



AWHONN

CALIFORNIA

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

Greetings from your California Section Chair & Secretary/Treasurer



Beth Stephens-Hennessy RNC-OB, EFM, MSN, CNS



Kandice Duns MSN, BSN, RNC-EFM

Sharing evidenced based practices and providing continuing education is the cornerstone of what AWHONN provides. Since COVID has arrived, we put a hold on chapter meetings and conferences so that we can keep each other safe. Now that we have experienced that this virus is here for longer than we hoped, we are making adjustments to our activities. AWHONN has provided us with a ZOOM platform to use for Fetal Monitoring classes, Chapter meetings and webinars. Two of our chapters have already utilized Zoom for education. We have decided not to have our 2021 in person conference, but instead we will have 4 – one-hour webinars. Check the California AWHONN websites, the National websites and the California Facebook page for upcoming events.

Until further notice, this is our new norm.

Can old nurses learn new tricks? As an “old” nurse, I can tell you that we have learned how to use electronic medication dispensing machines instead of writing medications down on a ledger on top of a cart. We learned how to use electronic documentation instead of writing on paper flowsheets. We learned to use IV pumps instead of counting drips. We have learned new fetal heart rate interpretation and management. So instead of sitting in a classroom for 8 hours, looking at a PowerPoint, listening to an instructor who is in front of you, we must learn how to pull up a class or meeting on our computers. This will help us to maintain our continuing education and connect with peers. Utilize the newer nurses to help you set it up. You never know, you may get used to attending a webinar/meeting on line while you are sitting on your sofa in your pajamas!

Welcome Orange County Chapter!



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While attending the AWHONN California Section Conference in February and hearing the call for volunteers to start an Orange County Chapter, we tossed around the idea to take on the challenge. Orange County is home to about 20 hospitals and birth centers, welcoming over 37,000 newborns in 2019 alone. Thus, we are excited to announce the re-birth of an Orange County AWHONN chapter! Our goal is to provide access to evidence-based practices, and opportunities for collaboration, networking, and socializing. Please feel free to share any speaker topic requests or ideas for future events. We plan to host our first chapter meeting via Zoom in mid-October. Details below. Stay safe and watch for our Facebook page soon!

We look forward to meeting you all soon!

First Orange County Chapter Meeting VIA ZOOM NO FEE!

AWHONN Member/Non-Member/Pre-Licensure Student Welcome!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2020 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | 1 CEU

Social Media Do's and Don'ts for Nurses

Presented by Susanne McMurtry Baird, DNP, RN

Nursing Director - Clinical Concepts in Obstetrics, LLC | AWHONN Board Member

To Register, email Sue Stone msstone97@msn.com with the following information:

- Name
- RN #
- AWHONN #, if applicable

Legislative Update

Mary Campbell Bliss RN, CNS, MS
Amy Scott MSN, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Coordinators

This issue we are sharing three CA bills as well as important information re: MediCal for your information and action. Please share your thoughts as the bills move through the Governor's office.

Thank you for using your voice!

CA AB 2360: Maternal and Child Telepsychiatry Consult Programs

This bill requires health care service plans and health insurers, by January 1, 2021, to establish a telehealth consultation program that gives providers who treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons access to a psychiatrist, as specified, in order to more quickly diagnose and treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons suffering from mental illness. This bill has passed through the legislature and is headed to the Governor's office. AHWONN CA Section is a supporter of this bill. [READ HERE](#)

What does this mean to you? This bill provides support to frontline screening providers to initiate much-needed treatment for mothers and children with mental illnesses, so that California families can thrive. If you support this bill, please contact the Governor and urge him to sign it into law.

CA AB 732: County jails: prisons: incarcerated pregnant persons

This bill mandates jails to provide routine prenatal care (including option for abortion for those who want it, and treatment for opioid use disorder) for people who are pregnant and incarcerated. This bill has passed through the legislature and is headed to the Governor's office. [READ HERE](#)

What does this mean to you? AHWONN's *Position Statement Nursing Care of Incarcerated Women During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period* [READ HERE](#) and ACOG Committee Opinion 511 "Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Incarcerated Women and Adolescent Females" [READ HERE](#) speak powerfully to how incredibly variable and substandard OB care is for the vast majority of incarcerated women, who are disproportionately Black, Brown, and poor. If you support this bill, please contact the Governor and urge him to sign it into law. IMPORTANT: There has been on-line discussion re: incarcerated women being shackled during labor and/or guards in their rooms. In 2011, **AB 568: Pregnant inmates and wards: least restrictive restraints** changed CA Penal Code and called for pregnant inmates to not be shackled during transport or while in L&D (must have least restrictive actions appropriate for their security risk). If incarcerated pregnant patients in your unit are shackled and/or guards are in the room, contact your supervisor re: the law.

