

MA Action Coalition Releases Nursing Core Competencies Toolkit

Collaborative Project a Step Forward in Implementation of Massachusetts Nurse of the Future Nursing Core Competencies® (NOFNCC)

Boston, MA – May 8, 2014 -- The Massachusetts Action Coalition (MAAC) has released “The Massachusetts Nursing Core Competencies: A Toolkit for Implementation in Education and Practice Settings,” a new resource guide designed to help facilitate the implementation of Massachusetts Nurse of the Future Nursing Core Competencies® (NOFNCC). The toolkit includes a description of the 10 competencies and the value of each in context of curriculum/practice and features distinct learning activities for both settings with questions for reflection. Published in August 2010, the NOFNCC have gradually been integrated into nursing education programs and practice settings here in Massachusetts and in other states. Use of competencies serves as a foundation for all levels of academic progression. This highly-anticipated toolkit will enhance those efforts.

The toolkit builds upon the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s November 2010 statewide summit, *Creativity and Connections--Building the Framework for the Future of Nursing Education and Practice* in which recommendations were developed for implementation of the NOFNCC. At the same time, Institute of Medicine’s report on the Future of Nursing challenged the profession to improve how nurses are educated. In Massachusetts and around the country, there is a clear need for seamless progression through all levels of nursing education based on a defined framework of competencies.

A key component of MAAC’s work through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) grant, the toolkit is the result of a collaborative, statewide effort throughout Massachusetts to create clear, easy-to-use NOFNCC guidelines for both academic and practice environments. “The development of this toolkit is an example of best practice for partnerships between academic and healthcare organizations,” said Judy Beal, DNSc, RN, project co-leader. “Developed by a team of nursing leaders from education and practice, we worked collaboratively to identify strategies for implementation of the NOFNCC.”

Integration of these competencies is critical to connecting all levels of nursing education programs and facilitates a smooth transition between LPN, ADN, and BSN, which increases the likelihood that a nurse will continue his or her education. The transition into nursing practice is improved by having the same common set of competencies fully integrated into the practice environment.

“The nursing competencies developed here in Massachusetts are already nationally recognized,” said MAAC/APIN project director Pat Crombie. “I am so proud when I speak with colleagues from other states and find that they have or are planning to implement them. Our hope is that the toolkit will support the spread of the NOFNCC here and across the country.”

For more information on the Massachusetts Action Coalition and Massachusetts’ current initiatives in Nursing & Allied Health, please visit:

www.championnursing.org/state/massachusetts and www.mass.edu/nursing