

Task Group: Funding for Nursing Education Research Final Report: September, 2007

Background: NLN Organization Restructure (1999) Goals and Outcomes

- In 1999, The National League for Nursing embarked on a journey to restructure the organization. A major goal of the organization was to obtain greater member participation through appointment to a task group.

Another goal was to shape the future of nurse educators and nurse education. Thus, a blue ribbon panel was appointed to establish priorities for research in nursing education. At that time the NLN also established a unique grants program for research in nursing education. The original set of priorities was revised and approved by the Board of Governors in 2003. They include topics under three broad areas: 1) innovations in nursing education by creating reform; 2) evaluation research in nursing education by evaluating reform and 3) development of the science of nursing education by evidence-based reform.

The first Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research was appointed in 2003, and its members each served two-year terms. The group was reappointed in 2005 for one additional year.

- The group was chaired by Kay Hodson-Carlton, EdD, RN, FAAN, its members were: Mary Anderson, MSN, RN; Sylvia Brown, EdD, RN; and Sharon Cannon, EdD, RN. Kathleen F. O'Connor, RN, PhD, CNE, NERAC's Liaison to the Funding Group was appointed in March, 2006 to the Task Group. The group was staffed by Linbania (Lin) Jacobson, EdD, RN, NLN Director of Research.

Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research: Purpose

- Develop strategies to promote the availability and use of funds to support nursing education research and the development of the science of nursing education

Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research: Directives/Assignments

- Analysis of public and private funds to support educational research
- Survey nurse education researchers for sources of funds
- Prepare compendium of information about public and private funds
- Develop mechanisms to update and regularly obtain and disseminate funding information
- Collaborate with NLN leaders to develop strategies to increase funding

- Reaffirm/revise the NLN's Position Statement on Funding for Nursing Education Research
- Guidelines for Getting Started

Task Group Discoveries through Research and Work Sessions

- Gaps in knowledge regarding location of funds for nursing education research
- Lack of historical information regarding the location of funds for nursing education research
- No one place for information to be gleaned from funding sources

Accomplishments of Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research

- Toolkit to Seek Funding for Research in Nursing Education (See Attachment)
- Analysis of Private, Public, and Non-Traditional Funding Sources
- Database development including the following fields of information: Funding Agency/Foundation, Mission Statement, Current Funding Interest, Contact Information
- Analysis of NLN Small Grants: 2000-2005 with fields of information: proposal title, year, funding amount, priorities addressed, design, sample size, methodology, and outcomes
- Developed, administered, and analyzed 2006 NLN supported national survey on traditional and non-traditional sources of public and private funding (N=1611)
- Dissemination of Task Group Work at following professional presentation venues:

- National League for Nursing Summit Presentation: Finding the Oasis in the Desert (September 29, 2007).

Abstract:

The NLN's position statement, *Funding for Nursing Education Research*, identified an urgent need to provide significant funds to support research that will build the science of nursing education (<http://www.nln.org/aboutnln/PositionStatements/fundformursed02.htm>). In order to achieve this goal, scholars must have substantial funding from federal, state, regional, local, institutional, and organizational programs to support their lines of investigation. Findings by the NLN Task Group on Funding for Research in Nursing Education revealed: gaps in knowledge regarding location of funds for nursing education research, the lack of historical information regarding the location of funds for nursing education research, and no one place for information to be gleaned from funding sources. The purpose of this descriptive survey was to obtain feedback from the NLN membership on traditional and non-traditional sources of public and private funding. The following questions were addressed: (a) Have you ever submitted a proposal

