



Center for The Study of The History of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - SCHOOL OF NURSING - NURSING EDUCATION BUILDING - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-6096 - (215) 898-4502

American Nephrology Nurses' Association Oral History Project, 1986-1987

MC 7

Extent: .2 linear feet.

Provenance: American Nephrology Nurses' Association

Access: This collection is unrestricted.

Citation: American Nephrology Nurses' Association Oral History Project, Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Summary: The Professional Relations Committee of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association conducted this oral history project in order to compile a history of nephrology nursing. The Committee wanted to record the thoughts and impressions of some of its early participants along with their personal remembrances.

Names and address of early nephrology nurses were obtained by reviewing the nursing literature and records of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association and through conversations with the nurses and physicians associated with renal dialysis and transplant programs, whether or not they had been or were currently active in the American Nephrology Nurses' Association. This oral history project was conducted by Nancy Hoffart, who served as chair of the Professional Relations Committee.

Historical Sketch: The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) is a professional organization comprised of registered nurses who specialize in caring for patients experiencing renal dysfunction, and dedicated to advancing nephrology nursing practice.

ANNA sets forth and updates standards of patient care, educates its practitioners, stimulates and supports research, disseminates new ideas throughout the field, promotes interdisciplinary communication and cooperation, and monitors and addresses issues encompassing the practice of nephrology nursing. It is also frequently involved in relevant government legislation and policy-making.

ANNA was formed at an educational meeting sponsored by the Kidney Disease Control Program under the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. At the meeting, a small group of nephrology nurses met to formally begin a new organization. They adopted the name American Association for Nephrology Nurses (AANN). Bernice I Hinckley was elected the association's first president. At its first symposium, held in Washington DC during April of 1970, 450 registrants attended.

in 1971, recognizing the important contributions of LPNs and technicians, the organization voted to include them as full members in the Association, and subsequently changed its name to the American Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians (AANNT).

Shortly after, in 1972, the original Bylaws of the organization were dramatically modified to allow for growth, development, and expansion of the organization's services. The AANNT also published its first national newsletter, which was published on a quarterly basis, and formulated the first standards of Hemodialysis ever developed. The organization continued to work on and publish monographs, positional papers, and a journal. In 1975, The national Association of Patients on Hemodialysis and Transplantation awarded AANNT with Outstanding Contributions to Patient Welfare. In 1977, AANNT received accreditation from the American Nurses' Association as a provider and approval body for continuing education in nursing.

In 1983, the organization again changed its bylaws, this time to offer full membership only to registered nurses, which would prove to be a crucial step toward ANNA's ultimate reformulation as a professional nursing organization. Accordingly, the organization's name was changed to The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA). In 1984, ANNA officially identified seven special interest groups as official subcommittees of the Clinical Practice Committee: Administration,

Education, Hemodialysis, Pediatrics, Peritoneal Dialysis, Research, and Transplantation. The following year, ANNA attempted to promote collaboration among nephrology associations by organizing and hosting the first Assembly of Nephrology Associations. In 1986, ANNA established a new set of directions for nephrology nursing certifications, a move that eventually led to the development of a new certification examination. In 1989, ANNA established a standing research Committee, which served to lay the groundwork for research-based nephrology nursing practice.

In the past decade (2000-2010), ANNA has continued to expand and has increasingly collaborated with other like-minded associations. In 2003, they joined the Kidney Care Partners (KCP), a coalition of kidney disease organizations representing professionals, providers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and patient support organizations. In 2005, ANNA took a lead role in responding to the needs of patients and staff following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Later that year, the organization contracted Gardner Carton & Douglas, a Washington, DC-based firm to help expand ANNA's legislative and public policy agendas, clinical priorities, and member participation at the grassroots level.

As of 2011, ANNA has over 12,000 members which it serves through a national structure, four regions, and 108 local chapters. Members include registered nurses and other health care professionals with varying experience and expertise in such areas as hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, chronic kidney disease, conservative management, continuous renal replacement therapies, acute care, and transplantation.

Box 1:

f.1 Project Summary

Interviews

f.2 Albers, JoAnn

f.3 Andrews, Kay

f.4 Cameron, Elizabeth

f.5 Freeman, Susan Daly

f.6 Fulton, Barbara

f.7 Shebelski, Dorothy

f.8 Smyth, Anna

f.9 Wysocki, Barbara Coleman