If Not You – Who?  
If Not Now – When?  
Becoming an Advocate for Vulnerable Children  

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Headlines  
June 1, 2018: 5 drowning deaths in Tarrant County in 5 weeks:  
https://www.star-telegram.com  
September 15, 2019: 3 Kids Shot, 1 Killed Within Hours Of Each Other In Tarrant County: https://dfw.cbslocal.com  
August 7, 2019: More Than A Dozen Teens In Dallas Rescued During FBI Sex Trafficking Sweep: https://dfw.cbslocal.com  
January 13, 2020: 15 year old arrested for shooting during Dallas high school basketball game; 18 year old victim dies: https://dfw.cbslocal.com  
February 8 2020: 16-year-old Arlington student shot, killed days after he stopped suspect from bullying another boy: https://dfw.cbslocal.com  
August 7, 2019: More Than A Dozen Teens In Dallas Rescued During FBI Sex Trafficking Sweep: https://dfw.cbslocal.com  
2020: 1 in 4 Children in Texas struggle with hunger:  
https://www.feedingamerica.org

Disclosures  
I have nothing to disclose.

Learning Objectives  
1. Identify issues requiring action – identify what you can do  
2. Identify target audience, stakeholders and sources of support  
3. Discuss the tools and action plan to become an advocate at practice, community and legislative level

What is an advocate?  
Advocate: person who speaks, writes or acts in defense of another  
Advocacy: supporting a project or cause important to you  

If you believe strongly in someone or something, and feel the world at large pays too little attention, it may be up to you to change the equation. When you think of human trafficking, extreme poverty, disease, lack of basic freedoms – how can everyone be too busy? – Ed Tessaro
Why Is Advocacy Important?

CDC: # of vulnerable children ↑ at alarming rate
2017: 1,720 children died from abuse or neglect
   1 in 4 under age 1 year
Suicide: second leading cause of death between 10 & 24 years of age
Child between 5 – 10 years dies of suicide every 5 days
Bullying: strongly associated with suicide & addiction
Approximately 17,000 US children: human trafficking victims
   88% seen by healthcare provider but not identified as victim
Tip of iceberg for number of vulnerable children
   Any child can be vulnerable at any time

What are your concerns: Practice/Community/State/National

Vaccines          Parent engagement
Safe food & water  Obesity
Bullying          Suicide
Violence          Abuse
Poverty           Hunger
Safe areas to play Opportunities
Gun violence      Mental Health

What are your going to do about it?

Discuss
Plan
Educate
Reach out
Connect
Resources

Getting Started

Plan: identify problem & opportunities for improvement
Do: small scale test of potential solutions
Study (Evaluate): was it effective or require changes
Act: implement successful solutions

“Nothing you do for children is ever wasted”

Garrison Keillor

Who Are Potential Partners/Champions/Stakeholders?

Practice: Other APRNs, Providers
Community:
   NAPNAP National/Chapter(s)/SIGs
   School nurses & counselors
   University: Colleges or Schools of Nursing
   Hospitals & Medical Centers
   Community & church leaders
   Other childcare or health focused advocates

Tips

Be prepared & well informed
Know the facts & impact
Use your title: You are pediatric expert
Dress & act like a leader
Thank people for their time & commitment to children
Volunteer & Serve on Boards: name recognition
Practice/Community Examples

What can you do?
ACTION

What Are Your Concerns at State Level?
- Gun background check laws/loopholes
- Nurse practice act
- Shortage of health care providers
- Access to care
- Rural Health
- Mental Health in Children
- Human trafficking

State: Know Your Facts Example
- Practice Limitations for APRNs
  - Texas: number of counties: 254
  - Number of counties considered rural: 191
  - Number of counties without physician: 35
  - Number of counties without OB/GYN-prenatal care: 147
  - Number of counties without psychiatrics/mental health care: 185
  - 1 in 5 children with Developmental, Behavioral, Mental Health issue
  - Improved access to care, earlier diagnosis & interventions

What are your concerns at the National Level?
- Access to care
- Insurance coverage for uninsured
- Treatment of children in immigration hold
- Vaping/CBD Products
- Title VIII Funding
National Know Your Facts Example

Significance of Title VIII Funding
Texas: number of counties: 254
Number of counties considered rural: 191
Number of counties without physician: 35
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1 in 5 children with Developmental, Behavioral, Mental Health issue
Improved access to care, earlier diagnosis & interventions

Federal Example
What can you do?

Summary Points
Don’t wait: if not you – who; if not now – when
Anyone can be an advocate
Identify your concerns: practice, community, state, &/or national
Educate yourself & others: Know your facts
Identify partners, champions, stakeholders
Develop a plan
Implement – evaluate - revise as needed – grow
Ask for help – together everyone achieves more (TEAM)

If you have any questions, please email me at: lindafrye@yahoo.com

References
Dallas Morning News (2019).