

# pulse

Texas Nurse Practitioners Magazine

Spring 2025

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE ISSUE

What New NPs  
Should Know

DEA Update

CPAN & PeriPAN  
Resources

Legislative News

TNP Board of  
Directors Candidates

Foundation  
Annual Report

Earn A Free CE!  
Article on page 16.



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### Historic Momentum: A New Chapter for Nurse Practitioners in Texas

Over the past few years, we've often likened our legislative initiatives to chipping away at a rock, making gradual but meaningful and impactful forward progress. I'm excited to share that, this year, we're finally seeing that rock crack across all layers!

This interim period has been nothing short of unprecedented in terms of momentous opportunities and synergistic interventions that have propelled us light years ahead. I want to reaffirm that our TNP Team has deployed and continues to utilize all the various faceted and multi-pronged political strategies in our relentless efforts to help remove outdated regulatory burdens in efforts for our TNP family to improve access to health care and choice for all Texans.

#### Senate Interim Hearing: A Historic Step Forward

On September 18, TNP had the honor of testifying at the Texas Senate Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee Hearing on healthcare access. This hearing was historic and a pivotal moment—it marked the first time that a Senate interim hearing was dedicated specifically to the issue of full practice authority for nurse practitioners. Over 12 hours of testimony were heard that day, with contributions from numerous organizations and members of the public. Team TNP provided clear and concise expert invited testimony. We are grateful for everyone's time and resources.

#### Key Leadership Engagement: Historic Conversations

As President, I have shared there are three areas to our policy endeavors—policy, process and politics. Even prior to my appointment as TNP Board President, I had requested our team explore in earnest all available opportunities to secure vital time in front of our three major Texas leaders in addition to growth in breadth and depth for the Legislative Ambassadors program. TNP had blessed moments to meet with all three of the most influential leaders in Texas: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. These discussions centered on Texas-specific regulatory burdens, removing barriers to nurse practitioners, practice and expanding access and choice for health care across all 254 counties of Texas.

Our blessing was then again multiplied in a three-and-half hour private meeting convened by the Lieutenant Governor, which brought together the Texas Medical

Association, TNP, Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Council and Senate Bill authors to explore any potential common ground on these issues, as well as potential options and solutions. While the meeting did not result in a negotiated bill we had hoped for, it provided a valuable platform for in-depth discussion and further strengthened our position and solutions for consideration by the Lieutenant Governor.

In late April, in a rare procedural move, the Lt. Governor did a late introduction of SB 3055 on the Senate floor, a new bill proposal to provide a pathway for independent practice of nurse practitioners in rural areas. The introduction of this new bill underscores the Lt. Governor's continued support on the issue and his willingness to pilot full practice in the areas of highest need in Texas. SB 3055 was heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee on May 1 (see more information in the article below).

#### The Impact of Legislative Ambassadors

Our Legislative Ambassador Program, which was launched several years ago, has proven to be an invaluable asset to TNP's advocacy efforts. The relationships formed through this program have helped us educate, engage and empower our new and seasoned legislators and their staff across all 254 counties in Texas. Thanks to our unified voice, strategic efforts, and consistent presence, we have gained significant traction all over Texas. Thanks to Team TNP, the NP force has a strong palpable pulse life and humanity back into the legislative rooms at the Capitol. As we move forward together, we'll continue to build our ambassador teams, and I encourage you to get involved and help further develop these essential relationships. Each one of you is the expert and we need everyone's help now more than ever!

#### Legislative Session: A Positive Outlook

We're excited to report that two key bills, HB 1942 and SB 268, have already been heard in the committee and received strong support. HB 1942 allows commercial health plans to contract directly with nurse practitioners, regardless of whether their delegating physician is enrolled with those plans. SB 268 seeks to ensure that provider complaints are referred to the appropriate board of jurisdiction—specifically, the Board of Nursing—protecting nurse practitioners from unnecessary regulatory overreach by the Texas Medical Board.

[Continued>>](#)

The appropriations bill, which is still progressing through the process, includes a new budget line item for clinical placements for nurses, and we remain hopeful for a hearing on HB 1948, our Schedule II bill.

### Legislative Session: Defending NP Practice

As we work to advance our proactive legislative agenda, we're also closely monitoring bills that threaten to restrict NP practice in Texas. Some lawmakers have introduced a series of bills that could set Texas back decades in terms of NP practice, including:

- HB 3415: Bans the use of the title "doctor" and the terms "residency" and "fellowship" for NPs
- HB 3479: Requires a physician health assessment for every med spa patient, with the physician required to be immediately available on-site
- HB 3588: Creates a patient directive mandating physician-only care
- HB 3889: Requires every patient to see a physician before an NP can prescribe anything, including antibiotics
- HB 3890: Forces NPs to find a delegating physician within the same specialty

TNP has been working tirelessly to educate members of the Public Health Committee about the detrimental impact of these bills and to prevent them from becoming law. This is where your Texas Nurse Practitioner association plays a vital and critical role. As our proactive and defensive efforts unfold in the coming weeks, we will send timely action requests to our members. Please stay tuned for important updates in your inbox. Remember, in Texas politics, every moment is an opportunity for change. Together as one TNP family, we continue to strengthen this abundantly blessed and historic forward momentum. I know there is no obstacle, challenge or barrier that together we cannot overcome, as we are all in this together! As always, I am available to each of you. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to work alongside each of you in this new NP Era. We cannot let up, and your presence and voice are critical these days and weeks in this 89th legislative session. Blessings on your journey. I'll talk to you soon!

