The Doctor of Nursing Practice Summit
Update Summary from Workgroups
August 14, 2019

The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), a leader in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) movement since 2001, hosted a DNP Summit on December 18, 2017 in Washington, D.C. Thirty-eight stakeholders from across the nation gathered for a critical dialogue on moving entry-level nurse practitioner (NP) education to the DNP degree by 2025. Leaders represented nearly 20 practice, licensure, accreditation, certification and educational organizations.

As an outcome of the Summit, four workgroups were formed to build collective strength to move all entry-level NP education to the DNP degree by 2025. Workgroup members included representation from the summit participant and board members. The groups were formed, and objectives outlined the first several months of 2018. The scheduling of monthly meetings occurred Spring of 2018. The first meeting for the workgroups was held late summer 2018.

Below is a summary of the four workgroups’ charge, progress and next steps.

**Strengthen Outcomes Data** workgroup’s overarching purposes are to identify and describe existing descriptive and outcomes data, as well as synthesize existing data and identifying gaps. Using these data, the workgroup plans to develop and operationalize a longitudinal study to collect and track DNP prepared NP outcomes. These outcomes include educational, health systems and patient outcomes.

**Phase One Objectives**

- Identify in the published, in-progress and grey studies/literature at the national, state, educational institution and health system databases that are tracking NP outcomes.
  - The workgroup members divided into subgroups to conduct an environmental scan of the literature.
- Assess the literature for DNP outcomes data and if outcome data distinguishes between MSN-and DNP-prepared NPs.
  - There were minimal articles identified. DNP outcomes data were limited. It was also noted that NP outcome literature does not distinguish between MSN and DNP.
- Document variables of interest to potentially include leading quality improvement and interprofessional teams, patient safety initiatives as well as patient outcomes in healthcare systems and other variables needed to inform further research.
  - Due to limited published information, this objective was not obtainable.
Phase Two—Next Steps

The information gathered from the activities in Phase One has resulted in revising the initial objectives. As mentioned, there is very little data that exist, and what is available it is not specific to BSN to DNP graduates. The workgroup has committed to moving forward with the following three activities.

- Crosswalk of the identified multiple data sets for variable identification.
- Review current nursing minimum data sets and make a recommendation so that DNP specific information is included.
- Continue to track graduate and certification pass rates.
- Work with certifying and accrediting bodies so that the variable that tracks type of degree can be used in further understanding outcomes.

Address Capacity Issues

Workgroup purpose is to develop and implement a plan to address doctoral NP workforce capacity issues. (Students, faculty, financial stability, human resource/workforce and regulatory).

Phase One Objectives

Similar to the other workgroups, the initial activity included an environmental scan of the capacity issues. Based on the information provided, the group prioritized work.

- Identify the aspects that impact capacities (Primary drivers/barriers).
  - The workgroup divided into subgroups (Students, faculty, financial stability, human resource/workforce and regulatory) to identify capacity issues.
- Define secondary drivers based on the list above.
  - The initial lists were consolidated, and additional information and discussion was added to defining the drivers.
- Environmental scan identifying exemplars and failures.
  - There was discussion identifying exemplars.
- Identify existing resources for each driver.
  - Based on the extensive list of capacity issues identified, the workgroup rated the top 3-4 activities to be worked on next.
- Collaborate with partners to meet and discuss with CMS student documentation guideline and the need for parity between medical students and other health professional students.
Phase Two - Next Steps

It was identified early in the tenure of this workgroup that many capacity issues overlapped with other workgroups and NONPF activities. The workgroup has targeted a few activities and will be providing oversite for additional activities.

- Supporting the DNP Workshops by enhancing the DNP Business Model document, including financial models for ROI.
- Developing a statement supporting of clinical tenure track with suggested criteria for institution to consider.
- Incentive to preceptors - Provide model language to initiate state tax exemption for precepting. Continue work with partners recommending to CMS parity in the student documentation guideline and responding to Federal Register rule making.
- Create a repository of innovative model for new learners and resources for faculty to provide to students to ensure the highest possible success.

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**Clarify the Educational Model.** Curriculum models need to be developed using the expertise of faculty from more than 80 nursing schools and colleges that have moved solely to the DNP degree for NP education, as well as those that have moved to the DNP degree but have also maintained the master’s degree for NP education. The workgroup purpose is to develop and disseminate curriculum models, tools, and strategies to transition NP programs to seamless DNP degrees without master’s exits.

**Phase One Objectives**

- Identify processes, policies and decision points that are required for a transition to the DNP degree to occur at the program, school, institution, state and national levels.
  - Information was gathered from the CRNA.
  - A listening session was held in January 2019.
- Identify models of transition to the DNP degree.
  - A review of the literature and exploration for 82 schools with seamless BSN-DNP programs is in progress.
  - Exemplar models are being identified through this search.
- Identify opportunities and barriers to achieve success by 2025 from the perspective of certifiers and accreditors.
  - The discussion of what is needed for a role delineation study.
- Identify models that have successfully used a transition plans to sunset the MSN, NP Program This is part of the review of the 82 BSN-DNP programs.
- Identify activities that are in progress or to be started in 2019 that will impact DNP transition.
  - This is ongoing. We anticipate that the revisions to the DNP Essentials and work on progress indicators are areas of interest for this workgroup.
Phase Two-Next Steps

This workgroup has focused on the development of a seamless BNS to DNP Program. The environmental scan of websites and the listening sessions contributed to the next steps.

- Develop a 4-hour workshop for faculty – to be a session at the NONPF 2019 Fall Conference.
  - This workshop will present a seamless BSN to DNP curriculum, the elements of a marketing scan and financial plan.
- Develop a full workshop modeled after the CRNA workshop to help faculty/school move to the DNP by 2025.
- Revise other relevant national documents to support seamless DNP degree models, including the NTF Guidelines.

Get the Messaging Right. The DNP-entry for NP practice message must be clearly defined, with an emphasis on how the DNP degree benefits health care systems and communities. Specific messaging needs to be developed for the internal and external populations affected by this change. The purpose of this workgroup is to develop appropriate messages and a dissemination plan.

Phase One Objectives

- Identify what has been done to understand what NP practice means to stakeholders.
  - The group discussed campaigns that have been utilized to help the public understand the NP role. The listening session also provided excellent information that assisted this group in understanding issues that exist across schools of nursing.
- Identify historical precedents that may be helpful in determining the messaging.
  - Previous nursing education transitions were reviewed by the group e.g., diploma to BSN, NP certificate programs to MSN.
  - Discussion ensued regarding how these changes were messaged and how things could be improved.
- Identify target audience, the internal and external stakeholders.
  - A list of target audiences was identified which included faculty, current and prospective students, universities/schools of nursing, employers, credentialing bodies (insurers) and patients.
- Build the underpinning of messaging around partnership/collaboration principles.
  - The NONPF board developed talking points to message DNP by 2025 and answer any question from stakeholders. These were reviewed by group members.

Phase Two-Next Steps

- Develop a shared vision for the messaging based on the talking points developed for the board.
• The first audience to develop and disseminate the message was determined to be the NP faculty.
• The goal is for a podcast to be developed by December 2019.
• Develop a Q&A sheet and message board for the NONPF website.
• Additional messaging will be developed for the audiences identified.
• Use existing data in preparing messages
• Submit abstracts to NP national organization group to provide an overview of the NONPF ongoing activities to achieved DNP by 2025.