



DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

Overview of Public-Private Quality Alliances

Planning a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance

Karen B. Pace, PhD, RN
Consultant

The George Washington University
Department of Nursing Education



Information Gathering

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

- Portrayal of the most active health care quality alliances
- Review of public information (e.g., web sites)
- Attendance at regular meetings of several alliances (i.e., HOA, QASC, LTCQA)
- Supplemented with telephone interviews with key contacts during December 2008 and January 2009
- 'Snapshot' of 9 existing and/or developing alliances

© The George Washington University
Do not cite, quote, or distribute without permission

2



Key Points

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

- Dramatic variation in the roles, organization, funding, and formality of each alliance



| | |
|--|---|
| Initiating quality improvement activities (e.g., APQ) | Adopting performance measures for implementation and public reporting (e.g., HQA) |
| Loose affiliation of like-minded organizations (e.g., APQ) | Formal, legal entity (e.g., PQA) |
| In-kind contributions fund activities (e.g., APQ) | 'Parent' organization solely funds activities (e.g., KCQA) |

© The George Washington University
Do not cite, quote, or distribute without permission

3



Case Example #1

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

Alliance for Pediatric Quality (APQ)

- Spreads improvement initiatives
- Views role in performance measurement as linked to its QI initiatives
- Informal partnership among four organizations (i.e., American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Board of Pediatrics, Child Health Corporation of America, and the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions)
- No membership beyond the 4 partners
- Existing staff from partner organizations conduct all work supplemented by contract with communications firm
- Direct costs are shared by partners
- Indirect opportunities for nursing involvement only through partners

© The George Washington University
Do not cite, quote, or distribute without permission

4



Case Example #2

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

Kidney Care Quality Alliance (KCQA)

- Develops and tests measures for use in policy (e.g., public reporting and pay for performance)
- Established by a 'parent' organization (i.e., Kidney Care Partners [KCP]) based on a need to influence the transparency and accountability agendas
- Subsidiary of an independent legal, entity formed as a nonprofit corporation (KCP)
- No employees
- Two dedicated consultants conduct measure development and testing while KCP consultants provide additional administrative and support services
- Membership is open and there are no dues/fees for KCQA
- KCP exclusively funds to avoid membership downturns
- American Nephrology Nurses Association serves on KCQA Steering Committee

© The George Washington University. Do not cite, quote, or distribute without permission

5



Key Questions

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

- What lessons can we learn from the existing alliances?
- Are there best practices to embrace and/or pitfalls to avoid?

© The George Washington University. Do not cite, quote, or distribute without permission

6