to any funding source –as a principal investigate (PI), co-PI, or co-investigator – to conduct a study on nursing education research? (b) Have you ever participated in a study funded by a nursing education research grant? (c) As a PI, co-PI, or investigator, what are your three most significant grants by the amount awarded and the funding source? and (d) What is your level of agreement with the development and use of an electronic database and the development and use of a “How to Guide for Beginning Researchers in Nursing Education”. Data were collected by online survey from 1611 respondents. Findings revealed that less than 20% of respondents to the survey (n=320) have ever submitted a funding proposal. However, there was an identified need in locating funding sources for nursing education research and understanding the process of searching for and acquiring funds for nursing education research: 95.7% of the respondents (n=1530) strongly agree or agree that “The development of an electronic database to locate funding sources of nursing education research is a tool necessary to support the advancement of the science of nursing education research,” 87.5% of the respondents (n=1397) strongly agreed or agreed that “I would use the electronic database to locate funding sources for nursing education research,” 95.2% of the respondents (n=1518) strongly agreed or agreed that “The development of a “How to Guide for beginning Research in Nursing Education” will advance the science of nursing education research,” and 89.4% of the respondents (n=1426) strongly agreed or agreed that “I would use the “How to Guide for beginning Research in Nursing Education.” Implications for funding in nursing education research based on the findings from this study will be shared.

- Midwest Nursing Research Society: Education Research Funding Panel Presentation of Task Group Research Study Outcomes (March 26, 2007).

- National League for Nursing Summit Presentation: Bridging the Gap between the Sea of Need and the Bucket of Gold (September 30, 2006).

Abstract:

This presentation will help bridge the gap between the need of funds for nursing education research and locating the right funding source. There will be a review of the How to Guide for Acquiring Nursing Education Research Funding Document developed by the Task Group of Funding for Nursing Education Research. Learn strategies for your first approach to a funding agency. There will also be information on how to access and use the database for public and private funds to support educational research. Preliminary findings from the 2006 NLN supported national

survey on traditional and non-traditional sources of public and private funding will be shared.

- National League for Nursing Summit Presentation: Finding the Needle in the Funding Haystack (October 1, 2005).

Abstract:

During Summit 2005, the NLN Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research will present the development of strategies to promote the availability and location of funds to support nursing education research. This work will facilitate the development of the science of nursing education.

Accomplishments of the group include of the initiation of a database for locating traditional and nontraditional funding sources. An open dialogue will be conducted to identify future directions and sources of funding.

Task Group: Funding for Nursing Education Research Recommendations

- Findings from the 2006 NLN supported national survey on traditional and non-traditional sources of public and private funding attest to the need for continued work related to Funding for Nursing Education Research.
- National survey findings from the 2006 NLN supported national survey on traditional and non-traditional sources of public and private funding (N=1611) revealed that less than 20% of respondents to the survey (n=320) have ever submitted a funding proposal. However, there is an overwhelming call for help in not only locating funding sources for nursing education research but understanding the process of searching for and acquiring funds for nursing education research.
- The first Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research has begun the work on creating solutions for this need and the national survey confirms this initial work:
 - 95.7% of the respondents (n=1530) strongly agree or agree that “The development of an electronic database to locate funding sources of nursing education research is a tool necessary to support the advancement of the science of nursing education research.”
 - 87.5% of the respondents (n=1397) strongly agree or agree that “I would use the electronic database to locate funding sources for nursing education research.”
 - 95.2% of the respondents (n=1518) strongly agree or agree that “The development of a “How to Guide for beginning Research in Nursing Education” will advance the science of nursing education research.”
 - 89.4% of the respondents (n=1426) strongly agree or agree that “I would use the “How to Guide for beginning Research in Nursing Education”
- These initial resources need updates at a minimum of every two years.
- There is a need for the development of a position paper with the development of guidelines for continued work in this area. The position/concept paper will need to be reviewed/updated every 2-3 years.
- Data from the national survey also indicates the need for workshop on proposal writing and grant application.

- Continued exploration of mechanisms to update and regularly obtain and disseminate funding information.

Task Group on Funding for Nursing Education Research: 2003-2006 Membership

- Mary Anderson, MSN, RN
- Sylvia Brown, EdD, RN
- Sharon Cannon, EdD, RN
- Kay Hodson Carlton, EdD, RN, FAAN
- Kathleen F. O'Connor, RN, PhD, CNE, NERAC's Liaison to the Funding Group
(March, 2006 appointment to Task Group)

- Linbania (Lin) Jacobson, EdD, RN, NLN Staff: Director of Research