Dear Colleagues,

With each new year comes a time for reflection of past accomplishments and the anticipation of new challenges and opportunities. I am very proud of ASNC’S 2018 accomplishments and want to thank everyone on the Executive Board who work so hard to accomplish the mission of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut to support, assist and enhance the practice of professional school nurses in their development and implementation of comprehensive school health services that promote students’ health and academic success. ASNC seeks to build on past accomplishments in areas including education, professional development opportunities, government relations and school nurse advocacy. ASNC recognizes the everyday challenges of the evolving school nurse role because we work in the “trenches” too!

“The Compliance Advisor” December 2018 publication identified key points about today’s school nurses: 1) School Nurses can see the big picture of the body and brain connection. “Nurses are at an advantage.” “They see the big picture and very often pick up things other people aren’t realizing” according to Alice Elio RN and School Health Manager in North Carolina. 2) Most school nurses are trained in community and mental health issues and 3) Nurses are increasingly more involved in case management to interpret health needs that require an IEP or 504 accommodations. Nurses figure out situations such how to accommodate a student with seizures to participate in swim class or assist with medical transportation arrangements or schedule lunch and gym and blood glucose checks with diabetics. Across the nation, students’ healthcare needs have evolved and so has the role of the school nurses but the perception of the nurse can still be one of passing out ice packs and band-aids and medications. School nurses need to be utilized at the top of their license and involved in strategic planning for their schools such as disaster preparedness, food allergy response plans and systems, infection control, and risk management for students and staff. But we know all that already don’t we? What school nurses need districts and the public to know is that

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their art and professional care to children requires full support, ongoing education, adequate staffing and compensatory pay to attract and retain top nurses into the profession.

Do you have any professional goals for the New Year? What about becoming a Nationally Certified School Nurse? According to the National Board for the Certification of School Nurses, Inc. (NBCSN), Certification “is the formal recognition of the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes.”

Mark your calendars for the New England School Nurses Conference. The conference will be held May 4-6, 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in beautiful Burlington, VT. The Vermont School Nurses Association has many professional offerings planned including NASN speaker on both Saturday and Sunday and extracurricular activities for you to enjoy with your family! We will keep you up to date when registration will open. Stay tuned!

As I close, I want to wish all of the members a very happy new year and success in your day to day practice and personal accomplishments as well. School Nurses must adapt to the low albeit chronic stress of the educational system. Recognize that some matters and environments will not change anytime soon so take care of your bodies and your own mental health. Enjoy your lives and friends and family. Love yourselves as you continue to nurture our future.

**ASNC Contacts:**

- **President:** Chlo-Anne Bobrowski MSN, RN  
  cbobrowski@wethersfield.me
- **Past President:** Suzanne Levasseur MS, APRN, CPNP  
  slevasseur@westport.k12.ct.us
- **President Elect:** Kathy Neelon MS, RN  
  kneelon@wallingfordschools.org
- **Treasurer:** Kathleen Maffuid BSN, RN, NCSN  
  kmaffuid@wethersfield.me
- **Technology Chair:** Alicia Casucci APRN, CPNP, NCSN  
  acasucci@darienps.org
- **Recording Secretary:** Joan Campbell MSN, RN  
  jcampbell@ci.milford.ct.us
- **Corresponding Secretary:** (vacant voting position)
- **NASN Director:** Cheryl Resha Ed.D., MSN,RN, FNASN  
  Reshac1@southernct.edu
- **Membership:** Verna Bernard-Jones MS, RN, NCSN  
  vbernerd@hartfordschools.org
- **Newsletter:** Annette Sauerbrunn MPH, RN  
  sauerbrunn.annette@northhavenschools.org
- **Education:** Mary Russell MSN, RN, NCSN  
  russellm@norwalkps.org
- **Program Chair:** Lauren Young BSN, RN  
  Lyoung@wallingfordschools.org
- **Government Relations:** Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN  
  donnak.ncsn@gmail.com
- **NESNC Liaison:** Karen Owen MSN, RN, NCSN  
  owenk@madison.k12.ct.us
- **EMS-C** Trish Vayda BSN, RN, NCSN-E  
  www.ctschoolnurses.org
- **Member at Large** Mary Anne Porto BSN, RN, NCSN  
  map_rn@yahoo.com (underscore before rn)
Speaking Of New Board Members...

We’re very pleased to welcome our newest members to the ASNC Board:

Mary Russell MSN, RN, NCSN - Chairperson of the Education Committee

Alicia Casucci APRN, CPNP, NCSN - Technology Chairperson

Lori Flaherty BSN, RN - Co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee

Calling All Secretaries!

There is an open position of the ASNC Board for a Corresponding Secretary. Interested members should contact Chlo Bobrowski at cbobrowski@wethersfield.me for more information. We’d love to have you join us!

