

March 2018

R.I.C.S.N.T. Newsletter

Editors: Debi Vannoy/Jayne Brassil
President: Diane Kowal



Nurse Specialists in School Health We Care for Rhode Island's Children

President's Message

Dear RICSNTA Members,

Wow! It is difficult to believe that it is almost spring! Yet, it is with great joy that we welcome its warmth and new growth. When I look at my students, I can see them growing and changing before my eyes. The 5th graders are already too cool to be at the elementary school and the kinders are no longer babies. Isn't it rewarding to know that you have helped to nurture them along the way? As School Nurses we really do make a difference in the lives of many of our students. Keeping in mind the RICSNTA vision that *all Rhode Island students will be healthy, safe and ready to learn*, gives real meaning to our days.

The mission of RICSNTA is *to enable students to achieve their optimum level of health and educational success by promoting the highest quality of school health services, by empowering Certified School Nurse Teachers through professional development, collaboration, advocacy and support.* As we carefully look at how things are changing in our profession, it is important to keep our vision and mission in mind. Just this spring we are dealing with legislative issues, potential certification changes, and revisions to the Rules and Regulations for School Health. RICSNTA is striving to keep all members informed of the issues. Each one of you helps and supports each other, and the organization, through your individual dedication to school nursing and our students.

On May 9th, we will celebrate National School Nurse Day, our School Nurse Teacher of the Year, and this year's retirees, along with each of you and all that you do. Please save the date and join us at our annual banquet of celebration. It is a time to connect with each other on a social level and is a great time for networking. As you celebrate Nation School Nurse Day remember that it is very important to share what you do with your school community. Consider putting together a poster, a bulletin board, or a presentation to share with your school, central office, PTA/PTO, or school committee that promotes school nursing and the details of what you do. Too many people have no idea of the challenges we overcome with kids/families on a day-to-day basis and only by your sharing will they gain an understanding.

Happy Spring!

Diane Kowal, RN, CSNT, NCSN
RICSNTA President

NASN Director Report

This has been a very busy time for NASN! I attended the Board of Directors' meeting January 27-30 in Washington DC. It was a great feeling to be able to attend as a representative of a UNIFIED Affiliate! At this meeting, there were several Professional Practice Documents that were updated. Here is the information on these newly approved documents, but check the NASN website for additional ones!! Many School Nurses use these documents to help educate their administration about our role and be able to present to them the evidence-based documents to support that role.

NASN is pleased to announce new or newly revised professional practice documents are now available on the NASN website.

Thanks to the efforts of many, these documents provide the position of NASN on topics that are pertinent to school nurse practice and safe care of children. They are evidence-based and comprehensively reviewed and can serve as a resource for school nurses and school health partners, provide guidance for the development of policy, and be used as an educational and advocacy tool.

Position Statements

- [Healthy Communities - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (Adopted January 2018)
- [IDEIA and Section 504 Teams - The Role Nurse as an Essential Team Member](#) (Adopted January 2018)
- [Overweight and Obesity in Children and Adolescents in Schools - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (Revised January 2018)
- [Reimbursement for School Nursing Services](#) (Revised January 2018)
- [School-located Vaccination](#) (Revised January 2018)
- [School-sponsored Trips - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (Revised January 2018)
- [School Violence - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (Revised January 2018)
- [Skin Cancer, Prevention of due to Ultraviolet Ray Exposure - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (Adopted January 2018)

Position Briefs

- [Human Trafficking-Implications for 21st Century School Nurses](#) (February 2018)
- [Wearable Medical Technology in Schools - The Role of the School Nurse](#) (February 2018)



The Board of Directors Meeting also includes "Hill Day" when each of us visits our Senators and Congressmen in DC to discuss issues related to the health and safety of students. I was able to visit with Senators Reed and Whitehouse as well as Congressman Langevin. The meetings were very positive and our legislators are very supportive of our role and supporting our students. Partly due to the efforts of school nurses led by NASN to contact our legislators, CHIP was funded for an additional 6 years, with another 2 years added later! This is the insurance program that catches the children that are ineligible for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance.