Yours in Service,  
**Erin**  
**(210)343-2175**  
**TNP-EP@outlook.com**



## A Texas Tribute to Dr. Loretta Ford's Legacy and Contributions to the NP Scope of Practice

On January 22, 2025, the nurse practitioner world shook to an abrupt halt. Dr. Loretta Ford, the internationally recognized co-founder of the nurse practitioner role, died peacefully at the age of 104, leaving her groundbreaking legacy behind for more than 40,000 NPs in Texas and more than 430K in our nation. Dr. Ford established the NP profession in 1965, fundamentally reshaping healthcare delivery and expanding healthcare access for patients globally.

Dr. Ford's early work as a public health nurse in rural Colorado, where she witnessed significant healthcare needs, directly inspired her collaboration with Dr. Henry Silver. Their creation of the first NP program at the University of Colorado was a pivotal moment, expanding nurses' roles to provide more complete care and address unmet patient needs.

Even after semi-retiring in 1985, Dr. Ford remained a respected consultant and tireless advocate for NPs



practitioners (NPs), championing their expanding role in healthcare. In 2020, her exceptional contributions to public health and the advancement of nursing were recognized with the U.S. Surgeon General's Medallion.

Dr. Ford's exemplary approach to practice, philosophy, and care for others, along with her mentorship and dedication to patient-centered care, have significantly influenced the NP profession, which now includes over 385,000 licensed NPs delivering comprehensive care. It goes without saying that we would not be where we are today without Dr. Ford. We are forever grateful for her tremendous impact on the NP role and healthcare delivery.



**Introducing TNP's  
Practice Consultant  
John Gonzalez**  
DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC,  
ANP-C, CNE



[Click here for more about this benefit AND to submit your practice question to TNP's Practice Consultant.](#)

**TNP wants your feedback.**  
What scope of practice webinar should TNP offer?  
[Click here to provide your input.](#)

### Ask TNP's Practice Consultant - A Members-Only Benefit

TNP's new *Ask a Practice Consultant* member benefit has been in full swing since the start of 2025. The service is provided by John Gonzales, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, ANP-C, a distinguished dual certified nurse practitioner, educator, and scope-of-practice expert. NPs receive tailored guidance on practice-related questions, including clinical challenges and legal concerns.

## What a Newly Graduating Nurse Practitioner in Texas Should Know

By: John Gonzalez DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, ANP-C | TNP Practice Consultant

Graduating with your graduate nursing degree and becoming a nurse practitioner (NP) is a huge accomplishment, one that should be celebrated. Transitioning into your new role can trigger a plethora of emotions, which may be exacerbated without having the safety net of your educational program. As you transition into practice, there are key Texas requirements and regulations that you must understand to help you safely transition into practice.

### Nurse Practitioner Texas Licensure

To practice as an NP in Texas, the first step is to apply for licensure, which requires you to have an active Texas registered nurse (RN) license. The NP licensure process must be completed online at the following link: [Texas BON Nurse Portal](#). The licensure process will require your educational program to complete paperwork that serves to verify your education and clinical hours, you will be required to provide a copy of your graduate nursing program transcripts and verification that you have passed national certification. The national certification examination that you complete must be aligned with the role and population focus of your educational program.

For instance, if you graduated with a graduate degree that prepared you in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) role and population, the national certification you must take is one designed for FNP's. You may apply and complete national certification concurrently with your application for NP licensure and in most instances, you can request the certifying body to send verification of certification directly to Texas BON.

When applying for NP licensure in Texas, you must specifically apply for NP licensure and prescriptive authority. This is an important distinction of which to be aware. You may hold an NP license without prescriptive authority or with prescriptive authority. Prescriptive authority provides you the privilege of writing prescriptions and ordering durable medical equipment. Without prescriptive authority, you may not prescribe medications or order DME. If you plan to provide direct patient care as a nurse practitioner, you will need prescriptive authority; otherwise, your care will be limited. You will be issued a prescriptive authority number, and this must be included in all prescriptions you write.

[Continued>>](#)



License renewal must be done every 2 years and will correspond with the time frame in which you will renew your RN license. This means every 2 years, you will renew your RN license, your NP license, and prescriptive authority. To renew your license, you must meet the requirements in Texas BON rules [Continuing Competency - §§ 216.1 - 216.11, §221.8 APRN Licensure Renewal](#), and [§222.3 Renewal of Prescriptive Authority](#). NP licensure renewal requires you to have 400 hours of current practice every 2 years. Current practice is broadly defined by the Texas BON as “maintaining competence as an advanced practice nurse by practicing in the advanced role and specialty in the clinical setting, practicing as an educator in the clinical and/or didactic portion of an advanced educational program of study, or practicing as a consultant or an administrator with the advanced specialty and role.” Practice hours as an RN may not be used to meet this criterion. You must also maintain current national certification, whose requirements for practice, continuing education, and scholarship vary between certifying bodies and are separate and in addition to Texas BON requirements.