Fall Dinner Meeting

The Fall ASNC Dinner Meeting was a great success, with about 60 members present from all over the state. It was held at Season’s Restaurant in East Haven, formerly known as the Country House Restaurant, home of many previous dinner meetings. There was a great variety of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres during the cocktail hour, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. Italian pastries rounded out the meal, which was then followed by two simultaneous presentations. There were also nine different vendors offering information about asthma, concussion care, dental care, lice treatment, and even a substitute school nurse staffing agency! As always, there was an eclectic assortment of “freebies” offered, such as pens, stress balls, posters and other gifts offered by our generous vendors.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Sharon Smith. She is a Professor of Pediatrics at the UCONN School of Medicine, and the Associate Program Director of the Pediatric residency program at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (CCMC) as well as an Attending Physician in the ED there. Upon completion of her discussion, it was “all hands on deck” as the nurses had the opportunity to work with the mannequins to practice packing wounds with Quik Clot and wrap a tourniquet to stop major bleeds. All attendees were given their own tourniquet and a certificate of completion.

Dr. Smith was accompanied by two highly qualified nurses, Jennifer Tabak and Liz Denby-Callahan, who each run trauma programs at CCMC and Danbury Hospital, respectively. While some of the nurses were practicing their skills using Quik Clot, the rest enjoyed...
a presentation about identifying skin rashes, always a popular and informative topic among school nurses. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, with plenty of time for socializing and networking with our colleagues from other towns and cities, while learning valuable information relevant to our practice. Our next meeting will be held in early 2019, at a location TBD. Hope to see you all there!

Consider Becoming A Nationally Certified School Nurse

Editor’s Note: The following information was obtained from the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN) website (https://www.nbcsn.org).

The National Certification Examination for School Nurses is offered periodically throughout the year, and is given in a computer-based format. Prometric is the testing provider for NBCSN, and has locations across the US. There is a non-refundable application fee of $360.00.

School nurses holding a baccalaureate degree or higher in nursing or health-related field relevant to school nursing are automatically educationally qualified to sit for this exam. Those holding a bachelor’s degree or higher in a non-nursing or non-health related field must provide evidence of having completed 6 credits in any combination of the following subjects:

- Management of primary health care problems of children and/or adolescents
- Health assessment of children and/or adolescents
- Public health/community health/epidemiology

There are a maximum of 200 multiple-choice questions, with a total testing time of four hours. In order to take the exam, you must apply within the designated time frame. The application cutoff date is 30 days prior to the start of the testing window, which is outlined below. Once NBCSN has processed your application and determines that you have met all eligibility requirements, you will receive notification via email with your Authorization to Test (ATT), which will include all the information you will need to schedule your testing. You cannot schedule your exam until you receive this ATT communication. It is recommended that you schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your ATT email, to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and date. It is your responsibility to contact Prometric at http://www.prometric.com to schedule the exam.

The exam will be available during the following three testing windows in 2019:

- Winter/Spring testing window: March 7- March 30, 2019. Registration is open from November 15, 2018 and closes Feb. 7, 2019
- Summer testing window: July 11- July 31, 2019. Registration opens March 21 2019, and closes June 11, 2019
- Fall testing window: October 31- November 13, 2019. Registration opens August 1, 2019, and closes September 30, 2019.

Want to learn more about NBCSN or the credential? Contact a local NBCSN Liaison:

Donnak.ncsn@gmail.com, or

NBCSN, 1120 Route 73, Suite 200, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Phone: 1-833-276-0986 Fax: 1-856-439-0525 Email: info@nbcsn.org

Important Note:

As of January 1, 2020, a bachelor's degree or higher in nursing will be the requirement.

Congratulations to these Connecticut nurses who recently passed the examination and are now Nationally Certified School Nurses:

Rocio Fields
Jane Sandri
Robin Weissauer
Benefits of Your ASNC Membership

Are you aware of all the benefits available to you as an ASNC member? Check out the possibilities here:

Unified Membership Structure

The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) has agreed that members of the organization must belong to both ASNC and the National Association of School Nurses, Inc. (NASN). Membership dues are collected annually and managed at NASN national headquarters. All of the membership benefits offered to members by NASN are extended to ASNC members.

ASNC Member Content and Resources

- **Advocacy**: State-level advocacy to advance the practice of school nursing, student health and education.
- **Awards and recognition**
- **Dinner Meetings**: Three meetings per year with continuing education credits at a reduced rate and opportunities to meet with vendors and other school nurses throughout the state.
- **Discussion List**: This resource is for ASNC members to share knowledge and resources.
- **E-Communications**: ASNC uses the discussion list to share upcoming professional development activities, updates in practice, and other important information.
- **Legislative Updates**: ASNC will share information on issues related to school health and children, and provide language regarding ASNC’s position on legislative bills.
- **Networking Opportunities**: In-person opportunities at professional development events, and online opportunities in the discussion list or online community.
- **Newsletters**: Current and archived editions; published throughout the year.

