



Highlights from the

Texas Team Central Texas Region Coalition **LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL**

September 23, 2014

The Texas Team Central Texas Region Coalition presented the Legislative Summit at the Texas Capitol on Tuesday, September 23, 2014. The event was attended by 245 Texas nurses and nursing students from the Central Texas Area. Co-chairs of the Texas Team Central Texas Region, Dr. Jane McCurley and Dr. Linda Carpenter, worked with an excellent planning committee headed by Gail Acuna to hold this educational event to enhance the knowledge of all Registered Nurses about the Texas Team initiative, the IOM recommendations and the 2015 legislative agenda.

In addition to hearing from Dr. Cole Edmondson, the Texas Team Executive Committee Co-Chair, State Representative Donna Howard, and Dr. Cindy Zolnierrek, Texas Team Executive Committee Co-Chair, each guest attended one of three breakout sessions. These included the Practice Session led by Dr. Jane McCurley, the Leadership Session led by Dr. Joyce Batcheller, and the Education Session, led by Dr. Helen Reid.

Hosted by:

Representative Donna Howard, Texas House of Representatives District 48



The Texas Team is cosponsored by the Texas Nurses Association & Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas



**245 Nurses and
Nursing Students
attended the
Legislative Summit**

Highlights from

Dr. Cole Edmondson's Welcome

- The future of nursing is a time of unprecedented change
- Nurses are the largest discipline in healthcare, and they are positioned to work at the National, State, and Local level
- The IOM report “is the evidence” we need and has provided a blueprint for the changes needed in nursing
- Nurses can get involved and influence change through joining the action coalition Texas Team
- Texas Team has impacted the following:
 - 27% increase in DNP prepared RNs in Texas
 - 65% of new graduates trained through residency programs



**Dr. Cole Edmondson, DNP, RN,
FACHE, NEA-BC
Texas Team Executive Committee
Co-Chair**



Keynote Address:

State Representative
Donna Howard Texas
House of Representatives
District 48

- Nurses must stand up for patients and healthcare
- Women's health and APRNs will be key players in the 2015 legislative agenda
- Nursing and legislation are similar in that both require collaboration, cooperation, and a systems approach
- Legislatures need to hear your voice to provide the necessary support for the nursing pipeline
- Nursing should continue to align legislation with the IOM Recommendations
- Partner to creatively and effectively offer more BSN programs
 - Nurses must align with coalitions and professional associations and stay **ENGAGED**
 - Essential that nurses be **INVOLVED** and **VOTE**

VOTE, GET INVOLVED, LET THE LEGISLATORS HEAR YOUR VOICE



Dr. Cindy Zolnierek, PhD, RN
Texas Team Executive Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Cindy Zolnierek

- Texas Team, as a coalition, is not allowed to lobby
- Representative Howard remains essential in carrying the nursing message to Congress
- Nurses should join the Get Involved! Campaign and get to know their Representatives and Senators
- Nurses have an obligation to be active in their profession and mold the Nurse Practice Act to meet the needs of nurses
- The next big project is to allow APRNs to practice to the fullest extent of their training
- Nurses at all levels should support APIN (Academic Progression in Nursing)
- Legislators are your voice - get engaged and be heard!

Dr. Jane McCurley

Practice Breakout Session

- The 183rd Legislative Session advanced APRN scope of practice, and removed site restriction barriers
- Nurses continue to help shift the delivery of healthcare from acute care settings to wellness care in the community
- More legislation is needed to allow APRNs to practice to their full scope of their practice
- APRNs need to reach out to a more diverse and underserved population



Dr. Jane McCurley, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC,
FACHE
Texas Team Regional Nurse Leaders
Co-Leader, Central Region



Dr. Joyce Batcheller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Texas Team Nursing Strategic Advisory
Committee Member

Dr. Joyce Batcheller

Leadership Breakout Session

- It is important to align your organization's goals with the IOM recommendations
- Nursing leadership should be promoted at every level; Robert Wood Johnson is moving to an inter-professional cohort
- Data must be used to recognize and document nursing's contribution to quality
- Nurses need to know the IOM Report; TNA, THA, TONE, BON and ANA provide synergy and power to make changes

Dr. Helen Reid

Education Breakout Session

- 52.5% of Nurses in Texas are now BSN prepared; the goal is 80% BSNs by 20202
- This is the first time EVER that BSNs have crossed the 50% mark
- Nursing leadership needs to continue partnering with BSN programs to create innovative programs for RN-to-BSN Students
- Increase BSN prepared nurses in rural communities



Dr. Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE
Texas Team Advance Nursing
Education Team Co-Chair

The Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing is a regional action coalition, composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, charged with transforming the health of Texans through nursing by implementing the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change

Ready to Join the Texas Team? Go to
[https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cnws/texasteam/#Joining the Team](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cnws/texasteam/#Joining%20the%20Team)