October 9, 2013 in San Antonio, TX. Since December 2013, APNA staff members have continued to meet with RTP facilitators on a monthly basis to provide educational updates and support for facilitators who deliver local RTP programs. In addition, APNA is offering the RTP program for free to chapters through August 2014, including the cost of contact hours for all attendees.

• In order to highlight current policy issues important to nursing and the delivery of mental health care, APNA launched the new Institute for Mental Health Advocacy Policy Forum on Integrated Physical and Mental Health Care in March 2014. The first in a series of video presentations which aim to enhance members’ awareness and empower them...
to advocate for PMH nursing, “Policy Implications of Integrated Care” features a conversation with Institute Chair Peg Halter and APNA expert Sharon Katz, FPMH-APRN, CRNP.

Plans for the Future:

- The APNA Transitions in Practice (ATP) certificate program has been developed and will be piloted as a one-day, two-track conference preceding the APNA Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute in June 2014. The program will emphasize the foundational psychiatric mental health (PMH) knowledge that RNs need as they transition into mental health practice settings as new graduates, nurses returning to practice, or nurses changing clinical practice areas. Topics include:
  - Mental Health Illness across the Lifespan: PMH Disorders, PTSD, Chemical Addictions, Co-morbid Illness, and Risk Assessment
  - Building an Environment for Therapeutic Engagement: Recovery, Trauma Informed Care, Safety, and Psychopharmacology
- The American Psychiatric Nurses Association will continue to work with key stakeholders such as the Office of National Drug Control Policy with regards to substance use, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Office of the Vice President in addressing the nursing faculty shortage, the Veterans Administration and Joining Forces to ensure that our service members and veterans receive the best care possible, and the American Nurses Association to continue to advocate for all nurses.

Concluding Comments:

- The American Psychiatric Nurses Association is grateful to the American Nurses Association for this opportunity to share key information about our association and for their continued collaboration and partnership.

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