

Council Notes

The SRNA 13-member Council met for three days, February 5, 6 and 7, 2019. The following is an overview of the discussions that occurred and decisions that were made.

Executive Director Update

The SRNA's new Executive Director, Cindy Smith, presented her report to Council along with the members of the Leadership Team, highlighting what has been happening in all aspects of operationalizing the strategic plan in alignment with the ENDS. Some of the updates included:

- The continued implementation of the 2018-2020 SRNA Strategic Plan, including key partner and staff involvement to create an action plan to meet the strategic objectives.
- An update on the work completed with the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) over the past few months, including attending a board of directors meeting in November. This discussion also included an update on the delivery of the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam (CNPE) in Saskatchewan and the harmonized approach New Brunswick is taking for the French translation of the NCLEX.
- An update on the investigations process, including active cases, cases awaiting decisions, and the triaging process. There was also an update regarding the team responsible for investigations and discipline. These updates included:
 - There are currently 58 open cases, continuing to work on older cases first unless there is a requirement or need to push ahead
 - The working triaging process ranks the cases as critical, emergent, urgent and less urgent, and this process continues to be reviewed
 - The investigation's team has extended the contracts of two outside contract investigators to aid in reducing case load, and is also hiring for a nursing advisor for Complaints and Investigation
- An update on the external review of the SRNA's investigation, complaints and discipline processes conducted by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) that took place in December 2018. The final report will be available within the next few months.
- A review of the new membership database to be implemented in 2019.
- An update on the new practice call application to be launched in March 2019. The application will be used to guide educational and discussion themes, identifying areas members require more information.
- A review of the nursing practice-related inquiries received by the practice team, including:
 - Cosmetic
 - RN(NP) authority and scope of practice

- RN authority, including grad nurses, and related practice responsibilities
- RN speciality practices
- Tele-practice and cross-border consultation
- An update on the social media strategy.
- An update on the RN Standards and Foundation Competencies (formerly Entry Level Competencies). The SRNA's new document combines standards, indicators and competencies. Final public consultations on the new document are occurring in February 2019, with Council approval slated for March and a membership vote in May.
- RN(AAP) fall 2018 survey results:
 - Seamless transition but there is a concern with number of RNs in the North
 - There was careful and well demonstrated collaboration in December 2016, when transfer of medical function ceased
 - Public perception of care maintained at high rate
 - Nurses who were PLAR'd (assessed based on prior learning) are deemed more prepared than nurses who took courses alone
 - 80 percent of RN(AAP)s expecting to work 300 hours in the next year
 - Average age of diploma prepared RN(AAP) is 57
 - Project is considered completed with this final review
 - Determining next steps in relation to advanced RN practice
- An update on the SRNA Committees and the work being done to expand representation and educational opportunities.
- An update on SRNA employee and staff engagement, the healthy workplace project, and the Stratford compensation and job description review.

Executive Limitations Policy Monitoring

Council affirmed the following policies are in compliance:

Policy 2.1 Treatment of Staff

Policy 2.2 Financial Planning

Policy 2.3 Financial Management

Policy 2.4 Protection of Assets (deferred from November 2018 Council meeting)

Policy 2.5 Member & Public Interaction

Policy 2.7 Communication and Support to the Council

Policy 2.11 Registration Examinations

President Report

President Joanne Petersen reported on her activities since the last Council meeting in November. Joanne represented the SRNA at several conferences and meetings. Following the November Council meeting, Interim Executive Director, Jayne Naylen Horbach, joined Joanne at the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) board meeting and various Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa, including visiting the Indigenous War Memorial, a ceremony in front of the Nurses Memorial in Centre Block of Parliament, and placing their poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown

Solider. In early January, Joanne attended a new grad and student presentation at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic campus on preparing for the NCLEX. She also had the opportunity to guest lecture to the U of S nursing students at the Regina campus and take in a student led lunch and learn where a smudging ceremony was held.

