Political Competence & Advocacy

Sarah Wickenhagen, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Conflict of Interest

• I have no relevant relationships with any commercial interests related to this presentation.

Objectives

• Describe political competence and identify its 3 phases as described by Bachrach
It’s the ability to understand what you can and cannot control, when to take action, who is going to resist your agenda, and whom you need on your side. It’s about knowing how to map the political terrain and get others on your side, as well as lead coalitions.

What is Political Competence?
Bachrach, 2005

"...in the pursuit of political competence and efficacy, the closer the profession comes to realizing nursing's historical mandate and meeting contemporary needs through activism and political involvement."
Rains & Barton-Kriese, 2001

The Politics of Nursing- Past & Present
Political Competence 3 Phases

Bachrach, 2005

Map your political terrain

Anticipate your stakeholders
Expect resistance
What are the goals of the stakeholders?
How do they compare to your goals?
Disagree but still see a potential path forward?

Get others on your side

Build coalitions
- Rational
- Mimicking
- Regulation
- Expectations

Support APICN Full Practice Authority
Exercise your leadership and urge the VA to support the proposed rule
Make things happen

What's in it for me?
Network with other organizations
Active leadership
Communication
Manage conflicts & disagreements

Nursing Advocacy

• Nurses have first-hand knowledge that can lend expertise to discussions that impact such issues as:
  • Quality of care
  • Patient safety
  • Cost containment
  • Chronic disease management
  • Equitable access to care and a sustainable healthcare delivery system.
• Nurses continue to be ranked the highest trusted professionals among the public which make them suitable representatives to advocate for health
ACA- The Flop
29 million without coverage

- Adults Medicaid Eligible: 5.0 million
- Children Medicaid/CHIP Eligible: 3.0 million
- Medicaid Gap: 2.8 million
- Undocumented Immigrants: 4.8 million
- Eligible for Subsidized Exchange policies: 6.5 million
- Ineligible for Subsidized Exchange policies: 7.0 million

ACA- The Success

- More than 25 million obtained insurance
- Care delivery and payment models transforming
  - Accountable Care Organizations
  - Medical Homes
- Lower rates of Hospital Acquired Infections

Evaluation ACA

Mapping Terrain  Build Coalitions  Make Things Happen
Despite a long history of activism, most nurses today do not feel compelled or skilled to act politically.

Magnussen, Itano & McGuckin, 2005

Barriers to Advocacy

- Lack of understanding of the political process
  - Nurse Regulation
  - Statutory
  - Health System
- Frustration with the legislative process that is both slow and tedious
- Work life balance
- Gender issues
- Fear of public speaking
- Apathy
- Fear of retaliation
- Lack of support from peers and administration

Facilitators of Advocacy

- Preparation to gain confidence and knowledge on behalf of their communities
- Belief that the action would have an impact or make a difference
- Experience with political activism
- Mentoring from a positive political role model
- Seeing a wrong that you want to make right
- Participation in professional organizations
  - Choose a seat name to vote
  - Meet their policy makers
  - Join communication study
- Write letters to policy makers or the media
- Campaign for candidates
The Power of One Voice

"Individually we make a difference, collectively we make a bigger difference"
Rains- Warner, 2003

• # of Nurses in NPO
• # of Nurses in ONA
• # of Nurses in Oregon
• # of Nurses in ANA

Hot Topics Nationally

• Full Practice in the VA System
• The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA)
• Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015 would allow NPs to certify their patients' eligibility for home health care services
• Prevention Access to Diabetic Shoes Act (H.R. 4354), which would authorize NPs to certify their patient's need for therapeutic shoes.
• The Rural ACO Improvement Act of 2015 (S. 2259) would allow the assignment of NPs' patients to Medicare Shared Savings ACOs.
• The CARA (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act) bill expands buprenorphine prescribing to PAs and NPs.

Hot Topics Oregon

• Division 50-NP
  • Under revision
• Division 56- Prescriptive Authority
  • Introducing updates that include buprenorphine prescribing
Learning from Political Leaders

In conclusion.....

• Nurses must “advocate, educate and set an example for the public”, not simply care for them.
  Des Jardin, 2001
• “Political action is an expression of caring”.
  Falk-Rafael, 2005

Questions?
References