CA SB 1237 Justice and Equity in Maternity Care Act; Nurse-midwives: scope of practice act

This bill expands access to perinatal care by authorizing nurse-midwives to conduct routine services without direct physician supervision. This would follow the current practice of 46 other states. AHWONN CA Section is a supporter of this bill. This bill has passed through the legislature and is headed to the Governor's office. [READ HERE](#)

What does this mean to you? California's current model of physician supervision has not shown an increase in the safety or quality of maternity care. Nurse-midwives perform 50,000 births a year in California and SB 1237 would result in more women gaining access, particularly areas in which California faces a critical obstetrician shortage and significant race-based disparities in maternal and infant health care. Thank you for your support of this bill.

Signed into law by The Honorable Gavin Newsom on September 18, 2020
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Continued...

Provisional Postpartum Care Extension (PPCE) Program

Effective 8/1/2020, a Medi-Cal or MCAP eligible individual who is diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition (including, but not limited to postpartum depression) during their pregnancy, postpartum period or within 90 days from the end of their postpartum period, may remain eligible in their current Medi-Cal or MCAP eligibility category for up to one year following the last day of the individual's pregnancy (currently only eligible until the last day of the month in which the 60th day post pregnancy occurs).

To qualify, the individual's treating health care provider must verify the maternal mental health diagnosis using the Medi-Cal or MCAP Postpartum Care Extension form (MC 61). Additional Information is available on the new Provisional Postpartum Care Extension (PPCE) [web page](#).

Questions re: PPCE should be sent to Pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Resources

COVID 19 Screening/Testing Algorithm

Management of newborns exposed to mothers with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

COVID 19 Screening/Testing Algorithm – L&D

COVID 19 Screening/Testing Algorithm – Antepartum

AWHONN

Updates

ACOG (American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists)

Topics

Assessment Algorithm

CMQCC (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative)

Materials & Resources



Member Spotlights

Nursing School Liasons



Susan L. Collins, MSN, RN

Liaison for:

Pacific Union College, Napa Valley College, Solano Community College, College of Marin, Butte College, California State University – Chico (Chico State), Stanislaus, Tuoro University, American River College, Sacramento City College, Yuba College

Susan L. Collins received her Bachelor in Nursing from Chico State (1990) and her Masters in Nursing Education from Sacramento State (1999). She has 10 years of inpatient Obstetrical/Neonatal nursing, 1 year of High Risk Maternity Nursing Instructor at Sacramento City college, 7 years of nurse recruiting, 1 1/2 years of Obstetrical/Neonatal interim manager and is now working as the Maternity Nurse Educator for the past 6 months. She absolutely loves working with students in any capacity and enjoys reviewing/editing Senior nursing student resumes. She has been living in Napa Valley since 2001; has been married for 26 years and has a 23 year old son who recently graduated from UCLA and 20 year old identical boy twins currently attending Napa Junior College and University of Nevada, Reno. She counts her blessings every day that she is able to work again back in the maternity/neonatal unit and enjoys staying active by walking and playing a fierce game of tennis a couple of times per week.



Nicole McCaughin, MSN, RNC, C-EFM

Liaison for:

Ohlone Community College, Chabot College, Merritt College, Samuel Merritt Oakland, California State University – East Bay, Holy Names University, San Francisco State, University of San Francisco

Nicole McCaughin has been an RN for over 20 years. She works as a Staff RN in Labor and Delivery as well as Adjunct Faculty Member for the Ohlone College Nursing Program. Nicole is a member of the AWHONN Science Team that is currently writing a new Evidenced Based Practice Guideline. Nicole is starting a DNP Program this Fall at San Jose State University.

Deborah J. Acker, JD, MSN, RNC-OB, CNM, C-EFM

Liaison for:

University of California – Davis, San Francisco, College of Redwoods, De Anza College, Chamberlain, Sacramento State, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State, Mendocino College, Dominican University

Deborah Acker practiced for more than 20 years in academic hospitals and rural health settings as a Certified Nurse-Midwife. She graduated from law school mid-career and worked as an intellectual property lawyer in the Bay Area. She returned to health care in the last ten years and has functioned in a variety of roles in public health and large medical systems. Currently she enjoys her work as faculty for Samuel Merritt University in Sacramento where she is thrilled to be teaching accelerated nursing students in the areas of maternity, professionalism, and community health.



Sydney Parker, MSN, RNC-OB

Liaison for:

Mount St. Mary's – 2 campuses, California State University – Channel Islands, Northridge, Los Angeles, Moorpark College, Ventura College, University of California – Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, University of Southern California

Sydney currently serves as the Women's and Children's Nurse Educator for Los Robles Hospital and West Hills Hospital in the Los Angeles area, as well as adjunct instructor for Mount Saint Mary's University. Her passion for professional development, education, and evidence based practice to provide the best care and outcomes for women and children fuels her desire to serve as a Student Liaison for AWHONN California Chapter. Prior to relocating to Southern California, Sydney served as an Assistant Professor and perinatal RN, as well as chief Editor for the peer-reviewed publication for ANA-Idaho.