- **Professional Development**: ASNC members receive reduced rates on ASNC professional development including continuing education events and activities.
- **Website**: Content is continuously updated and includes resources such as upcoming programs, position statements, state regulations, and legislative alerts.

NASN Member Content and Resources

- **All Members Forum** on SchoolNurseNet
- **Annual Conference** reduced registration rates for members
- **Awards and Scholarships**
- **Books and Tools in the Bookstore** offered with special member rates
- **NASN School Nurse** published 6 times a year
- **NASN Weekly Digest e-newsletter**
- **National Advocacy**
- **Online Continuing Education credits** offered for free or reduced rates to members
- **Research Grants**
- **Sight for Students®, a VSP Global® Eyes of Hope® gift certificate program** members can extend to students who qualify
- **The Journal of School Nursing** published six times a year
- **Website** containing latest news from NASN, educational initiatives, advocacy skill building tools, research resources and tools, position statements, and more.

Certification Review Class
From Donna Kosioowski MS RN NCSN, Connecticut Liaison to NBCSN

ASNC offered a certification review class on July 12, 2018 at ACES in Hamden, Connecticut. Pictured are school nurse attendees and course leaders, Sue Levasseur and Donna Kosiorowski. Not pictured- instructor Antoinette Towle.

Attendees received a Certification Review Book, an opportunity to obtain tips on test taking, and test content. The course culminated in a certification “Jeopardy Game”.

School Nurse Certification is a personal and professional achievement. School nurses are encouraged to set certification as a professional development goal.

Updated HARs Are Now Available

The State of CT Department of Education has revised its Health Assessment Record (HAR-3) to now include an Oral Health Assessment/Screening section in Part 3. The new Oral Health Screening Requirements became effective as of 7/1/18, as described in Public Act No. 18-168, under Substitute House Bill No. 5028. The oral health assessment can be done by (1) a licensed dentist, (2) a licensed dental hygienist, (3) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine trained in conducting an oral health assessment as part of an approved training program, (4) a licensed physician assistant who is trained in conducting an oral health assessments as part of such a training program, or (5) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse who is trained in conducting an oral health assessment of such a training program. Health care providers do not need to complete section 3 of the HAR if they are not qualified to do so.

Parental or guardian consent to this assessment is also required, although there is no requirement that they be present when the oral health assessment is being conducted by a licensed outpatient clinic operating on school grounds. Parents or guardians may also opt their child out of this assessment, or choose to be present during the examination, or may choose to provide for such assessment themselves. Children may not be denied enrollment or continued attendance in public school even if they do not have an oral assessment completed.

Forms for the new HAR-3 and Oral Health Screening can be accessed on the CSDE school nurse website: www.ct.gov/sde/schoolnurse under Documents/Forms (please reference form on page 7)
Part 3 — Oral Health Assessment/Screening
Health Care Provider must complete and sign the oral health assessment.

To Parent(s) or Guardian(s):
State law requires that each local board of education request that an oral health assessment be conducted prior to public school enrollment, in either grade six or grade seven, and in either grade nine or grade ten (Public Act No. 18-168). The specific grade levels will be determined by the local board of education. The oral health assessment shall include a dental examination by a dentist or a visual screening and risk assessment for oral health conditions by a dental hygienist, or by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse who has been trained in conducting an oral health assessment as part of a training program approved by the Commissioner of Public Health.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name (Last, First, Middle)</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Date of Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Grade</td>
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<tr>
<th>Home Address</th>
<th>Parent/Guardian Name (Last, First, Middle)</th>
<th>Home Phone</th>
<th>Cell Phone</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Dental Examination**
Completed by:
- □ Dentist
- □ MD/DO
- □ APRN
- □ PA
- □ Dental Hygienist

**Visual Screening**
Completed by:

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<td>□ Yes</td>
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<th>Referral Made:</th>
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<td>□ Yes</td>
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<td>□ No</td>
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**Risk Assessment**

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<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Dental or orthodontic appliance</td>
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<td>Saliva</td>
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<td>Gingival condition</td>
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<td>Visible plaque</td>
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<td>Tooth demineralization</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<th>Describe Risk Factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Carious lesions</td>
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<td>□ Restorations</td>
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<td>□ Pain</td>
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<td>□ Swelling</td>
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<td>□ Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Other</td>
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Recommendation(s) by health care provider: ____________________________

I give permission for release and exchange of information on this form between the school nurse and health care provider for confidential use in meeting my child’s health and educational needs in school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ________________________________________

Date __________________________

Signature of health care provider: DMD / DDS / MD / DO / APRN / PA / RDH

Date Signed __________________________

Printed/Stamped Provider Name and Phone Number __________________________