

# Advocacy Team – Detailed Report

## March 2001 Health Professions Network

### Team members:

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The HPN Advocacy Team will advocate for improved access to and quality of health care including the use of and reimbursement for qualified health professionals.

The team will accomplish this through education of consumers, policymakers, funding agencies and physicians about the scope of practice, education and training, credentialing and qualifications of health professionals. The HPN Advocacy Team will work to influence legislation and regulation, which will promote access of patients to the services of trained and qualified health care professionals.

### Successes from Columbus, September 2000

1. In collaboration with the NN2 and ASAHP, develop comprehensive marketing of Allied Health Week.

- Pooled recipients of 2000 packet and noted problems to correct (Mary Margaret)
- Strong links developed with NN2 (Steve Valands) and ASAHP (Jack Trufant)
- Allied Health Professions Week logo and dates were agreed upon for materials
- Packet of 2000 material was updated and redesigned and pricing for printing and graphic design was researched. (Theresa)
- Buttons were produced and a distribution service was confirmed for promo materials (Jean)
- Plan was developed for the World Congress – flyer and buttons to be distributed (Jack, Peggy)
- Distribution was decided upon. Approximately 500 packets will be sent including a button, a promotional material sheet with info on ordering, a Celebration Packet, and a cover letter.
  - Distribution will be to: HPN list (145), NN2 Deans (120), ASAHP Deans (120), Accrediting agencies: CAAHEP (18) and others (20), other non-HPN professions from occupations directory (40)
  - Packet should include a definition of Allied Health which was developed (team)
  - Cover letter should list supportive organizations (team)
- In addition to the packets, an information letter will be sent to physicians via the AMA and to hospitals/HR people via AHA or ASSHRA (Jack) Possibly also to Guidance Counselors, HOSA, and Federal legislators.
- Posters were discussed and it was decided to use the general layout of the older poster but to include photos of professionals giving allied health.
- All material will be available on the web at [www.asahp.org](http://www.asahp.org) and [www.nn2.org](http://www.nn2.org) and [www.alliedhealth.org](http://www.alliedhealth.org) and at HPN's soon to be announced websites.
- Creative ways to finance this project were discussed (team) Ask for donations in cover letter.

2. Develop a “leave with” fact sheet for legislators and regulators

Fact sheet was started (Peggy) and definition and numbers were decided upon (team)

Definition of Allied Health:

*Allied health professionals are health care providers with formal education and clinically training who are credentialed through certification, registration and/or licensure to deliver health services. These professionals, working with physicians and other members of the health care team, provider services to identify, evaluate, treat and prevent diseases and disorders.*

3. Find conduit to influence federal legislators and regulators
  - The “Allied Health Representation: A Call for Action” from CAHL was reviewed by the team
  - A plan was developed to use the advisory committees as conduits to the federal groups
    - Goal was set to place someone in each of the recommended committees
    - Decision was made to use HPN members or someone recommended by an HPN member as nominees to ensure feedback and Allied Health advocacy
    - Plan to use this nomination process as a promotional tool with allied health professional groups that are not active in HPN.
4. Identify items that HPN could rally behind that promote Allied Health Professions nationally
  - Advisory Committee representatives will keep eyes and ears open for issues.
  - Possibly in the future, a subset of our group could identify key issues pertinent to everyone.

## **Action Plan from Cincinnati, March 16, 2001**

### **Allied Health Professions week – November 3 – 10, 2001**

#### Packets (Handbook, cover letter, button, promo page) to be sent to distribution list by April 27

- Enter a database including ASAHP Deans, NN2 Deans, Accreditation Committees, Professional groups from the Occupations Directory. (Jack)
- Check database against HPN directory/participation list and remove duplication (Theresa)
- Compile packet information – stuffing and mailing ???
  - Handbook (Theresa with graphic designer)
  - Cover letter (Deb)
  - Button and promotional page (Jean)
  - Posters (Theresa with Marcia)

#### Distribute information to related allied health groups by September 1:

- Assign team member to research each of the following. Results should include a mailing list or avenue towards mailing, and promise of written notice in group newsletters:
  - Federal Legislators
  - Guidance Counselors
  - AMA
  - AHA/ASSHRA (Theresa)
  - HOSA
- Compile packet information for each group and write the cover letter. Each packet should include a cover letter, a button, promotional material sheet, participation list and the fact sheet

#### Develop financial resources to cover costs of Allied Health Week 2001

- Petition ASAHP and NN2 for money
- Research receipt of 2000 DHHS moneys
- Petition DHHS for 2001 funding
- Ask for donations from professional societies.

### **Develop the Fact Sheet**

- Finish it (Peggy/Theresa) to be including in the mailing to related allied health groups

### **Conduit for allied health representation**

1. Find volunteers, collect information and nominate at least 20 individuals to committees by the next HPN meeting.
  - Inform professional organizations about this opportunity via the press release supplied by the CAHL. Use this tool to advertise for HPN. Ask HPN members for interested individuals (done at HPN March, 01)
  - Advocacy team will request credentials of volunteers and match volunteers with committees.
  - Advocacy team will find out more information from the committee chairs and inform volunteers of the requirements of the committee to which he/she will be nominated - and then write recommendations.
2. Develop a media package for allied health professionals to lobby for allied health issues. (Donna). Also, suggest a lobbyist as speaker for the next HPN meeting and assure that political advocacy journal is on the HPN website.