At our January Board Meeting we continued our discussion of changing the public narrative around the role of the School Nurse, and the need for us to promote ourselves as the professionals that we are. We read "From Silence to Voice: What Nurses Know and Must Communicate to the Public" by Bernice Buresh and Suzanne Gordon. One of the main points I took from the book and our discussion is that we need to be proud of what we do, and we shouldn't play it down. How many of us would say "I'm just doing my job" if we saved a child's life by administering epinephrine. Would our role be perceived differently if we said something like: "I identified the student was having an allergic reaction so I followed the Emergency Care Plan that I had written for the student and fortunately was able to save him/her". The book also discussed how we are addressed by others in our working environments, and specifically discussed the use of students using our first names, such as being referred to as "Nurse Nancy" when other professionals are addressed as "Mrs. Smith." On my first day in a new school, my principal asked me if the students can call me "Nurse Marianne." My response to her, (with a smile on my face) was "only if the students can all you 'Principal Susan'." She got the message, we smiled and moved on. I feel that helped to set the tone of our relationship, and we started a positive professional relationship. For those that feel it is important to express your title, the use of Nurse with your last name would be a better and more professional option. Something to think about! ☺

Don't forget to check out the NASN website and all it has to offer if you haven't already! Just for starters, the Learning Center can be found at <https://www.pathlms.com/nasn/categories/686/courses> and the VSP Sight for Students Program available to NASN members: <https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/blogs/nasn-profile/2017/10/03/advance-your-nursing-practice>

NASN 2018 is just a few months away!! (See information below) NASN is celebrating its 50th year and is looking to all members to help celebrate! There are activities planned at the NASN Conference, but even if you are unable to attend the conference, there are ways you can participate!

- Do you have any NASN artifacts, memorabilia, early copies of NASN Newsletters or Journal of School Nursing issues?
- Were you a School Nurse in the 60's, 70's, or 80's? If so, we are interested in your thoughts on how things have changed, how they may be the same. If you are willing, we'd also like to do a short 60-90 second interview, which will be placed on the NASN website/Facebook.

Please email me at mmanzi1029@gmail.com if you would like to participate in either of the above!

Happy Spring!
Best,
Marianne

Marianne E. Manzi, MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN
Board of Directors
National Association of School Nurses
Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Teachers Association



School Health Data

Plan for your district/school to participate in the 2017-2018 school year data collection again or for the first time. Collection of data points around staffing, chronic health conditions and health room disposition will be collected again at the end of the school year. More details to come in May on how to submit your data.

Remember data drives decision making!

Thank you,

Linda Mendonca, RN

RI State School Nurse Consultant

linda.mendonca@health.ri.gov



Since 2002 parents, teachers, school nurses, custodians, advocates, and agencies have promoted National Healthy Schools Day activities nationwide. Whether you are at the beginning stages of investigating school environments or have an established Indoor Air/Environmental Quality program, we invite you to host a local activity that educates others and celebrates your school's successes.

National Healthy Schools Day is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in partnership with many agencies and organizations. Together we promote the use of EPA's [IAQ Tools for Schools guidance](#) as well as other EPA environmental health guidelines and programs for schools and children's health.

<http://www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org>

Virtual Healthy School | Features | CDC

www.cdc.gov

Virtual Healthy School is a new way interactive learning tool from CDC Healthy Schools. Discover ways to create healthier school environments

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/virtual-healthy-school/index.html>



Advocacy/Legislative Committee, March 2018

The legislature has been busy addressing bills in the House and Senate. I encourage you to visit the General Assembly website, www.rilin.state.ri.us, click on Legislation, and check out committee agendas, daily introductions, bill history, committee members, etc. Take some time to acquaint yourself with this informative website.

The Legislative/Advocacy committee continues to monitor, discuss, and determine RICSNTA's course of action on bills that could potentially impact RI students and our school nurse-teacher practice. The following provides a brief overview of our activity in this legislative session.

A big "THANK YOU" shout-out goes to numerous board members who have attended focus group meetings and formal meetings to address serious issues potentially affecting our practice.

1. **Sunscreen use in Schools** (H 7158 and S 2115)

- These companion bills would permit students to possess and use sunscreen in school without doctor's order: Sunscreen will not be considered an OTC medication.
- RICSNTA took a neutral position.
- House (HEW committee) heard the bill on 2.28.18 and recommends passage.
- The Senate bill was heard 2.7.18 and held for further study.

2. **Continuity of Care for Medically Fragile Children** (H 7410)

- RICSNTA provided written testimony and was prepared for verbal testimony in **opposition** to this bill at the HEW hearing on 2.14.18. The bill was held for further study.
- This bill would permit parents to choose a provider for 1:1 nursing services for their child while in school, including the use of LPNs.
- RICSNTA has been informed this bill will "die in committee", i.e., there will be no further action on this bill during this legislative session.
- RICSNTA is still addressing the issue of LPNs in schools and has retained legal counsel.

3. **RIDE Proposed Changes in Certification Requirements for CSNTs**

- The Legislative committee and some board members met with RIDE to inquire about proposed changes and discuss our concerns. We are awaiting RIDE's release of the proposed changes so we can formally and publicly state our concerns.

Please be reminded that RICSNTA respectfully requests you to contact the Advocacy/Legislative committee or any member of the Executive Board if you have any legislative concerns or are interested in proposing legislation to improve student health and safety. If we work together as a cohesive unit we can move forward with greater strength to bring about changes to positively impact Rhode Island, our students, and our school nurse-teacher practice and profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Svitil

Marilyn Mattera

Debra Weaver



Membership

We have 156 active members of RICSNTA and NASN. Please remember to renew your membership when it expires in order to be included in all the membership opportunities.

If your renewal for NASN is expiring soon, they will be sending a reminder. The new fee schedule is as follows: Active- \$150, Associate \$150, Student \$66.45, Retired \$77.75.

When you renew your membership to RICSNTA, it will be for both organizations.

You can reach out to me at :

rdicenso@woonsocketschools.com or 767-4822 for any questions about membership.

We are looking for help on many committees for the board of RICSNTA!!

This is your professional organization and your involvement only enhances your knowledge and practice of school nursing!

Meetings are held monthly. Meet other school nurses with common practice issues.

New health initiatives and legislative proposed bills are discussed.

You would be on the forefront of school nursing issues and have the support of the board for collaboration and problem solving.

Please contact either of us by phone or email to see how you can be involved.

Thank you.

Donna Lennon chum25@aol.com or dlennon@sksd-ri.net, [401-499-9843](tel:401-499-9843)

Linda Mendonca linda.mendonca@health.ri.gov, [401-374-2179](tel:401-374-2179)



Scholarship

The annual Elizabeth Robinette \$500 Scholarship applications are available on our website ricsnta.nursingnetwork.com. Applications are due by Friday, April 13, 2018. This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of our members during our educational meetings. Thank you so much for buying our raffle tickets. I would like to thank the nurses in Barrington for providing our Valentine theme basket in January and thank you to the Narragansett nurses for their basket donation in October. A special thank you to Claudia DeBernardo and Linda Mendonca for their donations for our raffles as well. I really appreciate all of your support.

If you know any nurses with a BSN deciding to go back to school to become a Certified School Nurse Teacher, please pass along the information about the scholarship. Our goal is to promote School Nursing and encourage more nurses to enter our profession.

Save the Date!

"DANGERS OF APPEARANCE & PERFORMANCE ENHANCING
DRUGS/SUPPLEMENTS"

Thursday April 12, 2018 4pm -5pm membership meeting, followed by the presentation from 5-7pm.

The presenter is (TBA) from the Taylor Hooton Foundation.

The location is TBA and 2 CEUs are pending

Registration details to follow when they become available.



New England School Nurse Conference 2018

Pearls of Wisdom:

***Celebrating 30 years of cultivating school nursing
practice***

Hosted by the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) in partnership with Northeastern University School Health Academy (NEUSHA)

Saturday May 5th and Sunday May 6th

With two topics for a pre-conference evening open to first 100 to choose it on registration **Friday May 4th**

Location: Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor

10.0 Contact Hours

Price: Early Bird Price: \$250 if you register *by* April 1st

\$280 if you register *after* April 1st Register now at www.neusha.org.

Northeastern University School of Nursing is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Planners and presenters of the conference will disclose any potential conflicts of interest at the conference. Any commercial support provided will not influence the planning, implementation or evaluation of this event.

Time: Preconference Friday evening 4:30-7:00pm

Conference Saturday May 5th, 8:30 am-5:00 pm and Sunday May 6th,
8:30am-1:00pm

Relevant, engaging topics including:

The

Importance of School Nursing from a Superintendent's Perspective

Vision and Academics

The impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Families

PANDAS: The School Nurse Role

Self-Care for School Nurses

A Toolkit to Start Substance Abuse Prevention in Elementary Schools

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

A New Asthma Toolkit

Anxiety in students

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Vendors will be exhibiting all day on Saturday, May 5th.

Hotel Information:

Hotel 1620, 180 Water St, Plymouth, MA 02360 ** Book reservations by April 4, 2018**

Room rate is \$139 plus taxes (\$15.00 pp additional charge for 3rd and 4th person). Rooms have been reserved and you can book either by phone 1-508-747- 4900 between 9:00am-6:00pm and refer to the rate

for the New England School Nurse Conference OR online at www.hotel1620.com and enter the Promo Code **NESNA2018**.

Check in is after 4:00 pm and check out is by 11:00 am.

If you are attending the New England Conference and are interested in dining out with RI colleagues on Saturday, May 5, please email Amy Dark at amydark@cox.net so she can get a group count. She will email interested folks closer to the conference with the restaurant reservation information.

Please SAVE THE DATES:

Monday April 23, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm (registration to follow)

Flanagan Campus of CCRI in Lincoln, RI

For a technical assistance workshop presented by the RI Department of Education, the RI Department of Health and the RI Healthy Schools Coalition on:

Developing and Expanding Referral Systems and Policies for Sexual Health Services for Students

Participants will learn how to develop (or improve), implement and sustain successful sexual health referral systems for their districts or schools. In addition to presentations from RIDE, RIDOH, RIHSC and a national representative from the National Coalition of STD Directors, there will be ample opportunity for RI school staff and local health providers to expand their relationships to directly address any specific challenges schools might have with providing increased referrals and care for their students.

Please contact Jennifer Quigley-Harris if you would like more information about registering for this April 23 event, or if you would like to be sure that the particular names of your colleagues and community health partners are included in the invitation to attend. Online registration links will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Thanks for your continued efforts to improve the health and the learning outcomes for all RI students.

Jennifer Quigley-Harris, School Health Consultant

RI Department of Education & RI Healthy Schools Coalition

Jennifer.QuigleyHarris@ride.ri.gov

(401) 835-6838 (cell)

quigleyharris@gmail.com (home office email)

Annual May Banquet and National School Nurse Day

WHEN: Wednesday, May 9, 2018

TIME: 4:30 PM-7:30 PM

WHERE: Kirkbrae Country Club

Enjoy a special evening with a cocktail hour and dinner to network with friends and colleagues and to celebrate the RI School Nurse Teacher of the Year, scholarship awards and board recognitions.

All members are welcome and a detailed invitation will be coming soon!



Registration to NASN2018 in Baltimore, Maryland is now open!! It is a 4-day conference, although daily conference rates are available. A Justification Toolkit is available to help you apply for funding support from your districts (see FAQ link below for more information). We will be celebrating NASN's 50th year at this conference! It will also be the closest conference to RI for a few years, so this is a great one to attend!! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Frequently Asked Questions.....

Where is the conference?

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel
700 Aliceanna Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Key conference dates

April 16: Early Bird Registration deadline
June 01: Standard Registration deadline
June 29: Pre Conference Day
June 29: Dance Party
June 30-July 3: Full Four-Day Conference
June 30: Annual Business Meeting
July 01: 3rd Annual Endowment Fund Fun Run/Walk

CNE contact hours provided

You may earn up to 19.25 contact hours for full participation in the full four-day conference. Additional contact hours can be earned for attendance at a pre conference session.

[Get answers to additional FAQ.](#)

Hope you can join us at this conference!!! I will set up an email group of all attendees in May so we can communicate, share info and ideas, etc. which will be helpful- especially if you are a first-timer!



<https://www.facebook.com/ricsnta/>



A Day in the Life of a School Nurse-Teacher

Submitted by Lisa Tuck

“It’ll be fun”, they said. “You’ll apply band aids”, they said. Funny.

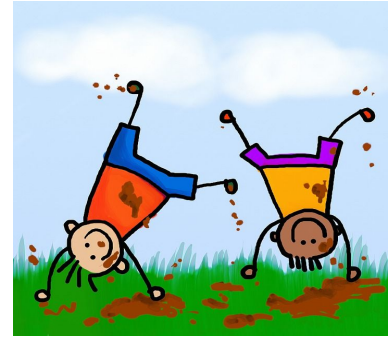
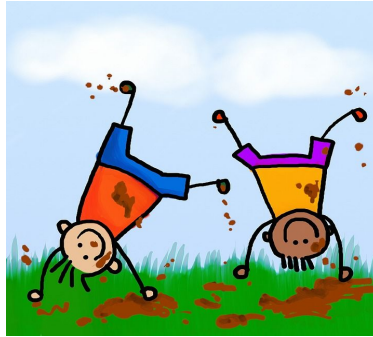
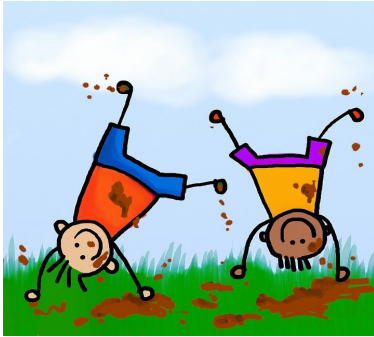
The rules, the regulations, the screenings (dental, vision, scoliosis), the reporting, the staff meetings, the student meetings, trainings to attend, trainings to provide (!!), the committees, subcommittees, certifications to maintain, vaccine statuses to enforce, medication and supply stocking, working with Finance, communication

with parents, communication with pediatricians, KIDSNET, professional development, drills, keeping up on DOH changes, opening new student files, sending transferring student files and maintaining health page on school website. Check, check, check, check, check. It looks all so doable on paper.

The “To Do” List is pages long, and that is all well and good. The problem therein comes from the same source that is the very joy of the profession ~ the students! They need us. They get sick, hurt, have mental health crises, need health education, have emotional outbursts that can’t be managed in the classroom, have problems at home to discuss, interactions with peers that require the nurse’s expertise, have daily medications, or, a chronic, serious health condition which requires daily care. They are the reason we are here. And they’re why we love what we do. I like to say they keep me young. I think most CSNTs would agree, however, that the students’ needs alone would make for very busy days, as would simply having to be on top of all the required tasks in the first paragraph. It is the juggling of it all ~ the constant shifting of priorities, the daily restructure of that “To Do” List. Frankly, each day in the life of a school nurse-teacher is a race, trying to complete a full day’s work in between seeing and caring for students, which is a full day’s work in and of itself and is the real reason we are here at all.

I think that, over time, we learn to just let it go. It is out of our control, this pesky unpredictability, and truth be told, maybe many of us thrive on it like adrenaline. At times, it feels impossible to overcome, and then, KABAM! We’ve survived another day, and often go home feeling so thankful that we were there to help in the many ways we did. It is sometimes a thankless job. Other times the “thanks” are abundant. The students need us and I am positive that the public has no idea how much we do. I guess I don’t care. I would be happy though, if no one ever, EVER, says to me again, “Oh, a school nurse? How sweet! You put on band aids all

day"! Never ever!!



Rhode Island Certified School Nurse-Teacher

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Membership - Renee Dicenso/Rachel Cruz

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School Nurses



Care for Kids

