

15<sup>th</sup> Annual NYSUT Professional Issues Forum on Health Care  
April 22, 2017 – NYSUT Headquarters, Latham NY

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

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WORKSHOP SESSION I  
(9:45 AM – 11:15 AM)

**1. Trauma Informed Schools**

Research suggests that approximately 25% of American children will experience at least one traumatic event by the age of 16 and a child's reactions to trauma can interfere considerably with behavior and learning at school. This workshop will introduce you to the essential elements of a trauma-informed school and discuss how that understanding can be applied to daily practice and school culture to improve school climate and reduce risk of threats and physical violence.

Target Audience: 1, 3, 4

**2. Health Care as a Human Right**

In the current volatile political climate, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been targeted for “repeal and replace” with no actual plans for replacement, threatening the care of close to 30 million Americans, as well as destabilizing and possibly damaging the care even well-insured Americans receive. As health care professionals and union members, and as community members concerned about our neighbors, we would like to move toward an improved, expanded Medicare for all program, building on the most sustainable and effective sector of our health care system. This session will describe the current and rapidly-unfolding situation in health care, examine the human rights perspective on health care, and identify how we can get involved at the state as well as the national level.

Target Audience: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**3. Public Health Issues**

This session addresses three current community health issues: opioid addition, oral/dental health and communicable diseases such as the Zika virus. The United States is undergoing an epidemic of deaths caused by prescription drug overdoses with someone dying every 19 minutes from an unintentional prescription drug overdose, due to the increased use of opioid analgesics. Community education efforts will focus on safe storage, use, and disposal of prescription medications and access to naloxone. Oral health is an essential component of an individual's overall health and well-being. In medically underserved populations in the community, promoting oral health, prevention, and treatment with medical care to improve the health of vulnerable persons served by community healthcare workers. Discussion of the Zika virus will focus on preventing transmission, supporting affected families and containing the virus to areas where it is present.

Target Audience: 2, 3, 4, 5

**4. Transgender Awareness and Inclusion**

Creating safe and inclusive workplaces for all people, regardless of gender identity or gender expression, improves the well-being of employees and clients as well. With equitable and respectful policies and practices, transgender, non-binary and gender expansive employees are likely to be more productive at work and more invested in social interactions with co-workers. In this interactive presentation, participants will hear the realities of being transgender in the workplace and some best practices for communicating respectfully in order to create a supportive workplace.

Target Audience: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**5. Assessment and Treatment of School Based Feeding Disorders**

This workshop introduces strategies for feeding and positioning students with issues related to motor and sensory difficulties at mealtime. Topics include: principles regarding proper positioning; oral motor issues; swallowing; effects of sensory processing on mealtime; self-feeding; adaptive feeding equipment. Participants will also learn how to perform a team-based comprehensive assessment and develop a mealtime plan.

Target Audience: 1, 4

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## WORKSHOP SESSION II

(11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

### 6. **Poverty's Impact on Community Health**

This two-pronged workshop will provide an overview of the social determinants of health – the context in which we live our lives, and which shapes our ability to lead healthy, productive lives. We will then discuss specific risk factors for children living in poverty, and ways that educators and school-based professionals can help. Specific strategies for addressing problems related to poverty will be provided in order for participants to utilize these interventions in our schools.

Target Audience: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

### 7. **Mental Health First Aid**

Mental Health First Aid is a national program designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff and human services workers the skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use. Learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

Target Audience: 1, 2, 3,

### 8. **Assisting Students in the Transitions to and from Educational and Behavioral Settings**

It is often a traumatic experience for teachers/school nurses/counselors to bring students from an educational classroom to a behavioral setting. Likewise it's difficult for students to return to the classroom after that experience. This session examines best practices for educators and health care staff when moving students through what can be a disruptive instructional experience, posing difficulties for students to maintain positive long-term relationships with adults and peers, heighten feelings of alienation and limit their sense of belonging.

Target Audience: 1, 3, 4

### 9. **Supporting Grieving Students**

Death and grief will affect the lives of almost all children at some point, often leading to struggles with academic performance, social relationships, and behavior. Health Care professionals can be a critical lifeline for a grieving child. This session will illuminate the classroom issues that grieving may trigger, and empowers school nurses and counselors to undertake the rewarding job of reaching and helping their students, with real-world tips, strategies, and insights they need to explain the major concepts of death in age-appropriate ways; respond constructively to children's common feelings and behaviors after a death; learn what to say and what not to say when a child or family is grieving; address children's responses to different causes of death; help a child who is "stuck" in a difficult phase of grief; provide ongoing assistance when triggers of grief renew a child's sense of loss and notify and support students after a death that affects the whole school.

Target Audience: 1, 2, 3

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## WORKSHOP SESSION III

(2:15 PM – 3:45 PM)

### 10. **Allergies: Facts, Myths, Best Practices and Treatments**

Assessment, education, control of environmental factors and medications are tools employed by healthcare professions to address the increasing numbers of students and patients suffering from allergies. This workshop provides a demographic overview of who is effected and why, dispels myths regarding symptoms and treatments, and provides best practices and treatments for allergies in general and in the school setting, especially on nuts and food-type allergies, and seasonal allergies to pollen caused by tree, grass, and ragweed.

Target Audience: 1, 2

### **11. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

Babies exposed to alcohol in the womb can develop fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). These disorders include a wide range of physical, behavioral, and learning problems. The most severe type of FASD is fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), caused by heavy drinking during pregnancy. Why is FAS important for health care professionals to identify? This workshop answers this question and discusses the effects of FAS on physical, cognitive and behavioral development.

**Target Audience: 1, 2, 3, 4**

### **12. The Opioid Crisis**

The signs and symptoms of opioid overdose are important for educators and health care professionals to recognize as well as knowing about the administration of Narcan (naloxone hydrochloride) in case of an opioid overdose. Narcan Nasal Spray is indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression. It is intended for immediate administration as emergency therapy in settings where opioids may be present, but not a substitute for emergency medical care. The role of the healthcare professional and protocols for opioid overdose in schools will be discussed.

**Target Audience: 1, 3, 4, 5**

### **13. Vaccinations: When Parents Refuse**

Especially for healthcare professionals, this session reviews vaccines, vaccination and immunization, and provides persuasive arguments on the safety, effectiveness, ability to work with individual immune systems to prevent disease and protections for individual and communities from outbreaks. Critical to working with parents who have objections to mandated vaccinations is providing the correct information about the vaccine; understanding denial, especially cultural denial; SED rules and regulations on acceptance or non-acceptance of children who are not vaccinated; the consequences for students and parents if not vaccinated; and the medical or religious exemptions. Suggested resources will be reviewed.

**Target Audience: 1**

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**Target Audience:**

**1 – Nurses (school)**

**2 – Nurses (all)**

**3 – Mental Health Professionals**

**4 – OT/PT/Speech-Language Pathologists**

**5 – Higher Education Faculty and Professionals**