

Professional Issues Committee meeting with Co-Chairs

June 16, 2010

Kathleen Barnett (co-chair), Lou Weigele (co-chair), Sarah Luker (student intern), and Cindy Webb (ED)

Discussed continued loss of social workers in hospital settings and how this can be combated. Sarah is combing the literature to find research on the social work workforce and the social and economic impact in the health care profession.

Action steps:

- Collect the evidence of economic and social cost savings,
- Identify a working sub-committee (currently 5 social workers have an interest);
- identify allies,
- with allies identify an advocacy plan to take evidence to decision makers to shift this current situation

The chairs will develop procedures for the committee to be completed before Leadership Retreat in July 2010. As a newly formed committee, there are no procedures in place.

The co-chairs agreed to present the following priorities to the committee at the Leadership Retreat for the coming year:

- Medical Social Work
- Maintaining our position in health care
- The role of social work in health care reform
- RN Encroachment
- Workplace Safety