### Starting Your First Job

Although you can begin searching for a job prior to completing certification and licensure, you may not begin working as a nurse practitioner until you have been licensed to practice in Texas. Once you have licensure and you have a collaborating physician there are a few additional steps that must be completed for you to practice.

**First, NPs must work under a prescriptive authority agreement or facility-based agreement.** You will need to work with your collaborating physician to develop the terms of the delegation. The prescriptive authority agreement must be used for outpatient practices but may also be used for hospital-based practice. A facility-based agreement may only be used for a hospital or nursing home-based practice. Both agreements must be developed by the NP and physician together, signed by both parties, and renewed annually. They must be kept for a minimum of two years from the date of signing. Texas Nurse Practitioners provides templates for each agreement that are aligned with the Texas BON requirements that are available in the [online store](#).

**Second, physicians are required to report to the Texas Board of Medicine, to whom, they are delegating prescriptive authority.** You may initiate this process by going to the Texas Board of Medicine’s website, opening an account, and requesting delegation with a specific physician. Once you have a collaborating physician, you can go to the [Online Supervision and Prescriptive Delegation Registration System](#) and complete the request. You will need your license number, the physician’s name, and the license number to complete the request. If your collaborating physician has agreed to delegate dangerous drugs and scheduled drugs, they must designate they are delegating both to you when they complete their portion of the request. Once completed, it is important that you verify that your profile correctly shows the delegations. If the physician is only delegating dangerous drugs, you will only see this as being delegated on your profile. If they are delegating both dangerous drugs and scheduled drugs, you will see two distinct designations.



**Third, if your collaborating physician is delegating the prescription of controlled substances, you must apply for a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number.** Applications are only accepted online, and you may apply at the following link: [DEA Forms and Applications](#). Prior to applying for a DEA, you must have been granted prescriptive authority, and the delegation of prescribing controlled substances must be visible on the Texas Medical Board Online Supervision and Prescriptive Delegation Registration System. The DEA will check with this system prior to issuing the DEA number. A DEA number is required to prescribe any controlled substance.

Continued>>

**Lastly, if you are prescribing scheduled medications, you will need access to the Texas Prescriptive Monitoring Program (PMP).** You may register for an account using the following link [Texas PMP](#). The Texas BON monitors this program on a regular basis to identify any potentially dangerous prescribing practices. NPs are required to check the Texas PMP prior to prescribing opioids, benzodiazepines, carisoprodol, and barbiturates unless the patient is receiving hospice care or has cancer or sickle cell. A notation must be made in the patient's chart that the Texas PMP was checked prior to writing a prescription for one of these medications. Of importance is that there is a one-time requirement of 2 hours of continuing education on the prescribing and monitoring of controlled substances that must be completed by any APRN who is licensed after September 1, 2020, and is authorized to receive information from the Texas PMP.

### Final Thoughts

There is a lot to know, and it can be overwhelming. This article provides basic information to get started, but more details are not fully explained. Joining a

professional organization can be beneficial. Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) is the state's leading professional organization for Nurse Practitioners. TNP provides resources such as continuing education opportunities, legislative updates, networking events, advocacy efforts, and a practice consultant to support NP practice. Joining and maintaining membership in TNP can also provide a network of peers and mentors to guide you through the challenges of your early career.

Get the 2025 TNP  
PAC campaign  
t-shirt online!



[Click here](#) to purchase.

## DEA Update

Submitted by: John Gonzalez DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, ANP-C | TNP Practice Consultant

In January 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) introduced a final rule aimed at expanding access to buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) through telemedicine. This rule, ***Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter***, permits DEA-registered practitioners to prescribe an initial six-month supply of buprenorphine via audio-only or audio-video telemedicine encounters, provided certain conditions are met.

### Key Provisions of the Final Rule:

- 1. Prescription Duration:** Practitioners can prescribe an up to six-month supply of buprenorphine; however, they should not issue the six-month supply at all once. Issued prescriptions should be medically appropriate.
- 2. Telemedicine Encounters:** The rule allows for both audio-only and audio-video telemedicine encounters, broadening access for patients who may face barriers to in-person visits.
- 3. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Review:** Before prescribing buprenorphine via telemedicine, practitioners must review the PDMP data of the state where the patient is located during the encounter.
- 4. Patient Identification Verification:** Pharmacists are required to verify the patient's identity using a valid government-issued ID or another acceptable form of identification before dispensing the medication.

Initially, the rule was set to take effect on February 18, 2025. However, on February 14, 2025, the DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a delay in the effective date until March 21, 2025. For further information you may read the rule at the following link [federalregister.gov](#).



## Resources for Texas NPs

### CPAN and PeriPAN are Resources to Expand Your Capacity

*Mental health is complex. Texas PeriPAN and CPAN are free, simple, and trusted resources for Texas nurse practitioners and other health care clinicians.*

You're on the front lines of patient care, but you don't have to manage patients' mental health challenges alone.

