The Strategic Plan of the 
*American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council*

2012-2017

**Introduction to the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council**

The American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council (APNLC) is an organization that is comprised of nurses who work and reside in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI- American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei) Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau) and Hawaii. The nurses of APNLC represent diverse island communities across a region that spans an area larger than the continental US. APNLC membership includes nurses from the hospital, public health, community, educational and professional nursing organization sectors from each of the USAPI jurisdictions and Hawaii, and strives to act as one voice for nursing in the Pacific. *Collectively, we are APNLC.*

**Mission**

The mission of the APNLC is to provide a unified voice for nursing in the USAPI for the purpose of improving professional nursing practice, education and service in order to inform policy that supports the health of all peoples of the Pacific.

**Vision**

APNLC will be the recognized leader for island nursing professional practice and education in the Pacific, and serve as a key partner for policy, advocacy, consultation, cross disciplinary collaboration and ideas in the Pacific.

**Core Values**

Professional nursing practice and education in the Pacific based on core values, which include mutual respect, trust, flexibility, cultural sensitivity, professional and ethical standards that are based on best practice, and high quality care, is required to assure health in the region.

**Key Priorities**

The following key priorities have been identified for the APNLC. The organization commits to focus its efforts on these key priorities and other critical issues as they arise.
**Non communicable diseases:** Support engagement of USAPI professional nursing in preventing non-communicable diseases and providing primary, secondary and tertiary care to those afflicted with an NCD

- Increase the engagement of nurses in the USAPI in prevention of NCD's, and provision of high quality primary, secondary and tertiary care:
  - Assist with identification of standards for NCD prevention and care
  - Conduct a literature search to identify target body mass index and child height/weight standards for populations in the USAPI
  - Conduct a literature search to identify best practice for nursing care of clients with an NCD in the Pacific setting and share with APNLC members for adaptation and use in the jurisdictions
  - APNLC members will strive to be engaged and contribute to local jurisdiction NCD prevention and treatment initiatives
  - APNLC will partner with associations and contribute input into the development of competency based standards and training of the USAPI healthcare workforce for NCDs
  - Continue to work on research that supports NCD prevention among USAPI residents
  - APNLC will collaborate with UH Manoa to develop and submit an R03 grant for the Healthy Nurses-Healthy Children in the Pacific project

**Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases:** Support engagement of USAPI professional nursing in addressing key emerging infectious diseases

- Increase engagement of nurses in the USAPI in emerging and re-emerging infectious disease prevention, detection and treatment
- Document and share lessons learned regarding nursing response to infectious disease events in the USAPI
- Upon request, APNLC will actively partner with Pacific Basin Medical Association (PBMA) on identifying minimum prevention, diagnostic, treatment and referral standards concerning infectious diseases

**Nursing education:** Cultivate Human Resources for Health (HRH): Professional nursing education, professional nursing continuing education, and nursing support staff development

- Achieve seamless progression through all levels of nursing education in the USAPI
- Strengthen nursing education in the USAPI, including: faculty development, student success, curriculum and resources to support program evaluation
- Identify educational needs and preferences in the region
- Increase APNLC member input into HRH plans as they are developed or operated in each jurisdiction
- Collaborate with other stakeholders and partners to support and improve K-12 education (with a focus on English, math and science) in order to enhance success in health science collegiate education
Quality assurance: Capacity building for USAPI nursing leadership and advocacy for quality assurance, including patient safety and infection control

- Increase the number of nurses in the USAPI with formal training and experience in QA/QI/QM
- Increase the numbers of USAPI nurses who are certified in QA/QI/QM

Practice, standards and policy: Provide support and technical assistance for professional nursing in terms of practice, standards, and policy engagement

- Each jurisdiction will assess its own current practice, standards and policy engagement, and take steps to improve where needed
- APNLC will partner with associations and contribute to the discussion and work efforts towards development of policy and regulation that supports exchange of response personnel during times of declared disasters where such support is required

Specialty nursing / midwifery practice: Promote nursing / midwifery practice to support special needs populations or programs: Maternal / Child Health, Emergency Disaster Services, Mental Health

- Increase nursing knowledge and expertise in each of the three key specialty practice areas noted above
- Develop specific training programs to address clinical practice and nursing competency for key specialty areas as identified by the jurisdictions

Connectivity: Promote connectivity among: APNLC jurisdictions and members, APNLC and partner organizations and APNLC members and their local jurisdiction policy makers

- Assure APNLC participation at key partner meetings and planning activities
- Partner with Pacific Island Health Officers Association, the World Health Organization (Western Pacific Regional Office) and other key organizations to identify and procure resources to support APNLC efforts as outlined in this strategic plan
- Partner with other associations for improvement of health in the USAPI, such as: Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association to facilitate enforcement of environmental policies that support health; and the Association of Labs and others as requested
- Establish a system that supports the use of technology for ongoing communication and conference calls among APNLC members including its Board of Directors and Officers
- Continue to work with PIHOA to continue to develop and support the APNLC website, and provide guidance to APNLC membership regarding use of the APNLC website
- Post historical and current APNLC documents on the APNLC website
This strategic plan has been presented to the APNLC, and endorsed by the general membership, Board of Directors, Officers and President.

Board of Directors:
Laurent Duenas
Bernolina L. Hedson
Kristine Qureshi

Officers:
Johnny S. Aldan (President)
Irene Nero (Vice President - acting)
Kathleen Benjamin (Secretary)
Kathryn Wood (Treasurer - acting)

Approved by the APNLC on June 20, 2102