

Plan to Develop Strong Leaders through NAPNAP National/Chapter Unification

July 29, 2008

A “Plan to Develop Strong Leaders through NAPNAP National & Chapter Unification” was approved by NAPNAP’s Executive Board at the June 2008 meeting. After careful study and consideration, the Board concluded that many aspects of NAPNAP’s structure and governance will be strengthened by a new structure and governance guidelines in which members belong to both a local or virtual chapter and the national organization.

To this end we are creating a membership structure in which each NAPNAP member will:

1. Be a national member and member of either a self-selected local/state chapter or a virtual chapter-at-large
2. Receive national and chapter benefits and services
3. Pay one dues rate for national and chapter membership
4. Still have the choice of reduced fee categories of membership (i.e. student, retiree, and new grad)

The NAPNAP Executive Board and staff heard from many members, stakeholders and consultants about what was important and what issues were priorities, as well as current needs and future challenges. We are committed to developing an integrated structure that will respond to those needs and concerns and that is a vital, viable and integral part of our professional practice. We are committed to creating coherent financial structures that will support and encourage chapters to continue the outstanding accomplishments, including state level coalitions in the communities you serve. NAPNAP pledges to support the chapters and their officers and the board and staff are eager to engage with the chapter presidents and officers to create effective and efficient operating systems to assist these volunteer leaders. We expect our Unification process to strengthen NAPNAP and to enhance the chapters' operations, scope of activities and volunteer recruitment. Member and chapter support and child/family advocacy will become more effective in the unified structure.

We firmly believe that a unified structure and governance process will contribute immeasurably toward our intent of **Developing Strong PNP Leaders through Strong Chapters**. The program will be phased in during the next few years. Our overarching goals within this program are to:

1. Improve services to chapters and members
2. Strengthen our voice for NAPNAP public policy to advocate for children’s health and the role of the PNP
3. Create more leadership opportunities to effect the improvements we envision in the national and local health care systems in which our members serve.

These goals will underpin the strategies we will employ during the next few years. We are creating models for chapters to consider that will include a choice of several service levels to be provided by NAPNAP national office staff, including e-balloting and web-site hosting and development.

We will start the first phase of this project on July 1, 2009. We are currently developing financial models, timelines and allocating funds necessary to make this transition as smooth and clear as possible.

Following are several study recommendations we are building into the Unification Plan for all chapters as part of chapter services improvement plan to assist all chapters. Some may serve as incentives to facilitate the transition to our new model. Timelines and additional details will follow shortly. We plan to:

1. Establish a Chapter Development Advisory Work Group with representatives from large and small chapters as well as individuals interested in establishing a chapter to assist local groups in becoming established, applying for chapter status, moving toward unification, and ongoing development, enhancement, and recognition of chapters.
2. Expand the chapter recognition program to include recognition of chapters that increase national/chapter members
3. Expand web support including hosting services and web page development support for chapters at a minimal fee if requested
4. Support chapters in implementing local programs and distance learning technologies to increase convenience of chapter education and networking programs
5. Conduct periodic conference calls of chapter leaders to aid in communication between NAPNAP and chapters
6. Provide national leadership and recognition opportunities for chapter leaders
7. Explore expansion opportunities in underserved geographic areas where no chapter exists, if there are sufficient numbers of potential members
8. Establish a virtual chapter-at-large that will conduct its business electronically (e.g. online CE, member corner discussion groups, and chapter committee activities)
9. Develop state level advocacy programs and resources on a pilot/limited basis
10. Explore development of a chapter leader development program separate from the conference or perhaps blended with it in which more chapter leaders have the opportunity to participate over a longer time span through online and perhaps a physical meeting associated with the Fall Board meeting.

Chapter leaders will receive more information shortly about how we propose our new NAPNAP unification plan will be developed. We will continue to seek feedback and information from all about how we can best serve the goals of NAPNAP and the chapters. We are committed to its success and firmly believe we will ***Develop Strong PNP Leaders through Strong Chapters***. We welcome your comments!

Click here president@napnap.org to send me your message.