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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**NELSON NAMED CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER FOR AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** –The American Nurses Association is pleased to announce Dr. Elizabeth “Betty” Nelson, PhD, RN has been named Chief Programs Officer (CPO). As CPO, Dr. Nelson is responsible for ANA's programmatic and content areas including ethics and human rights, nursing practice and policy, government relations, occupational and environmental health and continuing education programs. Additionally, she will play a key role on the executive leadership team where priorities include advocating for safe, quality health care for the public through support for the nursing profession, and advancement of the registered nurse as a key provider in the nation’s health care delivery system.

"Betty Nelson comes to ANA with an impressive background in all aspects of the nursing profession; clinical practice, administration, education, research and policy," said ANA Chief Executive Officer Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAA,BC. "Her professional dedication and proven leadership will be invaluable assets in her role as Chief Programs Officer."

Dr. Nelson most recently served as the Chief Nurse/Director of Patient Care Services at the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Philadelphia. During her tenure, she was responsible for assuring high quality patient care and programming for the facility and was instrumental in planning and monitoring budgets totaling \$17.5 million. Dr. Nelson led a multidisciplinary team

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to redesign the patient admission process and instituted an inpatient care management program that resulted in a 15 percent increase in inpatient admissions and reduced the average length of stay.

Previously, Dr. Nelson was responsible for founding the Office of Clinical Affairs at Yale University's School of Nursing. Additionally, Dr. Nelson was the founding director of the Research Center of the American College of Physicians where she was designed and facilitated the Center's research initiatives and strategic planning process.

Dr. Nelson earned a PhD in Nursing-Health Services Research from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSN in Child Health from the University of Florida College of Nursing. She was an Executive Nurse Fellow with Robert Wood Johnson, and was elected to membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Theta Tau International.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*