

PSRP & SCHOOL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

2012 Resolutions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR - Kristina Schwarzkopf, Toledo #250

Patricia Forrai-Gunter, Cleveland #279

Ruth D. Curry, Cleveland-Retired #279R (Alternate)

Cherylane Jones-Williams, Cleveland #279

Sean Hill, Crooksville #4988 (Alternate)

Ignacio Delgado, Franklin Co. Children Services #3143

Matthew McCrystal, Franklin Co. Children Services #3143 (Observer)

Michael Schmidt, Owens Support Staff #6325

Cerssandra McPherson, Toledo #250

J. Tuggle, OFT Staff

EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC RECORDS

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3 WHEREAS child welfare workers are protectors of children, and

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5 WHEREAS child welfare workers are responsible to enforce child welfare laws that are
6 sometimes performed by law officials, and

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8 WHEREAS a responsibility of child welfare workers is to utilize a variety of assessments
9 to determine the needs of families and children, and

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11 WHEREAS when safety assessments of the families or children indicate abuse and/or
12 neglect, child welfare workers are required by law to remove children from the home,
13 and

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15 WHEREAS during the removal process parents/guardians may become disgruntled and
16 emotionally upset, and

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18 WHEREAS at times during the removal process parents/guardians have become
19 verbally and physically abusive and have threatened to visit the homes of child welfare
20 workers, thus putting child welfare workers' families at risk, and

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22 WHEREAS the laws governing Ohio Public Records allow the public to view agency
23 records which include the addresses and phone numbers of child welfare workers,
24 therefore

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26 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers seeks legislation that would
27 exempt child welfare workers' addresses and phone numbers from being made public
28 record.
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STUDENT-TO-SCHOOL NURSE RATIO IMPROVEMENT

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WHEREAS the licensed professional school nurse functions as a leader and the coordinator of the school health services team, facilitating access to a medical home for each child and supporting school achievement (AAP 2008), and

WHEREAS the role of the licensed professional school nurse is not simply to perform a "task" but also to assess both the situation and the student and to develop the right plan of care for each particular student (OJIN 2010), and

WHEREAS Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, mandate school health services to children and adolescents in school, and

WHEREAS licensed professional school nurses are essential in promoting health, preventing injury, and providing direct health care services to school students to achieve a safe and healthy learning environment (ANA's position on school nurses and children's health and safety in schools, 2007), and

WHEREAS from 2002 to 2008, the percentage of children in special education with health impairments, due to chronic or acute health problems, increased 60%. Within this group, the rate of autism has doubled since 2002 (NASN, 2010, Bloom, 2009), and

WHEREAS a 40% increase in asthma has been seen in the past 10 years, along with nearly 50% increase in the incidence of diabetes in the same time period (NASN, 2010, Levy, 2006, CDC, 2009), and

WHEREAS registered nurses, at a ratio of one for every 750 students, is the national standard supported by ANA, AAP and NASN, and

WHEREAS Ohio in 2008, with 2377 students per school nurse as well as the nation's student-to-school nurse ratio, falls short of this federal recommended standard (NASN data), and

WHEREAS the American Nurses Association has reported that when there is not a registered nurse on the school premises, the responsibility to administer the necessary medications and treatments, and appropriate monitoring of the children falls on the shoulders of administrators, educators and staff who are ill-prepared to perform these tasks (Congress findings, 2009), and

WHEREAS published studies show a correlation between facilities with a full time nurse and better school performance and attendance (JOSN, 2008), and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the percentage of children without health insurance was 8.9% in 2008, and with over 1,300,000 homeless children in the United States, schools have become the only source of health

75 care for many children and adolescents (NASN, 2010, CDC, 2009), and
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77 WHEREAS communicable and infectious diseases account for millions of school days
78 lost each year and require school nurse surveillance and reporting. There is reported
79 evidence that school nurses have a positive impact on immunization rates, with fewer
80 parent requested exemptions (CDC, 2009, Salmon, 2005, NASN, 2010), therefore
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82 BE IT RESOLVED that Ohio Federation of Teachers Union (OFT) supports a state-wide
83 student to licensed professional school nurse ratio-based approach to achieve improved
84 health and learning student outcomes, and
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86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFT encourages all school districts in the state of
87 Ohio to provide sufficient level of nursing services according to the following student-to-
88 school nurse ratios:

89 A minimum of one registered nurse or licensed professional school nurse for every 750
90 students or less.

91 A minimum of one registered nurse or licensed professional school nurse for every 125
92 medically fragile students or less.

93 A minimum of one registered nurse or licensed professional school nurse for every 225
94 medically complex students or less.

95 One registered nurse or licensed professional school nurse, or one licensed practical
96 nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed professional school nurse,
97 for each nursing-dependent student.