



FutureThink News

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FutureThink Institute Launches Leadership Academy

The Ohio Organization for Nurse Executives together with the OHA Workforce Committee designed a 14-month Transformational Leadership Academy to develop leaders who could then transform hospitals. By sending teams of 10 leaders and emerging leaders through the academy's training program, hospitals have the chance to transform their organization and the way care is delivered in their communities.

FutureThink's leadership academy goes beyond a typical leadership training program, preparing hospital leaders to be:

- Equipped with a new set of tools that will enable them to be powerful leaders in creating the hospital's future;
- Effective at generating bold possibilities, enrolling people and getting them committed to those possibilities, and creating results that are beyond-the-predictable;
- Able to empower, coach and hold people accountable while they remain coach-able and easy to develop and promote.

The Transformational Leadership Academy is now registering hospital teams and encourage Ohio hospitals to begin formulating teams for the training. Contact Jean Scholz at 614.221.7614 or jeans@ohanet.org with any thoughts or questions.

Download an application on the new FutureThink Website at <http://www.futurethink.org/institute.htm>.

Columbus Project Treads New Ground

When creating the preferred future for the delivery of clinical care, initial participants in FutureThink recognized the value of a care delivery model that promotes collaboration and respects the contributions of different caregivers. A project underway in Columbus through The Center for Collaborative Health Education at OSU Harding is geared toward doing just that.

The program is touted as the first in the country to bring together faculty and graduate students from the disciplines of primary care, psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing, social work, and couples and family counseling. These individuals are integrated into a multifaceted program that includes a weekly clinical seminar as well as joint placements in both traditional and non-traditional settings. The center operates under the aegis of OSU Harding Hospital and Foundation and the Ohio Department of Mental Health. Grayce M. Sills, RN, PhD is founder and project director of the Center.

The program provides a new approach to education that:

1. Incorporates mental health and physical health to facilitate high quality care for common mental disorders at the interface of general medicine.
2. Encourages collaboration among disciplines.
3. Is System-driven with consumer, family and community involvement
4. Is competency-based approach to learning utilizing best practices with a focus on cultural competency and trauma-informed care
5. Incorporates the implications of managed care for clinical practice.

The center offers a model for health professional education aimed at putting collaboration among professionals and integrating students into practice, bringing Ohio closer to the FutureThink vision for preferred delivery of health care.

Grants Help Ohio Hospitals Partner with Business to Boost Health

OHA's Foundation for Healthy Communities has awarded \$425,000 to hospitals to support employee wellness programs with local business partners. The program links hospitals with expertise in promoting wellness with diverse business partners that share the commitment to help their employees live healthier and the conviction that healthier employees are good for business and will lead to lower health care costs. The grants are funded by Healthy Ohioans, a multi-year initiative launched by Gov. Bob Taft and the Ohio Department of Health to promote healthy lifestyles and ultimately reduce chronic disease rates. Learn more at <http://www.healthycommunitiesohio.org/>.

Health Policy Institute of Ohio Receives Grant

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio received a \$350,000 federal contract to study how the state's privacy and security laws and business practices would impact the electronic transfer of patient medical records. The Ohio Department of Health and Governor Bob Taft named the Health Policy Institute as the state's designee for the contract to fund the establishment of the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration. Ohio is one of 22 states selected to participate in the study of how policy and business practice would impact the National Health Information Network.

House Panels Pass Different Health IT Bill

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy & Commerce Committee passed separate versions of H.R. 4157, aimed at spurring the adoption of health information technology. The Ways & Means Committee's version included the American Hospital Association-backed provision to adopt the modernized ICD-10 coding system by October 2009 and provisions to advance uniform privacy and security standards, while the Commerce Committee bill excludes those provisions. Both versions of the bill would exempt from federal anti-kickback and self-referral laws hospitals that share hardware, software, IT training or support services with physicians to exchange health information electronically.