The Texas Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) and Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network (PeriPAN) provide real-time, evidence-based peer-to-peer mental health consults and resources at no cost to you or your patients.

**CPAN** – For clinicians who see children and adolescents.  
**PeriPAN** – For clinicians who see prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum women.

#### Key Features for Texas Clinicians

- Quick responses:
  - Reach a mental health expert immediately; consult with a psychiatrist within 30 minutes or set a convenient callback time.
  - Text to start a consult; we reply within 5 minutes.
- One-time direct psychiatric assessments of your patient, when indicated.
- Free, high-yield CMEs, including ECHOs and ethics.
- Referrals in 1 business day - let us do the legwork to vet options for your patients.
- Assist you with treatment plans, clarifying diagnosis, and more.
- Signing up for CPAN/PeriPAN takes 5 minutes and is done once.



Our access network is backed by research, based on other effective models in the country, and anchored in 12 Texas medical schools.

#### Program Impact and Benefit

- Patients who get treatment can and do improve.
- Access programs like this help your patients get the mental health care they need—fast.
- Over 14,200 Texas clinicians are enrolled in PeriPAN and CPAN.
- 98% satisfaction rating among clinicians.
- Over 41,000 patients served to date.

**No call is too small, call as often as needed.**

#### Contact Us!

**888-901-2726 | TXCPAN.org | TXPeriPAN.org**

## Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit



Find PeriPAN's Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit at [tcmhcc.utsystem.edu/peripan-toolkit/](https://tcmhcc.utsystem.edu/peripan-toolkit/) with information on:

- Perinatal mental health conditions
- Screening tools, how to score them, & what to do next
- Patient education and care resources

You can also watch our 10-minute video, *Utilizing the PeriPAN Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit* to learn more about how clinicians can use it to build capacity and enhance the standard of care for perinatal mental and behavioral health conditions.

# PARAGON

## Health Partners

### Paragon Health Partners Advancing Patient Care in Texas: A Spotlight on Our Post-Acute Care Practice



Our Post-Acute Care practice is redefining specialized medical services in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities across Texas. With a focus on **Physiatry, Pain Management, and Addiction Medicine**, our dedicated team of physicians and **Nurse Practitioners (NPs)** works to enhance the quality of life for aging and medically complex patients.

#### Comprehensive, Compassionate Care in Post-Acute Settings

The need for specialized care in **skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and long-term care (LTC) settings** continues to grow, and our team is committed to filling this gap with **expertise, accessibility, and patient-centered care**. Our approach prioritizes:

- **Physiatry (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation)** – Helping patients regain function and mobility after strokes, injuries, or surgeries.
- **Pain Management** – Addressing acute and chronic pain with multimodal, non-invasive, and interventional treatments.
- **Addiction Medicine** – Supporting patients with safe, evidence-based management of opioid dependence and substance use disorders.

Bringing **high-quality specialty care directly into post-acute settings**, we help reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions, optimize recovery, and improve overall patient well-being.

For more information on our practice and career opportunities, please contact **Karen McNerney** at [kmcnerney@paragonphp.com](mailto:kmcnerney@paragonphp.com).

#### Empowering Nurse Practitioners in Post-Acute Care

As our practice expands throughout the **Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metroplex**, we continuously grow our team of **Nurse Practitioners (NPs)** who play a vital role in delivering this high-level care. We believe in empowering NPs through:

- **Collaborative, multidisciplinary care models** alongside physicians and facility staff.
- **Ongoing training and mentorship** in post-acute Physiatry, Pain Management, and Addiction Medicine.
- **Opportunities for professional growth** in a dynamic and evolving field.

With Texas being home to a **rapidly aging population** and an increasing demand for **skilled NPs in post-acute settings**, we are proud to support and integrate NPs into specialty care roles where they can make a meaningful impact.

#### Join Our Growing Team

As we **expand our footprint in the DFW area**, we welcome **passionate and skilled Nurse Practitioners** to join us in transforming post-acute care. If you are an NP looking for a **rewarding career in Physiatry, Pain Management, or Addiction Medicine**, we would love to connect!

#### TNP's Corporate Membership Program

We're committed to supporting your company's efforts to develop and retain top APRN talent and helping your company shine. TNP's corporate memberships are designed to meet the needs of organizations with APRN workforces of all types and sizes.

[Click here](#) to learn about the many priceless and exclusive benefits of a TNP Corporate Member, including highlighting your company in a corporate member spotlight!

Contact [connie@texasnp.org](mailto:connie@texasnp.org) for questions.

## TNP Testifies During State Affairs Hearing



In a major step toward addressing Texas’s rural healthcare shortages and removing restrictions on Texas nurse practitioners, on May 1 the Senate State Affairs Committee held a public hearing on Senate Bill 3055, a bipartisan proposal that could significantly expand access to healthcare in medically underserved rural communities across the state.

A strong lineup of over 20 testifiers representing TNP and the Texans for Healthcare Access Coalition withstood hours of grueling testimony on the witness stand ([watch hearing video here](#)).

