



National Association of Pediatric Nurse PractitionersSM

Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

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Happy New Year! I hope you enter 2023 feeling refreshed, fulfilled, and optimistic. The new year is often a time of reflection and contemplation, though reflecting on 2022 is painful as we consider the countless concurrent crises that impacted our daily lives: burnout threatening our profession, a global pandemic, attacks on child access to equitable care,

social injustices, human rights violations, climate impacts, economic volatility, and so much more. Looking back on these crises may feel overwhelming and disheartening. Although that is true for me, I also find hope in the grace, determination, and dedication of the pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) community. Despite unimaginable adversity, you all faithfully served as dedicated leaders in child health. I am proud to share that the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) also worked tirelessly on your behalf despite substantial obstacles. In the spirit of reflection, I offer you a look at some of NAPNAP's achievements in 2022 and forecast our priorities for 2023.

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NAPNAP has steadfastly reflected our mission to empower APRNs and optimize child health equity. In service to our membership, NAPNAP conducted our first ever "Pulse of the Profession" ([National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, 2022](#)), which sought to assess the pediatric-focused APRN landscape and to identify priorities, obstacles, and support needed to advance our practice and professional aspirations. Findings from this report catalyzed numerous actions, including forming our membership committee, which will focus on representing the diverse interests of NAPNAP members across career stages and practice foci. We also convened a work group to reevaluate the role of the NAPNAP Member-at-Large to optimize chapter and special interest group connectedness with the National Executive Board. Finally, under the leadership of Andrea Kline-Tilford, NAPNAP issued its inaugural Presidential Commendations to NAPNAP volunteer leaders in recognition of their service to our community.

As a leader in continuing education, NAPNAP yet again nimbly met the varying educational needs of members through a return to our in-person conference while also offering virtual conference attendance. We also experienced record-breaking participation in our online self-serve educational platform, PedsCE. In recognition of evolving continuing education preferences, NAPNAP established an Education Strategy Committee to provide strategic guidance across all educational offerings. The formation of the Education Strategy Committee demonstrates NAPNAP's commitment to educational innovation, serving the educational needs and preferences of all members, and remaining responsive to emerging and priority areas for pediatric-focused APRNs. We aim to ensure that you will experience world-class continuing education whether attending the conference in person or virtually, choosing from a robust pool of PedsCE offerings, or trying some of our newer modalities, such as the TeamPeds Talks podcast series. NAPNAP also forged our first cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create NAPNAP Knows Lyme—a project that entailed the development and dissemination of Lyme disease

resources to pediatric-focused APRNs. The success of this initiative has led to a second cooperative agreement in 2023 that will focus on strengthening pediatric COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake.

As experts in pediatrics and advocates for children, NAPNAP is a thought leader and champion for child health equity and pediatric-focused APRN practice. In 2022, NAPNAP maintained a strong federal advocacy presence led by Dave Mason, NAPNAP Federal Governmental Affairs Representative, and the NAPNAP Health Policy committee. To highlight our stance on priority issues, NAPNAP also published five position statements addressing pressing child health concerns, including access to care, immunizations, and corporal punishment; and the pediatric-focused APRN workforce, with statements on workforce resilience and pipeline. NAPNAP leaders testified on proposed APRN education standard revisions during the 2022 National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education listening sessions. Although we offered support for rigorous standards for nurse practitioner education, we vigorously opposed draft standards threatening the pediatric-focused APRN workforce pipeline, diversification of the APRN workforce, and child health equity.

Further advancing our visibility as advocates in child health, the NAPNAP Executive Board and senior staff made the significant step to engage in legal challenges to unprecedented threats on access to care among transgender youth. NAPNAP partnered with other leading pediatric organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, to challenge several instances of state-based legislation and policies restricting access to evidence-based gender-affirming care. We also joined six other organizations as co-plaintiffs in a legal challenge to the Securing Updated and Necessary Statutory Evaluations Timely (SUNSET) rule, which would have gridlocked Health and Human Services; our efforts led to the repeal of SUNSET, averting a dangerous threat to our health care system and child health.

Although I celebrate the accomplishments of 2022, I am even more excited for what lies ahead in 2023. First—I look

forward to celebrating NAPNAP's 50th anniversary together! We have many exciting events and activities planned throughout the year under our theme, 50Forward, including a gala and dessert reception at our 44th National Conference on Pediatric Health Care. We will also launch an ambitious new mental health initiative in response to the national child mental and behavioral health emergency ([American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021](#)). I am tremendously proud to see NAPNAP lead a bold and collaborative response to improve child access to mental health care. We have other plans to expand educational initiatives, focus advocacy around APRN full practice authority and child health priorities, and launch a pediatric-focused APRN public awareness campaign. NAPNAP will soon embark on our next cycle of strategic planning, in which we will have the opportunity to set priorities, focus our resources, and create a nimble organizational road map for the next 3 years. Although a monumental undertaking, this is our opportunity to delineate our plans to promote a diverse, equitable, and inclusive pediatric-focused APRN workforce that will further advance child health equity.

As we close the chapter on 2022, I am reminded of a quote from Malala Yousafzai, who said, "Some people only ask others to do something. I believe that, why should I wait for someone else? Why don't I take a step and move forward?" ([United Nations Foundation, 2015](#)). On behalf of the NAPNAP leadership, we thank you for continuing to move forward with us despite tremendous circumstances. In the words of NAPNAP's Executive Director, James Wendorf, Onward!

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