

## NDSNO Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes 7-18-06 in Jamestown

**Participants present:** Kim Senn, Becky Bailey, Linda Wright, Nancy Leith, Phyllis Hanson, Kathy Mack, Deb Watne, Wanda Rose and Jane Prather. Guests: Senator Tom Fischer came for one hour in the middle of the meeting.

**1. Bill draft:** Wanda brought the draft and a few suggestions were made to include monitoring of students for health coverage and to specify in number 20 to deal with issues related to methamphetamine use. Deb had indicated that these were two issues that were requested from Tom Fischer. A lot of discussion took place on the actual ability to start this program up in the fall of 2007 if the approval was not until the spring of 2007. We need to clarify with Senator Fischer if the initial planning and development could begin immediately and the actual funding later, say either January 2008 or Fall of 2008. Kim had submitted an optional budget and letter of justification to the health department. If the bill succeeds a person would need to be hired to oversee the project. Another area that stills needs to be determined is the funding formula. Some thoughts were to use population base, poverty, free and reduced lunch, and ethic information. Becky and Linda will email to their NASN representatives to see if any other states have ideas related to how funding could be done equally. Becky will also send out the previous history of past school legislation for members to review.

**2. Kim Update:** Kim related that a few weeks ago she had the opportunity to be in Denver at a meeting with four local legislators. She did spend some time with them regarding school nursing. She said that her impression was that overall many legislators need to be educated on the value and purpose of a school nurse. They at times felt that the school clerical staff could easily fill the role of the school nurse. In general we need to focus on how society has changed since many of the legislators were in school. Another point is that many of the schools have specialists for speech, learning disabilities, OT etc, so why not for nursing.

**3. Legislative contacts:** We discussed how we need to determine who is on our side. The areas to focus on would be members of the appropriations, and human services. We also need to write up some success stories for the school nurses. Various people suggested to testify include school administration, parents, students; indicating how having a school nurse available benefited them. Another idea to increase overall understanding was to use the local PTA/PTO, school boards, newspapers, etc.

**4. Senator Fischer:** Agreed to bring the bill with some revisions to his group and then finalize the language to be brought as a bill. He also stressed that the persons that testify need to show how this could affect any and every legislator. Whether it is their immediate family, or even their grandchildren. He stated that on two previous legislative activities both Dr. Alana Norberg and Dr. Elizabeth Faust testified and they were easily able to get their message across and end up with a positive outcome. It could also be as simple as showing a return on the investment. Another focus for school nurses could be related to pandemic planning which is something all community agencies are involved with. Another suggestion would be to use a school police officer to testify. A twist to use could be with nursing and law enforcement to equal preventative medicine(activities) He did recommend that the funding have a match of 1 to 1. This match could also include in-kind services. The key partners would be public health, the school districts and the joint powers agreements.

**5. Legislator meetings:** The NDSNO will have an IVN on August 15<sup>th</sup> to go over with the group all of the legislative action to this point. At that time Wanda will give a presentation Available at that time will be the bill, frequently asked questions, how to contact the legislators and who the legislators in your area are. Once the NDSNO members know to contact their legislators we will need them to email back to Becky who they have spoken to so we do not double up on the legislator's time. Wanda will also make a list of the current organizations that have supported school nursing and bring to the meeting in August. After the bill minor revision are done Wanda will send to Deb who in turn will get the Senator Fischer. Senator Fischer will get to Deb a list of particular people to contact.

**7. Next Meeting:** August 15, 2006 IVN  
Submitted per Nancy Leith, RN 7-20-06