

## Rescuing an Inactive Affiliate to Advocate for Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice

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### Background

Florida had 3 established NACNS affiliates that disbanded membership due to limitations in active participation. While there is title protection in the state, CNSs are not recognized as advance practice nurses. No forum existed for collaboration and networking for the CNS role in Florida.

### Identifiable Gaps

- Three inactive NACNS affiliates located throughout the state
- CNS is not considered to be an advanced practice nurse in Florida (limited practice authority)
- Lack of opportunities for networking and collaboration to advocate for promotion and advancement of the CNS role in Florida.

### Discussion

As a result of networking at the NACNS conference in 2016, two CNSs collaborated to establish a plan to create an active state-wide affiliate in Florida. A virtual format was decided upon for monthly meetings and members were recruited from across the state. The first meeting was held in June 2016 and a partnership with the FNA CNS SIG group was formed. Leadership was appointed and goals were established and are on target. Currently there are 34 active members in the affiliate and efforts will be made to continue to grow membership.

### Florida Map



### Objectives

Describe the leadership and collaborative efforts of two CNSs focused on promoting the CNS role and advancing CNS practice in Florida resulting in the establishment of a state-wide NACNS affiliate.

### Goals

- Establishment of a state-wide NACNS affiliate in Florida.
- Develop partnership with the Florida Nurses Association CNS Special Interest Group (SIG) and combine efforts at the state level to advocate for CNS full practice authority.
- Leverage technology to facilitate a virtual format for regularly scheduled meetings.
- Continually grow active membership and participation.

### Evaluation

A state-wide NACNS Florida affiliate was successfully established to strengthen advocacy for the advancement of the CNS role. Future plans include ongoing facilitation strategies to obtain full practice authority for CNSs through increased affiliate membership, strengthening partnership with the FNA, and development of a relationship with the Florida Coalition of Advance Practice Nurses.

### Members by Location

Atlantic Beach- 1  
Gainesville- 2  
Homestead- 1  
Jacksonville- 1  
Lakeland- 5  
Naples- 1  
Orlando- 10  
Tampa- 10

### Purpose

To establish an active affiliate in Florida to function as a platform for CNSs to network, collaborate, and advocate for the advancement of CNS practice.