SB 3055, filed by Senators Mayes Middleton and César Blanco, would allow qualified nurse practitioners to practice independently in rural areas where provider shortages limit access to timely and essential care. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick introduced the bill in a special procedural move in late April, signaling that it is a priority for him.

“We thank Senators Middleton and Blanco for their dedication to solving our state’s health care access challenges and applaud the Senate State Affairs Committee for hearing this critical piece of legislation,” said Erin Pérez, president of Texas Nurse Practitioners.

“SB 3055 is not just a policy improvement—it’s a lifeline for thousands of Texans. This bill would help address the healthcare access crisis occurring in rural communities, providing access to nurse practitioners who are educated, safe, and highly trained to care for Texas patients. It’s time we give them the ability to serve where they are needed most.”



[Click here](#) to read the full report on Healthcare Documentation.

### Nursing Allegations Related to Healthcare Documentation

Brought to you by NSO

While documenting care represents a critical component of nursing processes and standards, the electronic health record (EHR) has posed a level of complexity for nurses who are often challenged with why, how, what, and where to document in a patient’s EHR.

Documentation deficiencies are contributing factors to many nurse professional liability claims, as well as license protection matters. However, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the NSO/CNA *Nurse Liability Claim Report*, **failure to document** or **falsifying documentation** closed claims, as an allegation of professional liability, increased in distribution and severity when compared to the 2011 closed claim report and the 2015 closed claim report.



## Two TNP Bills Advance in the Texas Legislature



In March, two bills on TNP's legislative agenda, HB 861/SB 268 (Howard/Perry) and HB 1942/SB 1487 (Smithee/Perry) were scheduled for public hearings in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Insurance Committee. Both bills were met with wide support from legislators and stakeholders. Given the early date of the public hearings, they have a strong chance of successfully advancing in the legislative process.

### HB 1942, Insurance Bill

On March 26, TNP testified in support of [HB 1942](#), one of the priority bills on TNP's legislative agenda that would allow commercial health plans to contract directly with Nurse Practitioners (NPs), regardless of whether their delegating physician is enrolled in those plans. HB 1942 is a clean-up of prior TNP legislation—SB 654 from 2017—

that allowed health plans to contract directly with NPs for Medicaid/CHIP, even if the NP's delegating physician didn't accept Medicaid plans. HB 1942 would extend the same flexibilities to the commercial insurance market.

HB 1942 is pro-business, pro-patient legislation that will expand access and choice for Texans. TNP is grateful to Rep. Smithee and Sen. Perry for carrying this important legislation, and we look forward to getting this bill across the finish line.

### SB 268, Board Complaints Bill

On March 18, TNP registered in support of [SB 268](#), another one of the priority bills on TNP's legislative agenda that would require regulatory agencies to refer any complaints for a licensed individual to the appropriate board of jurisdiction. For example, if a complaint against an NP were submitted to the Texas Medical Board (TMB), the TMB would be required to refer this complaint to the Texas Board of Nursing, the board of jurisdiction for NPs. This bill would protect against regulatory overreach and ensure NP cases are appropriately dealt with by the Board of Nursing.

TNP is grateful to our bill authors, Sen. Perry and Rep. Howard, for leading the charge on this important issue.

Stay tuned for email updates as these and other TNP bills move through the process!

## Support our Annual TNP PAC Campaign: HEAL Texas Now

In March, we announced our annual TNP PAC campaign: HEAL Texas Now. We raised \$8,000 in the first couple weeks of the campaign. [Help us reach our \\$25,000 campaign goal by the end of May.](#)

A Texas-sized problem requires a Texas-sized solution. It's time to retire these antiquated systems of power and profit by passing full-practice legislation and putting patients first.

With the legislative session upon us, now is the time to act. [Donate \\$89 today for the 89th Legislative Session](#) and help us continue to build the unstoppable momentum towards full practice authority for Texas NPs!



## Historic Meeting on TNP Full Practice Bill

In March, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick convened a historic meeting with TNP and the Texas Medical Association to discuss a path forward for the full practice bills introduced this session, including HB 3794/SB 1859 by Rep. Darby and Sen. Middleton and SB 9-1-1 by Sen. Blanco. This is the highest level of support a bill can hope to receive in the Texas legislature, and it sends a strong message about the momentum and growing political support behind the bills.

While conversations are ongoing, there are several ways you can support our advocacy efforts for HB 3794/SB 1859 and SB 9-1-1 over the critical next few weeks.

### You can help.

- 1. Send a Letter to Your Legislator on our Grassroots Action Center:** Take a couple of minutes to [send a ready-made letter to your State Representative and Senator](#) on HB 3794/SB1859 and SB 9-11. Once you've pressed send, share the Action Center link with at least two more NPs, friends, or colleagues.
- 2. Gather Support Letters:** We are collecting support letters for our full practice bills to hand deliver to the House Public Health Committee when our bills get a hearing. Reach out to neighbors, friends, family members, local elected officials, and community leaders, and ask them if they'd be willing to sign a letter of support ([see sample letter here](#)). Please send all support letters to [erin@texasnp.org](mailto:erin@texasnp.org).

