Resolution #

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PEDIATRIC CARE COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

**SUBMITTED BY: Mount Mercy University Association of Nursing Students (MMUANS), Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids, IA**

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WHEREAS, “Primary health care, specialty health care, educational services, community services, and family services are often scattered and uncoordinated” (Nolan, Orlando, & Liptak, 2007, p. 294); and

WHEREAS, per parent report “…50 percent said that health care personnel never or rarely communicate with schools.” (Nolan, et al., 2007, p. 299) and “Care coordination systems that address issues of communication and information can increase access to services that will optimize health and can maximize satisfaction with care.” (Nolan et al., 2007, p. 293); and

WHEREAS, Coordinated compassionate care should address a holistic view of children to help families make educated decisions about their children as demonstrated in pediatric palliative care and assist families in communicating with health care teams as well as each other in making health decisions (Sheetz and Stontag Bowman, 2013); and

WHEREAS, Most students receiving regular health services from schools have chronic illnesses that require ongoing management, while other students (often referred to as healthy) need access to health services and health education to stay healthy (Farrior, Engelke, Collins, & Cox, 2000); and

WHEREAS, Differences in the healthcare and education systems are a barrier to exchanging essential information between hospitals, private providers, and school personnel (Farrior, et al., 2000); and

WHEREAS, School nurse interventions are often not documented in a manner that is shared with other health care providers adding to the lack of care coordination and school systems lack many resources necessary to provide important data to healthcare providers that can help develop more cost-effective treatment plans and be more patient centered. Interventions by the school nurse should complement rather than compete with other health personnel so the family will not feel overburdened (Farrior, et al., 2000); and

WHEREAS, School nurses lack standard protocols to handle problems for the chronically ill children leading to the inappropriate use of the hospital, especially the emergency room (Farrior, et al., 2000); and

WHEREAS, School nurse to student ratios vary and have been reported as one school nurse to 1,500 students. This is a limitation on being able to provide effective care coordination (Barrett, 2000); and

WHEREAS, School nurses provide preventative health services. “Primary prevention services included facilitating administration of immunizations and health teaching through group sessions and health/safety fairs. Secondary prevention services included vision and scoliosis screening as well as staff consultations and development and implementation of a manual for medication administration. Tertiary preventive services were provided to children with chronic illnesses and special needs.” (Farrior, et al., 2000, p. 88); and

WHEREAS, School nurses receive referrals for case management services from school personnel, parents, or physicians, therefore “School nurses became involved in developing and implementing Individual Education Plans (IEP), Individual Health Plans (IHP), and Emergency Action Plans (EAP).” (Farrior, et al., 2000, p. 88); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Association of Nursing Students (IANS) support and promote the collaboration between interdisciplinary healthcare teams and education systems to nursing students through the IANS website if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS encourages nursing students to be proactive and advocate for improved pediatric care coordination between healthcare and education systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS encourages all nursing programs in Iowa to support, promote and provide opportunities for nursing students to observe and evaluate pediatric care coordination between healthcare and education systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that IANS sends a copy of this resolution to the Iowa Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League of Nursing, the National Organization of Associate Degree Nursing, the Iowa Board of Nursing, Iowa School Nurse Organization, National Association of School Nurses, Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Iowa Department of Education, and all other deemed appropriate by the IANS Board of Directors.