OREGON NURSES ASSOCIATION
ACTION REPORT

In Support of Implementing Mandatory Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training for K-12 Teachers to Treat Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in School Settings

Submitted by: Oregon Student Nurses Association

ONA Action: The Oregon Nurses Association supports improving the ratio of school employees to students who have completed first aid, CPR, and AED training.

Background:

The death of a young student from sudden cardiac arrest stirs deep emotions within the family and the community and raises concerns about the vulnerability of other school-age children (Lotfi, et al, 2007); and on average, school-aged children spend 28% of the day in school (AAP, 2008); school-based cardiac arrests account for 13.1% of public location cardiac arrests; 4.4% of all cardiac arrest among children 3 to 18 years of age (Lotfi, et al, 2007); and every year, one in every 73 high schools will experience a cardiac arrest event among either staff or students (Drezner, Toresdahl, Rao, Huszti, & Harmon, 2013). “Many schools lack a licensed health care professional on site to respond to individual student medical emergencies” (AAP, 2008); only 30% of children experiencing a cardiac event actually receive bystander CPR (AAP, 2012); survival from SCA decreases by 7-10% with each minute of delay in defibrillation when no CPR is provided (Link et al., 2010); and bystander CPR more than doubles the survival rate of a cardiac event (AAP, 2012).

The Oregon Student Nurses Association encourages its constituents to collaborate with other professional organizations to further promote CPR and AED certification as a requirement for K-12 teachers who currently hold a license, are renewing their license, or are obtaining a new license.

Rationale:

4.4% of all cardiac events among children occur at school. However, only 30% of those experiencing a cardiac event receive bystander CPR. Since teachers are responsible for the well-being of their students during the school day, providing training to and requiring certification for teachers is a public health intervention. Nurses have a duty to educate the public to improve the health of all and that arming teachers with the knowledge of proper CPR/AED training can make the difference between life and death for childhood cardiac events. A similar bill was introduced to the Oregon House in 2013 but was not successful. The Oregon Student Nurses Association believes that with support from the Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon legislators may be more willing to consider this.

Implementation:

1. We propose that, if approved, ONA contact Oregon legislators to inform them of this position. Additionally, ONA should work with the American Federation of Teachers and the Oregon Education Association to address implementation

2. The Oregon Nurses Association will send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Medical Association, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the Emergency
Medical Services for Children National Resource Center, the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Education, the Association of American Educators, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the Academic Pediatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, the American Medical Students’ Association, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association-Public Health Nursing Section, the National Association of School Nurses, the National Association of Rural Health Clinics, and others deemed appropriate by the ONA Board of Directors.

Financial Impact:

The costs include the cost of printing and mailing legislators. With 90 total members, we estimate cost of printing, envelopes, and postage to be $89.10. Additionally, contacting and working with AFT and OEA will require the time of ONA staff and members.

References:


