

Innovation in NPI Health Policy: Ideas From the Frontlines  
January 26, 2026, Boise, ID

## Agenda

Time	Topic	Objectives
7:30 – 8:00	<b>Check-in &amp; Registration</b>	N/A
8:00 – 8:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks, Housekeeping – Committee Chairs</b> <i>Amanda Stewart, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC &amp; Kristy Theis, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC</i>	N/A
8:10 – 9:10	<b>AANP's Legislative Focus - Keynote</b> <i>Tay Kopanos, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP</i> <i>AANP VP State Government Affairs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize trends shaping health policy and patient care</li> <li>2. Identify new knowledge for influencing policy</li> </ol>
9:10 – 9:40	<b>Basics of Government</b> <i>Michelle Anderson, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the primary functions and purposes of government</li> <li>2. Explain the structure of government</li> </ol>
9:40 – 9:55	<b>Break – Networking &amp; Self-Care</b>	
9:55 – 10:55	<b>How To Converse With Your Legislators</b> <i>Caroline Merritt, PhD(c), MA, BA</i> <i>True North Public Affairs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the structure of the policy-making process within the Idaho State Legislature, including the role of key legislative committees.</li> <li>2. Identify opportunities for engagement to promote health policy and influence the legislative process for the benefit of nursing professionals.</li> <li>3. Describe IDANA legislative priorities for 2026</li> </ol>
10:55 – 11:25	<b>NPI History in Legislative Action</b> <i>Kristy Theis, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify one new thing about Idaho nurse practitioner history.</li> <li>2. Identify one urban legend about nurse practitioners in Idaho that is not true.</li> </ol>
11:25 – 12:25	<b>Lunch Provided – Networking &amp; Self-Care</b>	
12:25-12:55	<b>You're Already an Advocate: Turning Clinical Skills into Policy Influence</b> <i>Amanda Stewart, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify three ways nurse practitioners' clinical skills directly translate to effective health policy advocacy.</li> <li>2. Describe two opportunities for year-round advocacy engagement for nurse practitioners practicing in Idaho, including rural settings.</li> </ol>

Time	Topic	Objectives
12:55 – 1:55	<b>NPI Legislative Talking Points/Issues for 2026</b> Colleen Shackelford, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List 2 policy agenda items for NPI</li> <li>2. Describe how NPI members can be involved in policy-making</li> </ol>
1:55 – 2:25	<b>Battling Misinformation</b> Michelle Anderson, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify common forms of misinformation surrounding nurse practitioners</li> <li>2. Explain the education, training, and scope of practice of nurse practitioners</li> </ol>
2:25 – 2:40	<b>Break – Networking &amp; Self-Care</b>	
2:40 – 3:40	<b>Role Playing for the Difficult Legislative Conversations</b> Cathy Arvidson, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP Cynthia Dalsing, MSN, APRN, CNM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate proficiency in answering legislators' questions about NPs and NP practice.</li> <li>2. Identify current Idaho state issues impacting NPs and NP practice.</li> <li>3. Effectively answer difficult questions from legislators about NPs and NP practice.</li> </ol>
3:40 – 4:10	<b>Closing – Q&amp;A, Evaluations</b> Amanda Stewart, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC & Kristy Theis, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Q&amp;A, Reflection, &amp; Evaluations</li> </ol>

Agenda subject to change