

2023 Annual Convention Session Descriptions & Speaker Bios



Jennifer Mensik Kennedy PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN

Keynote Session: Leading the Profession Forward: The Imperative for Advocacy

Session description: The learner will be able to identify resources from the ANA Enterprise to improve nurses' health and well-being, strategies to address work environment challenges, and legislative priorities to support nurses.

Speaker bio: Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, is currently an assistant professor at the Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing in Portland Oregon. Mensik Kennedy has authored books, including Lead, Drive, and Thrive in the System and The Nurse Managers Guide to Innovative Staffing 2nd ed.

Mensik Kennedy has served as President of the Arizona Nurses Association 2007-2010. She served as Treasurer, Second Vice President and Director-at-Large on the ANA board of directors.

Mensik Kennedy earned a PhD from the University of Arizona College of Nursing with a focus on health systems and a minor in public administration from the Eller College of Management. Her MBA degree is from the University of Phoenix, while her BSN degree is from Washington State University. She also holds an ADN degree from Wenatchee Valley College-North. Mensik Kennedy was inducted as a fellow to the American Academy of Nursing in 2014.



Andeelyn Wardell NP

Session title: Diabetes updates and Technology

Session description: Learn about the recent American Diabetes Association guideline updates for diabetes management. Overview of the new weight loss medications and types of insulin. Increase basic understanding of insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors, including ways to help patients while receiving inpatient care, receiving steroids, or having a routine procedure done.

Speaker bio: Andeelyn grew up in Bozeman. She completed her LPN and RN degree at Helena College in 2010 and 2011. She later attended Chamberlain University for her BSN and completed her MSN as a family nurse practitioner in 2020. She has worked as a nurse in the outpatient setting for 13 years. She has worked in the St. Peter's Health Endocrinology clinic for

the last 9 years. She has a particular passion for diabetes technology as she also lives with type 1 diabetes.

Kayla Morris BA;

Haylie Wisemiller BSN, RN;

Amy Emmert MAS, BSN, RN;

Bobbi Soper BSN, RN, CCM

Session title: Breaking Barriers, Building Support: Community Health Workers and Nurse Care Managers in the FUSE Program for the Homeless Population

Session description: The Frequent Users System Engagement(FUSE) program is an innovative approach to addressing the significant health needs of people experiencing housing insecurity who are high utilizers of emergency services. Community health workers(CHWs) play a pivotal role in the Housing is Healthcare initiative and extend the reach of clinic-based Nurse Care Managers.

CHWs help patients re-establish care with their PCP and act as a liaison to their healthcare team, ensuring that their healthcare needs are adequately addressed. In this presentation, we will discuss the FUSE program in detail, Highlighting the vital role played by community health workers, and the crucial contribution of Nurse Care Managers in incorporating CHWs into Primary Care teams, in addressing the health needs of people experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness. We will share the impressive outcomes of the program and the potential for similar initiatives to be implemented in other regions to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Daniel Nauts MD FASAM

Session Title: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Montana – An Update

Session description: Review the progress in MOUD treatment in Montana, define low threshold care and its scientific basis, possibly have a person with lived experience present their story, or video addressing stigma.

Speaker bio: Dr Nauts is a Board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. Over 30 yrs experience practicing Addiction Medicine in a variety of settings. ASAM Faculty Member in presenting a variety of courses including the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder, and the Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine. 20 years experience in providing MOUD. Secretary of the Northwest Society of Addiction Medicine a chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).



Sandra Sewell FNP-BC

Session Title: Role of Palliative Care in Serious Illness

Session Description: Palliative Care is often misunderstood as meaning end of life or giving up. However Palliative Care can provide you, your pts or their care partners assistance at any stage of serious illness- even at initial diagnosis. This talk will expand your understanding of how Palliative Care can supplement your patient care for your seriously ill patients by facilitating “difficult” conversations, managing challenging symptoms and helping you and your patients prepare for the many challenges or serious progressive illness.

Speaker Bio: Sauny met her first palliative care pt in 2006 as an RN and immediately recognize the value of Palliative and Hospice Care. Her career in Health Care has included medical/surgical nursing and family medical and urgent care NP work and now nursing administration but has always come back to improving quality of life for patients, their care partners and the medical staff that care for them. Currently Sauny works in nursing administration hoping to ensure a high quality of work-life for her nurses and advanced practice clinicians, while also managing the Palliative Care department at Bozeman Health.



Haley Quinn BA

Session title: Responding to the Staffing Crisis

Session description: Healthcare workers saw the staffing crisis coming long before the COVID-19 pandemic. In this workshop, we examine workforce data to understand how we got to this crisis point and the extent of the current crisis. We will explore safe staffing research and current approaches to safe staffing, including recent victories from AFT health care affiliates.

Speaker bio: Haley Quinn is an Assistant Director in AFT's Health Issues department. Her work focuses on issues impacting the healthcare workforce, including safe staffing and the current staffing crisis. Haley has been working in the labor movement for a decade and has been working to support AFT's healthcare members in this role for the past four years. She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her wife and two cats.



Lowell Hochhalter

Session Title: Confronting Human Trafficking In A Healthcare Setting

Session description: Focusing on the “exploitative behavior” and the trauma bonding area, along with how to apply this new knowledge to your own workplace and policies. Close to 90% of human trafficking victims, ages 14 to 60, sought medical care during their exploitation. They sought help for symptoms including cardiovascular and respiratory problems, flashbacks, broken bones, STI’s, depression, anxiety, nightmares, and feelings of shame and guilt. Human trafficking is not siloed and has many dimensions that can present in pediatrics, ED, urgent care settings, orthopedics, or infectious diseases. You can use your diagnostic skills from other forms of interpersonal violence to help identify trafficking survivors. Health Care Providers are in a unique position to recognize the indicators of human trafficking. This training will give you confidence as well as practical ways that you can effectively respond to those who are looking for a way out.

Speaker bio: Lowell is the Co-Founder, and CEO of The Lifeguard Group; an organization that has mandated itself to combat human trafficking and see it come to an end. For the last 11 years, Lowell has been working to counter human trafficking efforts on many levels. He has provided human trafficking recognition training to Law Enforcement Agencies, First Responders, Hospitality Organizations, Probation and Parole Officers, our Appointed Special Advocates, Healthcare Professionals, Educators and Students, in the United States and abroad.

Diane Humbrecht, DNP, RN-BC

Rachael Clagett DNP, RN-BC

Christina Reynolds BSN, RN-BC, PMP

Session Title: Not If, but When... How to Clinically Navigate the Chaos of an Extended Downtime

Session description: When downtime occurs, how do you handle it? Are the appropriate policies and procedures in place? This session will provide information regarding the necessary steps to take to prepare for an extended downtime, your responsibilities during a downtime, as well as describe the lessons learned from clinicians who have experienced extended downtime.