

To: ISPN Board of Directors

From: Karen M. Robinson and Sally Raphael

Date: 1-30-16

Re: Proposal to form a Policy Special Interest Group (SIG) for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

Introduction:

It is critical that ISPN has a strong, informed and active voice in policy. Issues that affect millions of people with mental illness and substance abuse problems arise across the life span. Since Psychiatric-Mental Health nurses and advanced practice nurses know the needs of various population groups, ISPN can lead in policy development.

Membership:

Following the guidelines for SIG formulation within ISPN as published on 10-1-15, five members are interested in forming a SIG for those working in or interested in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing and Health Policy: Sally Raphael, Karen Robinson, Linda Gerson, Beth Bonham, and Sara Horton-Deutsch. Sally Raphael and Karen Robinson agree to serve as Co-Chairs for the first year. The intention and hope is that any ISPN member who is interested in mental health policy will join.

Purposes:

1. Explore current issues of health policy relevant to Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Practice, Education and Research.
2. Generate a network for members to develop knowledge about policy; collaborate on projects; exchange ideas; disseminate information; and advocate for issues of relevance to Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing.
3. Recommend policy actions to ISPN Board of Directors, The Nursing Community, our Members and other key stakeholders.
4. Submit an article to an appropriate journal on a policy issue of relevance to Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing.

Initial Goals (to be confirmed and refined by the members):

1. Submit an abstract for at least 1 policy-focused presentation for the annual ISPN conference.
2. Develop a mentoring program for those who are new to policy or who are interested in developing a role in policy by Dec. 2017.
3. Follow activities and actions of The Nursing Community, federal/state events and determine strategies for advocacy of policy issues relevant to Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing.
4. Explore the feasibility of collaboration with a mental health stakeholder group.

Meetings:

We propose one meeting at the ISPN conference each year with 2 whole-group conference calls per year for networking and project development. Most work and communication would be through email

or the ISPN list serve, but some small-group conference calls may be required to accomplish project goals. Plans and anticipated calls would be submitted in advance for funding approval.