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WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
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WASHINGTON DC

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

Planning a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance (NQSA) Outreach – Update and Solicitation of Interest in the Nursing Community

Background

At the July 20th NQSA meeting, reactors shared their concerns regarding the proposed composition of the Steering Committee. Specifically, some reactors indicated that they would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee but feared that equal access had been prohibited. (Specifically, the Steering Committee is comprised of a Principal from each of the eight original nursing convener organizations while all reactor organizations must “compete” for three Principal seats.) As a result, we wondered, “What will be the ‘universe’ of nursing organizations interested in serving on NQSA’s Steering Committee?”

In an effort to answer that question, variations of the following survey were sent by email to three subgroups:

- Reactors who attended the July 20th NQSA meeting;
- Any other reactor who had attended any other NQSA meeting;
- The comprehensive list of nursing organizations with which project staff initially conducted outreach and has had some ongoing communication.

Together, this solicitation (attachment 1) was distributed by email to more than 70 organizational contacts.

Results

To date, only a handful of organizations have elected to respond. In total, seven responses have been shared: one organization sought additional information, and another six email addresses were undeliverable/not relevant. Of the seven responses, the results are displayed below:

1. Does your organization intend to join NQSA as a member?

3 - Yes

0 - No

4 - Not sure

2. Is your organization be interested in serving as a Principal on NQSA’s Steering Committee?

2- Yes

2- No

3- Not sure

Attachment 1: Content of Communication and Survey Items

This email is a quick follow up to last week's NQSA planning meeting held at The George Washington University (GW). As you know, a proposal has been submitted to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to enable the leaders of the nation's nursing organizations to formally launch NQSA early next year (2010).

You may also remember from the pre-discussion that I led with you and other reactors last week that a NQSA's primary governance structure has been envisioned as a 17-member Steering Committee (SC) comprised as follows:

- 8 Principals from the original convener organizations
- 3 Principals from the other national nursing organizations
- 3 Principals representing consumer, patient, and family voices
- 2 Principals representing other key stakeholder groups (e.g., government partners, payors, health professional organizations, accreditors, and suppliers)

Additionally, work groups that are both strategic and tactical (i.e., membership, nominating, finance, development, consumer, performance measurement/improvement, policy) will spearhead NQSA work and execute the SC's direction.

As part of our discussion, I heard some preliminary interest among reactors who attended the meeting in serving on the Steering Committee as a Principal. (As a reminder, NQSA dues will be \$2,500/annually for organizations that serve on the Steering Committee and \$750/annual for those that do not serve on the SC).

At the bottom of this email, I've asked you to respond to a few questions that will help me, my GW colleagues, and the conveners contemplate this proposed SC structure and possible alternatives. At your option, if you'd prefer to contact me directly or email me your suggestions/concerns, I'd be most grateful. I'm eager to learn of your organization's level of interest and accommodate as many interested organizations as possible. I look forward to hearing back...

Best,

Ellen

Please take a few moments, and answer the following questions.

1. Does your organization intend to join NQSA as a member?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Comments: _____

2. Is your organization be interested in serving as a Principal on NQSA’s Steering Committee?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Comments: _____

3. Is your organization interested in serving on one or more of the envisioned work groups?:

- Membership
- Nominating
- Finance
- Development
- Consumer
- Performance Measurement and Improvement
- Policy

- Yes. Which one(s) are of specific interest? _____
- No
- Not sure

Comments: _____

4. Do you have any other feedback and/or comments about NQSA’s proposed Steering Committees and/or work groups?

Comments: _____

3. Is your organization interested in serving on one or more of the envisioned work groups?:

5- Yes. Which one(s) are of specific interest? Only the Policy, Performance Measurement and Improvement, and Consumer Work Groups were cited to be of interest.

0 - No

2 - Not sure

In addition to these answers, respondents share the following additional comments:

- I personally see this as a vital alliance to the future of nursing practice and the collaborative approach will increase the advocacy voice for future legislation affecting nursing and healthcare.
- I think it will be important to map out how you interface with other Nursing Quality Committees
- Excellent and focused working group. This is critical work for the profession.
- The degree to which the Alliance would be representing quality and safety in all settings of care is not clear with the present structure. The conveners were heavily acute care and primary care oriented and with the majority of spots on the steering committee locked with their priorities, it is unclear what promise the Alliance would have for addressing and advocating for issues related to public health and prevention. I did mention during the 3rd session our disappointment of the term “patient” in the vision statement, indicating that the Alliance’s focus is on nurses who consumers of health care who are already ill and in the system, and not on nurses who serve consumers of preventative population focused health care who have yet to become ill. I would have liked an opportunity to comment on the vision prior to it being adopted.
- If part of an alliance, I would want more of a voice and participation than the planned structure going forward would allow. I understand the desire to provide this venue for the major players, and that the majority of care that would be considered by such group would be acute oriented, but the benefit to the minor players and subspecialty associations is not clear.
- I did appreciate the increased ability for responders to comment during the final meeting.

Based on these limited results, it does not appear as if there will be an excessive number of nursing organizations that wish to serve on NQSA’s Steering Committee.

Key Questions

Based on the steps that were taken and these responses, have we adequately answered the question, “What will be the ‘universe’ of nursing organizations interested in serving on NQSA’s Steering Committee?” Furthermore, do we believe that any additional actions should be taken to accommodate criticisms that were shared about equal access?