Health IT Advocates Urged to Press Federal Lawmakers

Newt Gingrich, former House Speaker and founder of the Center for Health Transformation, recently spoke to the Healthcare and Management Systems Society in Washington, D.C.. Gingrich discussed the need for executives in the health care industry to further push representatives and lawmakers to pass legislation related to health information technology. He shared the opinion that though the Bush administration was to be commended for the effort put forward to adopt IT and reach a state of interoperability, the efforts have been to slow. He suggested that Congress would be more inspired to push the issue if it were presented as a national security solution in the case of disasters or attacks. The society also welcomed speakers Mark McClellan, administrator of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services; David Brailer, vice chair of American Health Information Community, and Carolyn Clancy, director for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Ohio Hospitals Awarded for Workplace Safety

For more than 50 years, OHA's Statewide Hospital Safety Campaign has recognized hospitals with the most successful safety programs and superior employee safety records. This year, 23 Ohio hospitals were awarded for their efforts.

This year, 99 hospitals participated and were divided into nine groups according to the number of people they employ. Hospitals with the lowest injury rate in each group, hospitals receiving the top 20 percent award and the facility that displays outstanding progress in safety rates from last year to this year were recognized at the OHA Recognition Dinner June 12 as part of OHA's Annual Meeting.

Lake Hospital System Helps Fix a Problem

Lake Hospital System's (LHS) Healthy Heart School Program will be expanded in response to mounting evidence of overweight children in America.

LHS has been awarded a grant of nearly \$23,000 to expand this program to an additional 900 students in the next three years. The program educates elementary-grade students about good nutrition and exercise and was targeted to third-graders in 1993. It quickly expanded to include fourth and fifth graders.

The program's goal is to convince children to adopt a healthy lifestyle early enough in life that parents also hear and accept the message of eating fruits and vegetables and getting regular exercise.

The childhood obesity problem necessitates that various groups become involved with initiatives like Healthy Heart. In line with FutureThink's objective to help Ohioans maintain physical, mental and spiritual well-being through timely prevention in collaboration with health care workers, LHS should be commended for sending a strong message and being an active participant in altering a current trend and showing children must be more physically active.

Hospitals Ease Current Nurse Shortage, Long-Term Worries Persist

While higher pay, temporary help and other costly short-term strategies are helping many hospitals ease the shortage of nurses, lack of nursing school capacity remains a big barrier to meeting the nation's long-term nursing needs, according to report by the Center for Studying Health System Change. Based largely on information gathered last year from 32 hospitals in 12 U.S. cities, the report cites government forecasts of a shortage of more than 1 million nurses by 2012. The authors of the survey claim that it is not enough for hospitals to combat the shortage, public financial support as well as an expanded nursing education plan are also required to curve the nations nursing shortage.

Federal Immigration Bill Addresses Caregiver Shortages

On May 29, the U.S. Senate passed the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (S. 2611), which contains several provisions to address caregiver shortages. The bill permanently extends the June 1 expiration of the State 30 J-1 visa program, which permits foreign workers training in the U.S. residency program under a J-1 visa to remain in the country after finishing their studies if they agree to practice in an underserved rural community for three years.

Current law limits the number of employment-based visas a given county's citizens can attain under the J-1 visa program. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), allows more qualified internationally trained caregivers to work in the U.S. by exempting nurses and physical therapists from these per-country caps from now until 2017. During this time, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Institute of Medicine would study staffing issues and recommended to Congress ways of increasing the domestic supply of nurses and physical therapists. Ohio Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich both voted in favor of the bill. The larger immigration reform package faces upcoming struggles, as many conservation in the U.S. House oppose amnesty provisions for undocumented aliens in the Senate-passed version. A joint conference committee of the House and Senate will attempt to craft compromise legislation this summer.

The FutureThink Institute is an initiative of the Ohio Hospital Association, working toward creating long-term solutions for Ohio's health care system. The FutureThink Institute takes a multidimensional approach to designing better ways to deliver care and changing the demand for health care professionals in order to achieve better results for our communities. Learn more about the FutureThink Institute, and view the FutureThink News archives at www.futurethink.org.

Editor's note: Please share news or comments with Jean Scholz, jeans@ohanet.org, or call 614.221.7614. To be removed from this mailing list, please reply to this e-mail with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.