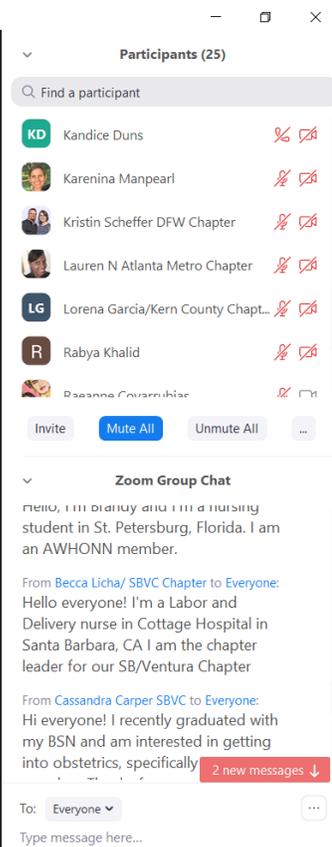
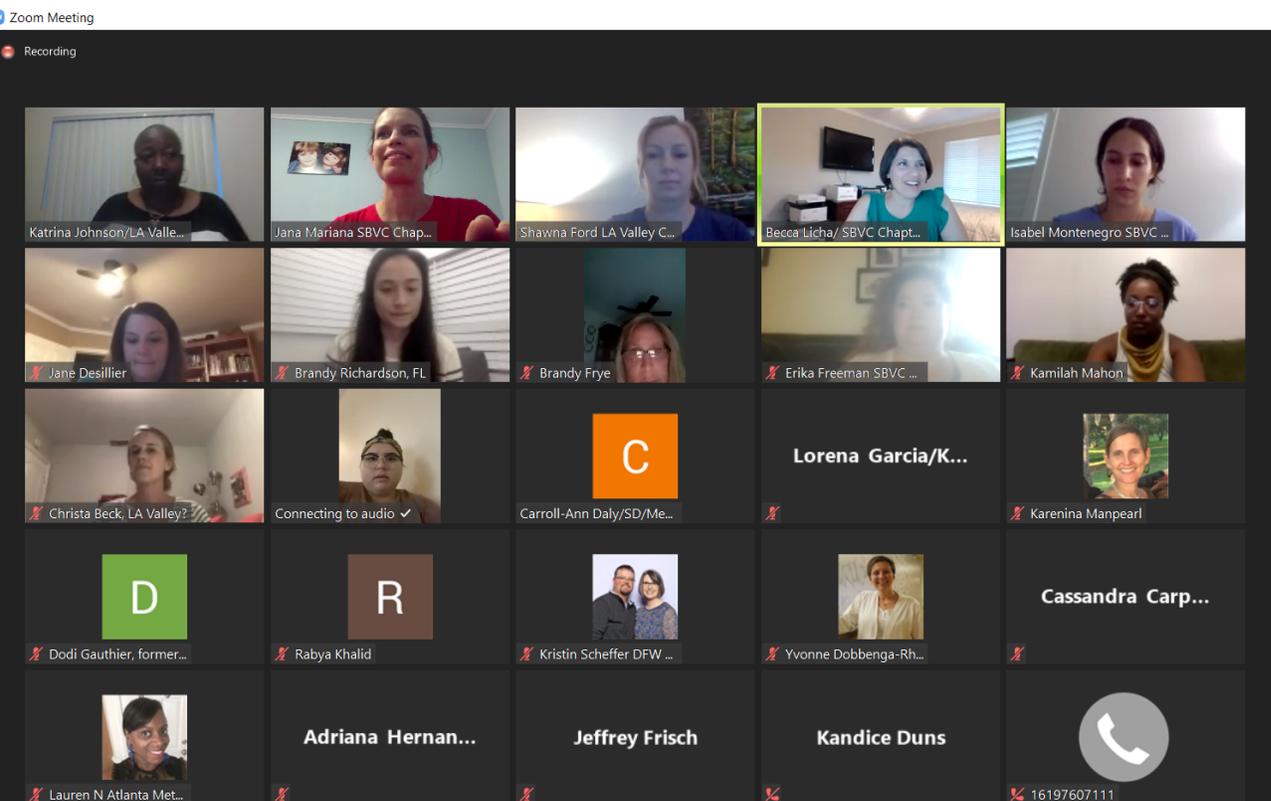


Summer 2020 Virtual Chapter Meeting

Cross-Racial Dialogue: A Focus on Active Listening

Presented by the Los Angeles Valley and Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter

On Thursday, August 13, 2020 the LA Valley Chapter and the Santa Barbara/ Ventura Counties Chapter held a joint Chapter meeting. The Zoom meeting, *Cross Racial Dialogue: A Focus on Active Listening* was co-hosted by chapter leaders, Katrina Johnson and Becca Licha. The group of 35 people that came together included AWHONN members from throughout California. There were also members from Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida and Texas and student members present. We watched a couple videos and discussed the content. Following that discussion, co-hosts and members Isabel Montenegro and Shawna Ford performed a skit highlighting racism in healthcare and the insidious nature implicit bias. After the skit, we discussed how racism and implicit bias presents in the healthcare system and how this contributes to poor health outcomes, particularly in black peripartum women. If you are interested in learning about this topic, please contact Becca or Katrina at their email address. (becca@beccalicha.com or lavalleyawhonn@gmail.com)



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