

CNLsm Implementation Task Force Report October 2006

The following report provides an update of the activities related to the implementation of the CNLsm initiative since the last report to the AACN Membership March 2006.

I. Education-Practice Partnerships

Currently, 92 schools of nursing and 191 health care institutions are collaborating to implement the CNL curriculum and role in the education and practice setting. This represents 86 separate partnerships. We continue to get inquiries regarding joining the initiative.

Schools or practice settings that are interested in joining the initiative continue to be encouraged to complete the request for proposal which indicates commitment from both education and practice to the initiative.

II. CNL Certification Examination

The development of the CNL Certification Examinationsm, under contract with Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc, Lenexa, Kansas, is moving forward as planned. Dr. Lawrence Fabrey is serving as the lead consultant to AACN. To review the steps that occurred to date: CNL Certification Advisory Committee met electronically and then face-to-face May 1 to develop and approve the test outline. A two-day Item Writer panel was held May 2-3. Two simultaneous Examination Committee meetings were held June 25-27 & August 24-27. The final multiple choice item review was conducted via a teleweb conference October 10. The web-based examination being developed will have two separate components: multiple choice and simulation/case based and will be administered at the individual schools. Work is on target to pilot the examination November/December 2006 and to have the first regular administration of the examination Spring 2007. Currently, eight institutions have indicated they have or will have graduates and will administer the certification exam in November/December.

III. CNL Partners' Learning Network Monthly Teleconferences

To support the development of a CNL Learning Network, the CNL Implementation Task Force has held 8 monthly teleconferences. The teleconferences have highlighted individual partnership initiatives and successes. The June teleconference was presented by the CNL Evaluation Committee and focused on the CNL Evaluation Framework, the CNL Student/Graduate Database, and the pilot study conducted in conjunction with the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. The August teleconference was presented by two faculty and one practice partner from three separate partnerships and focused on the CNL clinical immersion experience. The October teleconference, actually scheduled for November 1, will feature a "Dialogue with the Implementation TF." Participation in the monthly calls has ranged from 52-96 portals with multiple participants at each portal.

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Brief online post-teleconference evaluations sent to all partners have indicated overwhelming support for and interest in the teleconferences and provided numerous suggestions for future topics.

IV. June 2006 Partnership Meetings

Two conferences, open to all individuals participating at any of the CNL partnership sites, were held June 1-2 in Denver, CO and June 15-16 in Cleveland, OH. Attendees included faculty, chief nursing officers, nurse managers, practicing CNLs and students. The conference focus was “Implementing the CNL in Practice.” Sessions included a panel of chief nurse executives, a panel of CNL preceptors, practicing CNLs and newly graduated CNL students. Participant feedback was extremely positive.

V. CNL Toolkit

The CNL Toolkit has been completed and posted online. The web-based toolkit, which will be updated as additional materials become available, provides multiple resources for each stage of the change process. New materials include:

- Required clinical experiences for each of the 11 end-of-program competencies
- Description of Cross-Cutting Expectation for the CNL Graduate
- Practice Model Template (steps to transformation) for practice partners similar to curriculum model for education partners
- Practice performance expectations for the graduate CNL
- Series of JONA articles on the CNL
- All materials and presentations from the June Partnership Conferences

VII. Evaluation of the CNL Initiative

The Evaluation Committee met via conference call May 11, 2006 and September 11, 2006. Discussion focused on:

- Evaluation Framework for capturing practice outcomes,
- Outcomes of the pilot conducted in conjunction with the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System,
- Replicating the VA Pilot evaluation at other non-VA sites
- Creation of a unique identifier to track CNL students and graduates,
- Creation of the CNL student-graduate database, and
- Recommendations for future evaluation of the CNL initiative.

Four partnership sites have expressed interest in participating in the replication of the VA pilot evaluation. The expectation is that each site will identify specific variables, using the CNL Evaluation Framework, which they will commit to collect over a minimum of a six month period: three pre- and three post-CNL implementation.

VIII. Next Steps

The Implementation Task Force and the CNL Evaluation Committee will meet October 31-November 2, 2006 in Washington, DC. A Final Report from the CNL Implementation

Task Force will be submitted to the AACN Board January 2007. The Report will include a delineation of activities, outcomes to date, and recommendations for future activities and processes to sustain the CNL Initiative.

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