

FUTURE OF NURSING

Campaign for Action

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2011

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New Virginia Coalition Focuses on Changing the Way Health Care is Delivered

Virginia RAC Named Campaign for Action - Regional Action Coalition to Help Ensure a Prepared and Effective Health Care Workforce

RICHMOND, VA — The Virginia RAC has been selected as a Regional Action Coalition by the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action* (CFA), a collaboration created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AARP Foundation, to implement solutions to the challenges facing the nursing profession and build upon nurse-based approaches to improving quality and transforming the way Americans receive health care. To turn growing momentum and nationwide interest in the health care workforce into action, the Regional Action Coalitions have been convened to advance key issues at the local, state and national levels.

The Virginia RAC, which includes support from the Virginia Nurses Association, AARP Virginia, Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, Virginia Partnership for Nursing, Virginia Organization for Nursing Executives and Leaders, nursing education groups and statewide health care and non-health care related groups, will work with CFA to implement the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Specifically, the Virginia RAC aims to increase access to health care and improve health outcomes for all Virginians by working to implement the goals and objectives of the IOM/Initiative on the Future of Nursing report including:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other health professionals in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

“The diversity of our coalition and our proven capacity were key factors in being selected,” said Shirley Gibson, MSHA, R.N., FACHE, Associate Vice President of Nursing, VCU Health System, and co-leader of the Virginia RAC. “As a participant in the movement to maximize the contributions of the nurses who deliver health care in our state and nation, the Virginia RAC is excited to bring its energy and ideas to the table.”

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The Virginia RAC joins Regional Action Coalitions in these states:

- New York
- New Jersey
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- California
- Washington
- Idaho
- Utah
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Florida

Regional Action Coalitions function as the campaign's field operation. Their mission is focused on fostering interprofessional collaboration, the ability of all health care professionals to practice to the full extent of their education and training, strengthened nurse education and training and the increased participation of nurses as leaders.

“The *Campaign for Action* was developed to realize a vision of improved health care for all Americans,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., senior advisor for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “The groundswell of support demonstrated by the creation of Regional Action Coalitions all across the country—beginning with five last fall and now expanding to 15 and beyond—shows the vigor and commitment that is driving this effort.”

The Virginia RAC was selected in February in this round of Regional Action Coalition selections. CFA aims to ultimately engage groups in all 50 states. To help build and sustain momentum across the country, states that have not yet become Regional Action Coalitions have access to campaign materials and communications for use in the change efforts they have initiated in their states.

According to David DeBiasi, Associate State Director, Virginia AARP, and co-leader of the Virginia RAC, “we are honored to have our efforts recognized in this way and look forward to working with our partners to maximize the contributions of nurses in Virginia.”

Visit www.thefutureofnursing.org to learn more about the *Campaign for Action's* local, state and national efforts or www.virginianurses.com for information about the Virginia RAC.

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Regional Action Coalitions are convened to advance the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. Comprised of diverse groups of stakeholders at the state level that can effect long-term sustainable change, Regional Action Coalitions will further the overall effort by capturing best practices, determining research needs, tracking lessons learned and identifying replicable models.