

Development of a State-wide CNS Organization to Promote the CNS Role & Impact Healthcare Policy

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Objectives

- Describe key steps in developing a state-wide CNS organization
- Discuss how a state-wide CNS organization can impact healthcare policy
- Identify barriers to developing a state-wide CNS organization



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Background & Current State in Alabama

- Lack of role clarity and underutilization of CNS
- Closing of CNS educational programs throughout state
- Absence of true advanced practice privileges, except for title protection
- No existence of a state-wide CNS organization
- Denied prescriptive and full practice authority
 - Lack of organizational support
 - No APRN cohesion
 - Opposed by Board of Medical Examiners



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Establishing AACNS

- Developed purpose for starting organization
- Created AACNS logo
- Gained interest among CNSs throughout the state
- Conducted interest meeting webinar
 - Developed committees – bylaws & finance
 - Prepared for establishment of actual organization
- Held additional meetings to finalize organizational plan
- Pre-planning lasted ~ 5 months



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Bylaws & Finance Committees

Bylaws

- Definition of officers & terms
- Meeting structure
- Alignment with NACNS recommendations

Finance

- Membership types & fees
- Decide how money will be spent
- Work closely with treasurer



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The Official AACNS

- AACNS became an official organization on August 31, 2017!
- Held establishment meeting webinar
 - ABN president in attendance
 - Voted on bylaws, dues, & officers
 - Discussed future short & long term goals of AACNS
- Call for members in the *Alabama Nurse* publication
- Emailed out membership applications
- Opened AACNS bank account
- Encouraged NACNS membership



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AACNS Policy Engagement

ABN APRN Advisory Council

- 7 CNSs appointed to council to represent CNS role
- Additional councils for other 3 APRN roles
- CNS initiatives
 - Improve practice authority through ABN Standardized Procedures
 - Communicate the CNS role throughout the state
 - Address need to add pharmacology CE's similar to other APRNs
 - Explore billing restrictions
- Overall goal to collaborate with other APRNs to improve practice



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Barriers to Establishing AACNS

- Coordinating meeting times with other professional obligations
- Recruiting un-licensed, but educationally trained CNSs
- Allocating benefits of membership with limited funds
- Potential technology issues



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Questions



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