Health Reform
Implications for Nursing

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Goals of the Presentation

• Introductions
• Impact on Health Reform and Nursing
• Status of health reform efforts in Washington State
• Opportunities and Challenges
• Persistent problems—new opportunities
Nursing leadership in demand

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation survey from January 20, 2010 findings:

- From opinion leaders in insurance, corporate, health services, government and industry

- Nursing could have the most influence on: reducing medical errors (51%), improving quality of care (50%), and coordinating patient care in the health system (40%)
Related Opportunities and Challenges in Nursing
Institute of Medicine
Future of Nursing Report

• RNs should practice to the full extent of their education and training
• RNs should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression
• RNs should be full partners with physicians and other health care professionals in redesigning healthcare in the US
• Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure
A Persistent Nursing Shortage

- demand will outpace supply in Washington over the next decade as RNs begin to retire and demand for health care escalates.
- The gap between RN practicing supply and demand will be more than 12,000 RNs in 2031, even under the most optimistic scenario. WWAMI Center for Health Workforce Studies
Changing demographics

• WA’s population is growing, with the most rapid growth among the elderly. 1 out of 5 WA residents expected to be 65 or older by 2030, resulting in increasing demand in health services.

• Affordable Care Act implementation will provide more previously uninsured WA residents access to health insurance (Medicaid expansion is expected to cover 328,000 more WA residents and an additional 460,000 will be eligible for subsidies through the Exchange)

• Chronic disease rates are increasing among aging population as well as younger people

• Increasing diversity
Opportunities in the Affordable Care Act
Medicaid Expansion

Low income families face significant health disparities

Medicaid Expansion

• Would provide coverage to an additional 328,000 low income state residents
• For low income people up to 138% FPL
• Federal government to provide 2 years of funding
• Uninsured rates in Washington are at an all time high
Health Benefit Exchange

An Exchange must be in place by 2014

Opportunities for Nursing leadership and representation

• Advocating for the needs of patients and consumers

• Health literacy

• Various Advisory Committees
Demonstration projects: More Opportunities for Registered Nurses

Several projects funded through the Affordable Care Act

- Maternal child health home visiting
- Medicaid home health: care coordination
- Community based care transition program
- School based health clinics
- Public health workforce loan repayment
- Long term care training funds
- Accountable care organizations

State efforts
Change is an opportunity

If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it. ~Mary Engelbreit

It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory. ~W. Edwards Deming
Opportunities for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners

- 2012 survey: 38% WA ARNPs in family practice
- WA allows ARNP autonomous practice. This is critical to ensure access to care
- 88% had patient panels that include Medicaid patients
- 69% are accepting new Medicaid patients
Other Policy Opportunities

• Parity for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses proposed for Medicaid expansion
• Insurance Commissioner Rules for Network Adequacy
• Expanding the scope of practice of public health nurses to allow dispensing medications for family planning and communicable disease control
• School based healthcare
More challenges

Other health professions scope of practice evolving
• Medical assistant scope of practice
Preservation of key health care safety net services
Preservation of public health funding
Preservation of higher education funding for nursing
Persistent Issues and New Fixes
What we can do as nurses

• Be at the table
• Develop nurse-led innovations
• Redesign education
• Diversify our workforce
• Expand scope of practice
• Develop leadership at every level
• Foster inter-professional relationships
Questions ?
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