We look forward to sharing more news in the weeks to come. In the meantime, please make sure to contact your legislators and collect letters of support from your community so we're ready to go when the bill gets a hearing.



Chairman VanDeaver  
House Public Health Committee  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Chair VanDeaver,

I am writing this letter to express support for HB 3794/SB 1859 by Rep. Darby and Sen. Middleton, which will lift unnecessary regulations on nurse practitioners and expand patient access to quality, local healthcare, especially in our rural and underserved communities.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert role/position here), I have seen firsthand the impact of the lack of healthcare access in our community. (Include examples related to lack of access to care or the critical, life-saving care nurse practitioners provide here).

Families in our district desperately need more options for healthcare. The provider shortage is getting worse, and costs are skyrocketing. We need more access to local, quality health care we can trust, and nurse practitioners are a vital part of the solution.

This change is widely supported by everyday Texans, and we need to hear their concerns and put the needs of Texas patients first.

Thank you for all you do to serve the citizens of our district and for all you do to improve healthcare access for Texans.

Sincerely,  
Name, Credentials

**CALL TO ACTION!**

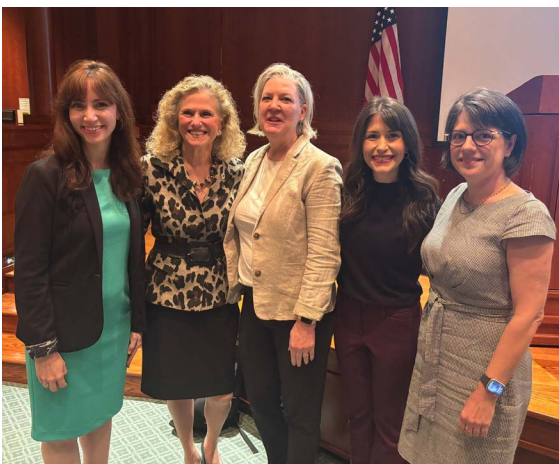


**Contact your legislators  
and collect letters of  
support from your  
community!**



## TNP's 2025 Capitol Days

Over the past few months, TNP held four Capitol Days and three First Wednesday Lobby Days with the Texans for Healthcare Access Coalition. **Through these targeted efforts, we've conducted hundreds of legislative visits and had a sustained, growing presence at the Texas Capitol throughout the legislative session.** Every visit and every contact with lawmakers counts. Thank you to all our Texas NPs who have contributed to these Capitol Days. You've played a critical role in helping us advance the bills on TNP's legislative agenda and defend and protect NP practice against the harmful bills introduced in this session.











Read this article.  
Answer the questions.  
Earn a free CE!

## Free Quarterly CE Scope of Practice FAQs

### 1. Can AGACNPs go into functional medicine as it is still a “specialty?”

To answer your question, I have considered several factors and would like to share my thought process.

First, it is essential to understand some general principles of the NP scope of practice: Scope of practice is determined by the patient’s needs, not the physical location. The AGACNP role involves providing care to individuals experiencing acute or critical illness, those who are unstable, technologically dependent, or dealing with chronic, complex conditions. Primary care is defined as an ongoing, long-term relationship between the nurse practitioner and the patient. Subspecialty care is typically considered an overlap between primary care and acute care.

Second, it’s important to clarify what functional medicine is and what it is not. Functional medicine focuses on addressing the root causes of chronic disease. A functional medicine practitioner evaluates the individual as a whole to identify interrelated dysfunctions and the underlying cause of the illness and creates a plan aimed at treating that root cause. The goal is to restore the body’s function and health. It’s worth noting that practitioners working in a true functional medicine practice typically work with individuals experiencing chronically complex illnesses. I emphasize the term “true” because wellness clinics, hormone replacement clinics, and weight management clinics may be mistaken for functional medicine practices. While these clinics may address some conditions within the functional medicine framework, they do not represent the comprehensive model of care that functional medicine embodies.

Examples of chronically complex conditions that may be seen in a functional medicine practice include the following.

#### Gut Health:

- Irritable bowel syndrome is resistant to traditional treatments, where patients have had scopes, CT scans, and other tests with negative results but continue experiencing symptoms such as persistent constipation, diarrhea, or bloating.
- Crohn’s disease, or Ulcerative Colitis, is a condition in which patients receive standard care but are unable to achieve remission or experience frequent flare-ups.

#### Metabolic Health:

- A patient newly diagnosed with diabetes who wants to implement lifestyle changes to prevent progression, reverse the condition, and minimize the need for medications.
- A diabetic patient on insulin and multiple other agents who continues to experience high A1c levels and seeks help with improving glucose control, weight loss, etc.
- Hypothyroidism treatment: While this is typically within the AGACNP scope, functional medicine approaches may differ from traditional practices.
- An obese patient with hypertension (HTN), diabetes, and chronic kidney disease (CKD) who seeks help managing fatigue, blood sugar, and blood pressure.

#### Autoimmune Conditions:

Conditions such as Lupus or Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), where patients often have both acute and chronic complications and suboptimal responses to standard therapies.

