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Missouri Named Future of Nursing Action Coalition to Help Ensure High-Quality, Patient-Centered Health Care

Announcement Coincides with First Year since IOM Report Release

WASHINGTON (September 26, 2011) – Missouri Action Coalition has been selected as an Action Coalition by the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action, coordinated through the Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA), an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), to ensure all Americans have access to high-quality care, with nurses contributing to the full extent of their capabilities.

Missouri Action Coalition will work with the campaign to implement the recommendations of the 2010 landmark Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Missouri Action Coalition application was initiated by the Missouri Nurses Association, Missouri League for Nursing, and Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance.

Since its release one year ago, the landmark report has made a considerable impact on the way stakeholders are viewing the nursing workforce:
- As of June 2011, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health became the most viewed online report in the IOM’s history. And it has sparked widespread activity to address the recommendations.
- CCNA has convened stakeholders through its Champion Nursing Coalition of 48 national health care, consumer, business and other organizations and Champion Nursing Council of 27 national nursing organizations to develop strategies to implement the IOM recommendations.
- In less than a year, groups have coalesced in nearly every state to respond to the IOM recommendations. Thirty-six states have campaign-designated Action Coalitions comprised of nursing, other health care, business and other leaders banded together to implement the IOM report recommendations.

“We are thrilled to add the Missouri Action Coalition to the Action Coalition network,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior adviser for nursing at RWJF and director of Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. “The Campaign for Action must work at every level to build and sustain the changes necessary to improve health care for all Americans, and we know the contributions of the Missouri Action Coalition will be invaluable as we move forward.”

Action Coalitions also were announced today in 20 other states across the country:

Arkansas
Delaware
Georgia
Hawaii
Kansas
Kentucky
Maryland
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Texas
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

“The expertise of our coalition members and our proven capacity were key factors in being selected,” said Jill Kliethermes, Chief Executive Office, Missouri Nurses Association. “As a participant in the movement to maximize the contributions of the nurses who deliver health care in our state and nation, Missouri Action Coalition is excited to bring its energy and ideas to the groundbreaking effort.”

Jill Kliethermes noted that Missouri Action Coalition plans to focus on the areas of education, practice, leadership and workplace/workforce to implement key recommendations of the IOM report.

Action Coalitions are the driving force of the campaign at the local and state levels. Comprised of diverse groups of stakeholders, these coalitions capture best practices, determine research needs, track lessons learned and identify replicable models. Examples of accomplishments to date:
- Connecticut has secured funding for simulation labs and is developing common curriculum and articulation agreements.
- Florida is promoting educational transition partnerships.
- Indiana has included interprofessional education into the newly designed curriculum of its schools of medicine and nursing.

"Adding this new wave of Action Coalitions represents a major step forward in the campaign's evolution," said Susan Reinhard, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior vice president of the AARP Public Policy Institute and CCNA chief strategist. "Missouri Action Coalition has already made great strides in Missouri, and their application reflected capable leadership, clear goals and strong action plans."

The campaign seeks active participation from states, national organizations and individuals from health care, business, education, government and philanthropic sectors to ensure that the recommendations are translated into actions that result in improved patient-centered care. Specifically, the Campaign for Action is working to implement the recommendations of the IOM report with an emphasis on:
- Strengthening nurse education and training;
- Enabling nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
- Advancing interprofessional collaboration among health care professionals to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
- Expanding leadership ranks to ensure nurses have a voice on management teams, in boardrooms and during policy debates; and
- Improving health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

For more information about the Campaign for Action go to www.thefutureofnursing.org.

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The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action envisions a health care system where all Americans have access to high-quality care, with nurses contributing to the full extent of their capabilities. The campaign is coordinated through the Center to Champion Nursing in America, an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and includes 36 state Action Coalitions and a wide range of health care providers, consumer advocates, policy-makers and the business, academic and philanthropic communities.