

#### Nurse Leaders on Boards

- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2011 report stressed the significance of nurses becoming involved in changing the US health care system
  - Increase their leadership skills and find opportunities to utilize those skill sets
  - The IOM suggested "health care decision makers at every level should include representation from nursing on boards,"
  - To reach this goal nurses need the knowledge & competencies required for board leadership



# Current Environment of Nurses on Boards

- A 2010 Gallup survey for the American Hospital Association (AHA) found the following:
  - 1000 hospitals surveyed
    - 6% of board members were nurses
    - 20% of board members were physicians
- Why???
  - The survey found perception differences between nurses being seen as important health care decision makers compared to our MD colleagues

## **Nurses Perspective**

Nurses comprise a majority of the health care delivery workforce

- Health care organizations and patients depend upon nurses on a daily basis
  - Patients' generally enter into a health care environment due to their medical and/or nursing needs

### **Nurses Perspective**



- What do nurses bring to the board room?
  - Operational knowledge of health care processes
  - System knowledge
  - Understanding of the continuum of care
  - Critical components required for safe patient care delivery
  - Ability to translate patient safety to board members
  - Communication skills essential for patient care delivery
  - Understanding of human resources
  - Nurses understand the patient/family stories that occur daily

### **Nurses Perspective**

"I think boards should understand that the performance of the organizations depends as much on the well-being, engagement, and capabilities of nursing and nursing leaders as it does on physicians. I would encourage much closer relationships between nursing and the board."

#### Donald Berwick, MD

former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) & prior President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

# Barriers to Nurses Involvement on Boards

- Gender disparities continue to exist in board membership
- Understanding nursing's role in patient care delivery
- Acknowledging nursing's influence in quality and service cost
- Perception: nurses are not prepared or qualified for board leadership
- Reluctance to appoint members that are organizational employees other than the CEO

## **Board Competencies**

- The AHA suggest specific governance skills required vary for the type of health care organization
  - Public
  - Private
  - Urban
  - Local vs National system
  - Rural
  - Academic
- Core Competencies include
  - Knowledge & Skills
  - Personal Capabilities



# **AHA Core Competencies**

**Knowledge & Skills** 



Business & Finance

Human Resources

## **AHA Core Competencies**

#### **Personal Capabilities**



- Achievement orientation
- Collaboration
- Community Orientation
- Innovative Thinking
- Organizational Awareness
- Strategic Orientation
- Team Leadership

#### Preparing for Board Membership

- The knowledge, skills, & competencies take time to develop
- Invest in your professional development
- Resources Available

Sigma Theta Tau International's Board Leadership Institute



#### STTI's Board Leadership Institute

- Evaluate your readiness to serve on a board
- Enable nurse leaders discover their passion for board service and leadership
- Assist nurse leaders develop professional strategies for getting placed on boards
- Gain information about board composition and governance roles

## STTI's Board Leadership Institute

- What's Involved?
  - Successful Launch of BLI occurred in April 2014
- Participants learned from industry leaders about the aspects of board leadership
  - Professional board recruiter
  - Board President
  - Board Member
  - Nurse Leader and Leadership Scholar

## **Board Leadership Institute**

#### **Topics of Discussion**

- The Importance of Nursing's Voice
- What are Organizations Looking For
- What Do You Have to Offer
- Board Structure
- Board Case Studies
- What Should You Look For
- Your Skill + Right Board = A Great Fit
- Preparation Equals Opportunity



# **Board Leadership Institute**



#### Results of First BLI: What the participants told STTI

- Great Leader and presenter with wealth of information
- She has great experience of being on different boards. Keep it up.
  Inspiring.
- This was very helpful to understand the difference from profit and non-profit.
- Loved the case study approach very engaging way to learn.
- Based on personal experience some real nuggets of wisdom
- Love the applied learning using mission & vision statements to consider what we would bring to the board.
- Excellent wrap up making sure all the critical points were covered.
- Awesome program I would highly recommend it to anyone!

## **Board Leadership Institute**

#### **Next Steps:**

- Based upon the success of the first BLI Sigma plans to repeat the program in 2015
- Dates being considered are in March and August of 2015
- Locations TBD



#### **Additional Resources**

- Best on Board (<u>www.bestonboard.org</u>)
- Online education available @ www.nursingknowledge.org
- AHA Center for Healthcare Governance Competencybased governance: a foundation for board and organizational effectiveness. (2009)
- BoardSource www.boardsource.org
- Center to Champion Nursing in America www.championnursing.org
- Center for Healthcare Governance www.americangovernance.com
- The Governance Institute <u>www.governanceinstitute.com</u>

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