Examples of patients typically seen in wellness, hormone replacement, or weight management clinics, which are not in line with functional medicine practices, include:

- A 45-year-old male seeking evaluation for testosterone replacement therapy due to decreased libido and erectile dysfunction.
- A 55-year-old female seeking evaluation for perimenopausal symptoms and considering estrogen replacement therapy.
- A 35-year-old female requesting semaglutide to lose 15 pounds without any comorbid conditions related to obesity.

Given the information above, I believe functional medicine represents a specialized practice that overlaps with both primary and acute care. Therefore, I consider functional medicine (as described above) to be within the scope of an AGACNP. However, patients seeking care in wellness, hormone replacement, or weight management clinics typically fall outside the AGACNP’s scope of practice.

If your goal is to work in a true functional medicine practice, I believe this aligns with the scope of an AGACNP. However, if your interest lies in a wellness,

[Continued>>](#)

hormone replacement, or weight management clinic, this would generally not be considered within your scope of practice as an AGACNP.

The most straightforward way to expand your scope to include these areas would be to pursue AG primary care NP education, certification, and licensure. While this requires additional time, cost, and effort, it would simplify matters and allow you to provide care in wellness clinics or specialize in hormone replacement therapy.

Should you decide to work in a functional medicine practice, it is crucial to understand the types of patients typically seen in the practice to ensure you remain within your scope of practice as an AGACNP. You should also pursue continuing education courses specific to functional medicine and consider obtaining certification through the Institute of Functional Medicine or other recognized programs. Additionally, ensure that your patients are receiving the standard of care while you apply a functional medicine approach. Once improvements are made, you can collaborate with the patient and/or their other providers to adjust medications or alter standard treatments as necessary.

## 2. Hi, I wanted to know the rules and regulations around starting a PLLC and NP-owned practices?

To help guide you through this process, I've provided some key points to consider regarding the rules and regulations for starting a PLLC in Texas. Since you are a licensed professional in Texas, you are required to form a PLLC. You can file the paperwork directly with the Texas Secretary of State or hire an attorney to complete the paperwork for you. I have provided a link to the page where you can download the form: [www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/forms\\_boc.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/forms_boc.shtml). Be sure to use the form for a PLLC, which is Form 206. A PLLC does not protect you against professional liability (such as malpractice), but it will protect you against business liabilities.

To form a PLLC in Texas, you will need to have a Texas Registered Agent. There are many agencies that provide this service, and their fees are generally annual and less than \$100. The PLLC paperwork will ask for your registered agent's name, address, and phone number. You will not be able to file without this information, so be sure to take care of this first. The registered agent is the entity that will

accept lawsuits on your behalf should your PLLC be sued, and it is required by law.

A registered business, such as a PLLC, must file an annual report with Texas, known as the Franchise Tax Report, and pay the tax when necessary. The threshold for the tax is relatively high, usually over \$1 million in revenue. This means you won't owe the franchise tax until your business reaches the minimum threshold. For example, if your business makes \$500,000 and the threshold is \$1 million, you won't pay the tax. However, you should work with an accountant to assist you with this.

Other things for you to be aware of are below:

Texas law does not permit a physician to own a practice in partnership with a nurse practitioner. This is a complex regulation, but the key point is that you must own 100% of the business. You can, however, co-own the practice with another APRN without any issues.

Be sure to establish the appropriate PAA (Physician Assistant Agreement) and delegation requirements with a physician.

Several years ago, the federal government enacted a requirement that mandates all corporations (PLLC, LLC, S Corp) to register with the federal government. This is known as the BOI (Beneficial Ownership Information) requirement. As a newly formed entity, you will be expected to register shortly after your PLLC is formed. This requirement was introduced to increase transparency in corporate ownership. Failure to register could result in daily fines from the federal government. The requirement went into effect on January 1, 2025. There have been some lawsuits related to this, and given the changes at the federal level, I cannot confirm whether this requirement is still in active enforcement. The safest course of action is to register your PLLC with the federal government. You can find more information and register here: [www.fincen.gov/boi](http://www.fincen.gov/boi). If you have any specific questions about this, I recommend discussing them with an attorney.

Be sure to maintain a separate business checking account and obtain an EIN (Employer Identification Number) from the IRS. You can apply for an EIN here: [www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number](http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number).

Continued>>



If you will be selling products that are subject to sales tax, you will need to register with the Texas Comptroller. They may have specific requirements that you will need to meet, which I am not aware of. I recommend working with an attorney and an accountant to ensure compliance.

You will also want to obtain professional malpractice insurance and, if you have a physical location, liability insurance for the property you rent, lease, or own. Some malpractice insurance providers offer both types of coverage together.

There are different options for how your PLLC can be taxed by the IRS. I recommend working with an accountant to help you understand the differences and determine the best tax structure for your PLLC.

There may be local zoning laws and ordinances that you may need to follow as well.

If you will be billing insurance, you will need to ensure that all your vendors EMR, labs, your phone number, voicemail, email etc. are HIPPA compliant and maintain documentation of their compliance.

