

New York State Department of Health

TO: Participants, NYS Public Health Nursing Summit

FROM: Sylvia Pirani, Director, Office of Public Health Practice, NYS DOH

RE: Request for Assistance in implementing changes to the NYS State Sanitary Code that affect Public Health Nurses

DATE: May 22, 2008

At the June meeting, I will be providing an update on changes that are being implemented to Part 11 of the NYS Sanitary Code. This section of the Code provides job descriptions and minimum qualifications for a number of public health professionals who work in local health departments, including public health nurses.

The revisions that will go into effect later this summer include a requirement that nurses in a new Public Health Nurse 2 title obtain 15 hours of continuing education in public health related topics approved by the New York State Department of Health within the first year of employment. Nurses in the supervising public health nurse title must complete 15 hours of continuing education in public health and management related topics within the first year of employment in the title.

We would like your assistance in developing a continuing education program so that public health nurses can complete this training requirement. Our goal is to first identify the most important core competencies for public health nurses in these titles, and then identify online and in person courses related to those competencies that public health nurses could complete to comply with this requirement.

At a previous summit, a workgroup took on the task of examining the Quad Council competencies (http://www.astdn.org/publication_quad_council_phn_competencies.htm), and obtained information via a survey to identify those competencies that should be taught in Schools of Nursing versus those that could be learned on the job. We can use those findings as a starting point for our discussions.

The revisions to the State Sanitary Code related to nurses are attached. Please come to the meeting with your suggestions on the core competencies that we should focus on and specific references for on-line courses, in person trainings and/or training materials that can be included in our continuing education program.

If you cannot participate please send your suggestions to the Office of Public Health Practice at phworks@health.state.ny.us

Changes to Part 11 of the New York State Sanitary Code

Sections 11.40 and 11.41 are amended to read as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 1

11.40 Definition.

The term public health nurse 1 shall mean a nurse who plans, provides, directs and evaluates nursing care in a variety of settings with the goal of improved health outcomes and [offers instruction and guidance in health practices for] is actively involved in the planning, development, provision and evaluation of public health programs designed to prevent disease and improve the health of individuals, [and] families, specific populations, high risk groups and/or communities.

11.41 Entry level qualifications.

A public health nurse 1 must possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered [four-year] college or university, as well as licensure and current registration[,] to practice as a registered professional nurse in New York State.

Section 11.42 is repealed and a new section 11.42 is added to read as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 2

11.42 Definition.

The term public health nurse 2 shall mean a nurse who plans, provides, directs and evaluates nursing care in a variety of settings with the goal of improving health outcomes and is actively involved in the planning, development, provision and evaluation of public health programs designed to prevent disease and improve the health of individuals, families, specific populations, high-risk groups and/or communities. The public health nurse 2 is also involved in program administration and/or program budget development and monitoring and/or quality improvement initiatives, and/or acting as advocate and liaison for constituents.

New sections 11.43, 11.44 and 11.45 are added to read as follows:

11.43 Qualifications.

A public health nurse 2 must meet the qualifications for public health nurse 1 and have one year of experience in public health nursing.

A public health nurse 2 must complete 15 hours of continuing education in public health related topics approved by the New York State Department of Health within the first year of employment in the title.

11.44 Supervisory level definition.

The term supervising public health nurse shall mean a nurse who supervises public health nurses 1 and 2 and other staff. A supervising public health nurse plans, provides, and evaluates nursing care in a variety of settings with the goal of improving health outcomes and is actively involved in the planning, development, provision and evaluation of public health programs designed to prevent disease and improve the health of individuals, families, specific populations, high-risk groups and/or communities. A supervising public health nurse may be involved in program administration and/or program budget development and monitoring and/or quality improvement initiatives, and/or acting as advocate and liaison for constituents and/or policy development.

11.45 Supervisory level qualifications.

A supervising public health nurse must meet the qualifications for public health nurse 1 and have two year's experience in public health nursing; or a master's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university and one year of experience in public health nursing.

A supervising public health nurse must complete 15 hours of continuing education in public health and management related topics approved by the New York State Department of Health within the first year of employment in this title.