

HRSA Performance Measures Now Available

The proposed draft of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau-level Performance Measures is now available for review on the [NLN web site](#). This document will serve as the basis for discussion at **Health Professions: The Lifeline to America's Health**, an all-bureau grantee meeting planned for June 1-3, 2005 in Washington, DC by the Bureau of Health Professions.

Facts & Figures

- T** Federal investment in nursing education is less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total federal budget.
- T** Title VIII Nurse Workforce Development Programs – currently funded at \$150,674,000 in FY 2004 – are the only direct source of federal funding for nursing education.

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NINR Deputy Director Named

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) has announced the appointment of Mary E. Kerr, PhD, RN, FAAN, as its new deputy director. As the deputy director, Dr. Kerr will partner with NINR director Patricia Grady, PhD, in planning, directing, and managing the programs and resources of the Institute.

Dr. Kerr comes to NINR from the University of Pittsburgh where she has served most recently as UPMC Health System Chair in Nursing Science in the School of Nursing. Her primary appointment is professor in the Department of Acute & Tertiary Care Nursing in the School of Nursing and she has a secondary appointment of professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery in the School of Medicine. Dr. Kerr is also the associate director, Clinical Core, Brain Trauma Research Center at UPMC.

During her career, Dr. Kerr has focused her research on preventing cerebral ischemia and maximizing cerebral perfusion in the critically ill patient with a neurologic condition. She is particularly interested in identifying early biomarkers or parameters that help nurses identify individuals at risk for cerebral ischemic.

A faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh since 1991, Dr. Kerr served as the director in the Center for Nursing Research where she mentored junior investigators, sponsored research activities, and advised, taught, and supervised the research of undergraduate, graduate, master's and doctoral students. In recognition of her teaching skills, she was honored with the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1996. In 2002, Dr. Kerr received the

NINR Deputy Director (cont'd)

Excellence in Nursing, Nightingale Award of Pennsylvania for Nursing Research. She is also a fellow in both the American Academy of Nursing and in the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

Arizona Hospitals Push for Nursing Relief Bill

The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association is requesting \$20 million over five years from the state legislature to help alleviate the nursing shortage in the state. The proposed bill, *Arizona's Partnership for Nursing Education*, would combine with another \$20 million the association is seeking at the federal level for a five-year demonstration program to fund new and existing nursing faculties at the state's universities and community colleges. According to Laurie Lange, vice president of public affairs for the association, Senator Carolyn Allen (R-Scottsdale), chairwoman of the Senate Health Committee, has agreed to sponsor the bill.

Obtaining funding from the state this year will be difficult. Besides a state budget shortfall, the bill will face competing interests, including efforts to bring a medical school to downtown Phoenix. Meanwhile, the nursing shortage in Arizona has reached a tipping point. To serve an exploding population, hospitals are being built or expanded at a record pace without the certainty that there will be enough local nurses to staff them.

According to the Arizona State Board of Nursing, last year 971 qualified applicants for nursing programs at universities and community colleges statewide were denied enrollment in the semester for which they applied. The backup has nursing authorities worried about what health care facilities will do, and what applicants will do as they wait for a place in the classroom.

Nursing school leaders within the state contend that not enough **faculty** or space exist in which to teach nursing students. As a consequence, nursing advocates turned to the legislature for help. In 2002, lawmakers passed SB 1260, which called for the doubling of enrollment capacity in nursing programs by 2007. Leaders in the nursing community were to submit a plan for meeting that goal to the governor, seek financial help from private industry, then return to the legislature for funding.

Since the bill's passage, a task force has submitted its plan to boost nursing program enrollment to Governor Janet Napolitano (D), and the state's universities and community colleges have received millions of dollars from hospitals to add nursing students. Still, the new hospital partnerships with nursing schools will not be enough to double capacity.

Arkansas Issues Report on the Nursing Shortage

The Arkansas Legislative Council reviewed a report on the state's shortage last month. Arkansas, which is short almost 2,000 nurses each year, is graduating only about 800 licensed nurses in its nursing education programs to fill these vacancies. Senator Brenda Gullett (D-Pine Bluff) said that in terms of jobs created and taxable income, the benefits of

creating the needed nurses can help the economy as much as a Toyota parts plant. Senator Gullett has gone on record stating that she is determined to create a Nursing Workforce Center modeled on one in North Carolina, which supports itself through programs and only requires \$500,000 in state funding every two years.