Nursing Education Program Approval Committee (NEPAC)

Jolene Issel, RN(NP) and SRNA Nursing Advisor, presented three council briefs with recommendations for approval regarding RN(AAP) course approvals, program annual reports summary 2018, and program approval updates. Jolene presented on the rigorous steps and processes involving course approval, and the challenges currently facing the committee, including consistent clinical hour and entry requirements for the RN(AAP) designation, the volume of the course manuals and no standard templates for course approval, and the need to create one unified program approval manual. All recommendations were approved and carried by Council with little to no alterations.

Update on Draft Governance Policy 3.19 Opioid Use Disorder and Governance Policy 3.20 Methadone

Donna Cooke, RN and SRNA Nursing Advisor, provided Council with an update on the work completed on Governance Policy 3.19 Opioid Use Disorder and Governance Policy 3.20 Methadone. Saskatchewan has an advanced monitoring and tracking system for patients using opioids, but Donna noted some of the challenges, including the lack of a pain clinic similar to those in other provinces.

Update on the 2018 Resolution Regarding Title Protection for RN(NP)s

Donna Cooke, RN and SRNA Nursing Advisor, provided Council with an update on the work completed on the 2018 Resolution Regarding Title Protection for RN(NP)s. A recommendation was made to move into a consultation phase to receive input into the proposal to revise SRNA bylaws changing RN(NP) title to NP. The change would not alter RN licensure but will have to be considered and added as part of the bylaw.

The recommendation was approved and carried by Council, which will advance it into consultation and membership vote.

Nominations Committee Report

Linda Wasko-Lacey, the SRNA Nominations Committee Chair, presented an update on the committee's activities. Linda reviewed the process for obtaining nominations and made recommendations for new strategies moving into next year and to improve the communications on the voting ballot. Linda also noted that there was not a nomination put forward for President-Elect, she reviewed the process according to The Registered Nurses Act 1988 for an appointment to this critical position.

A recommendation was also made for Council to accept the nominations, which was approved and carried. Next steps for the committee include hosting webinars to introduce the nominees to the membership. Voting will open at the end of March 2019.

The slate of candidates for the 2019 Council Election is as follows:

Member-at-Large (3-year term) – Region 3 (formerly Prairie North & Prince Albert Parkland Health Regions):

- Stephanie Beauchesne
- Ronda Zinger
- S. Lynn Jansen

Member-at-Large (3-year term) – Region 7 (formerly Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region):

- Tanya Gattinger
- Leah Thorp

The slate of candidates for the Nominations Committee (2-year term) are as follows:

- Janette Eglund
- Caroline Bykowsky

Truth & Reconciliation

Each day, Council begins meetings with recognition of treaty land, a prayer and blessing by Council Elder Jeanne Sutherland. Council also viewed a 30 minute video excerpt of Dr. James Makokis talk from the U of S Miyo Mahcihowin gathering “[Understanding the Indigenous Health Care System](#)”. The talk touched on the Cree Natural Laws, the Indigenous health system, traditional medicine, and what health care leaders can do to help rebuild the Indigenous health care system. And finally, on the second day of meetings, Elder Jeanne led Council members through a sharing circle. This important work continues the journey Council is committed to with regards to Truth & Reconciliation.

Meeting with Deans of Nursing Education

On our second day of Council, Dr. Phil Woods, Acting Dean, and Dr. Gerri Lasiuk, Assistant Dean, from the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Nursing, Dr. David Gregory, Dean, and Dr. Robin Evans, Associate Dean from the University of Regina’s Faculty of Nursing, and Christa Maclean, Interim Associate Dean, from Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s School of Nursing and School of Health Sciences joined our Council for an academic update. The Deans provided program overviews and updates, including the Two Provider Model review, updates on enrolment and seat distribution, research efforts and clinical practice education. Council was also briefed on the technological upgrades being considered by campuses to advance education and practice opportunities for students. This conversation gave Council the opportunity to better understand the current landscape of nursing education in Saskatchewan from the program level.