



BARGAINING FOR Quality

AFT Healthcare Professional Issues Conference

April 15-18, 2010
Washington Court Hotel
Washington, DC

2010 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Message from Candice Owley

Dear Union Sisters and Brothers:

Whether you routinely participate in AFT Healthcare's Professional Issues Conference or you are a newcomer, welcome! This annual meeting is a highpoint for so many of us interested in learning, sharing, socializing and revitalizing. Each year we meet to talk about priorities for our patients and for our practice, as well as emerging trends in the workplace and the industry, and to learn from each other and experts. No matter the profession or practice setting, we're all looking for strategies and tools that increase our ability to participate in the decision-making that is essential to safe, quality care.

One approach to implementing these strategies is to effect state and federal legislation. Hopefully you will be a part of our lobby day this year. We lobby for laws and regulations that make facilities and agencies accountable for patient safety and quality of care and responsible for sharing information about patient outcomes with the consumers in our communities. We lobby for a variety of mechanisms like patient acuity systems and ratios, or minimum staffing levels, and collection and review of outcome data—all of which will give hands-on providers a measure of control over the number of patients under their care. We lobby to oppose mandatory overtime work; for training and technology to prevent back injuries; and for the right to participate in the planning and purchase of systems to manage patient

information. While many of us have been successful lobbying in our states, others are still working toward these objectives.

Whether or not we've reached our legislative targets, as organized healthcare professionals we have a unique opportunity to address our priorities through our *collective bargaining agreements*. Contracts are a means to address myriad issues, and also to allow us to fine-tune legislative language, or to fill the gaps where laws are not yet in place. Contracts are also our vehicles for patient advocacy, patient safety and professional autonomy. Our contracts are the most powerful professional tools we have, but have we really maximized what they can provide for us? This year, we are focusing on collective bargaining agreements as our mechanism for quality: quality of care and quality of work life. Join us as we talk about using the latest research to create evidence-based policies, practice and contract language. I look forward to learning from you all as we share our successes and our struggles!

In Solidarity,



Candice Owley, Chair
AFT Healthcare
Program and Policy Council

You can register online at: www.aft.org/healthcare.



MICHAEL CAMPBELL

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lobby Day
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Reception

Friday, April 16

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session I
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Plenary Session II
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. 90-minute workshop sessions
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 90-minute workshop sessions
1:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 3-hour extended workshop sessions

Saturday, April 17

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. 90-minute workshop sessions
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 90-minute workshop sessions
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 3-hour extended workshop session
Afternoon free

Sunday, April 18

- 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Plenary Session
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Raffle



TENTATIVE WORKSHOPS

Workshops are 90 minutes long unless otherwise stated. Attendees of 90-minute sessions will be awarded 1.5 contact hours; attendees of four-hour sessions will be awarded four contact hours.

- **Health Information Technology (HIT):** 4-hour session on HIT and its implications for quality of care, healthcare workers, HIPAA, as well as the role locals can play in designing and implementing HIT.
- **Building support for your local and professional priorities:** creating evidence-based proposals for policy changes, contract language and legislation.
- **The ever-changing demographics in our patient population:** cultural competency and culturally based interventions for all healthcare workers.
- **Wandering, elopement, paranoia and aggression;** using best practices to understand and manage challenging behaviors in cognitively impaired patients.
- **Emergency preparedness training for any healthcare setting:** 4-hour session incorporating first receiver training; incident command structure training; components of a good emergency plan; and understanding the contract implications for healthcare workers.
- **Leveraging healthcare facility reimbursement changes to your advantage:** incorporating Medicare priorities for patient safety and satisfaction into your contract proposals for improved staffing, training and resources.
- **Specific medications and classes of medications to avoid in older adults:** understanding how age-related physiologic changes drive decision-making about appropriate medications for aging patients.
- **Creating your own media relations center:** using social media strategies to engage and inform your members; to rally your community; and to influence public policies.
- **Planning for your future:** resources and strategies to help you prepare for your full life cycle!
- **Managing personal wellness:** stress management and behavior strategies to improve your health status and outlook.



A Union of Professionals

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