The above is my general knowledge and experience. I do hope you find it helpful. I do recommend that you consult with an attorney who is familiar with both business and healthcare laws to help you navigate the nuances of the laws and regulations that will impact your business.

**3. I am a new hire at a physician-owned group. When hired, I signed a collaborative agreement/prescriptive authority document with the physician practice owner and co-owner physician listed as alternate. The practice has several physicians, and I will end up seeing patients for all of the physicians. Do I need to have a collaborative agreement/prescriptive authority document with each individual physician? Or does my practice fall under the umbrella of the established physician owner I have already signed?**

My answer is based on the assumption that you are only working in the outpatient setting. If this is not correct, please let me know.

Board of Nursing Rule 222.5, the Prescriptive Authority Agreement (PAA), is the governing rule for your situation. As you know, this rule requires APRNs working in an outpatient setting to execute a PAA. However, the rule does not specifically address how to navigate your particular scenario—working in a large physician practice under multiple physicians. Unlike Board Rule 222.6 Prescribing

at Facility-Based Practices, Rule 222.5 does not contain a provision allowing one physician to delegate to all physicians in a physician group practice. Given that you will be seeing patients for each physician in this practice, under the strictest interpretation of the rule, each physician would need to serve as a delegating physician for their patients.

**Based on the details provided in the rule, here are some actionable steps you can take to ensure compliance:**

Have each physician sign the PAA. You will need to include their license number, credentials (MD/DO), and their practice addresses. If all physicians are working at one location, you can note that in the PAA. However, if the physicians you will be working with are at different locations, each location should be listed in the PAA, and it should be clear in the PAA which location each physician is serving as a delegating physician.

**Monthly meetings:**

Although the rule does not specify who should conduct the monthly meetings in a physician group practice, it is reasonable to have the MD owner perform the monthly meetings with you, with the co-owner serving as a designated alternate physician to complete the meetings. It is best practice to ensure that you are reviewing cases from each physician's patient panel during your monthly meetings. For example, if you work with 10 physicians, you should review 2 or 3 different physicians' patients each month. Be sure to note in your monthly meeting documentation which physicians' patients you are reviewing.

**Additional documentation of collaboration:**

If you are seeing Mrs. Smith for Dr. ABC and consult Dr. ABC for direction regarding Mrs. Smith, keep a log of these conversations and attach it to your monthly meeting documentation. This will demonstrate your collaboration with each specific physician.

Finally, remember that the PAA must be reviewed and signed by all parties annually, and you must retain a copy for at least two years.

**4. What is the lower age boundary of patients for adult-gerontology acute care NPs to take care of?**

The Texas Board of Nursing does not define age limits for any advanced practice registered nurse and will look to what your school says is the age limit and what the

[Continued>>](#)

National Nursing Organizations define as the age limit. As of February 2024, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, along with several other national nursing organizations, published a document that helped to define NP scope of practice, curriculum, and NP competencies. The document's name is the Competency Implementation Guide for Nurse Practitioner Faculty. In this document, they provided age ranges for all nurse practitioner specialties. The youngest patient the AGACNP can treat is 15 years old.

**5. I am in the process of opening my own business and am getting conflicting information regarding ownership. I do have an attorney who has advised me I can solely own the business and simply hire a supervising/collab MD; however, a fellow NP is telling me I am unable to own (solely) due to the corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) restrictions. I have tried to research for clarity, but it is just muddying the water more. Can you clarify this for me?**

Congratulations on opening your own practice! This must be an exciting time for you.

The regulations surrounding the Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPOM) are largely based on precedents set by Texas courts, which interpret the Texas Medical Act and Texas Business Code. As such, there is not a specific law in Texas that directly addresses CPOM. The main principle of CPOM regulations is that a non-physician entity, such as a corporation, cannot employ a physician. However, there are some limited exceptions.

CPOM regulations are designed to ensure that a physician has complete control over the practice of medicine, preventing a non-physician entity from directing medical practice or practicing medicine itself. This is because the physician must be free to make decisions that are in the best interest of their patients without interference from a non-physician entity. Employment of a physician by a non-physician entity is viewed as an undue influence on the physician's practice of medicine, and essentially allowing the non-physician entity to practice medicine. As a result, this violates CPOM regulations. Ultimately, CPOM prevents anyone from employing a physician.

The above explanation provides context for understanding CPOM. Now, let's discuss how this impacts Nurse Practitioners (NPs) who want to open their own practice

and need a supervising or collaborating physician in Texas. In this scenario, the NP cannot employ the physician due to CPOM. However, the NP can enter into a contractual agreement with the physician to provide supervision for their practice. As a 1099 independent contractor, the physician is not considered an employee of the NP. Since the physician is delegating and supervising the NP's practice, the physician retains complete control over their own medical practice. Therefore, this arrangement does not violate CPOM regulations.

**6. I am planning on opening my own business for wound care. Would I need a collaborating physician/delegation agreement even if I don't plan to prescribe medications?**

The answer depends on your business intentions. If you intend to focus solely on wound care ordered by a licensed ordering prescriber (such as a physician, PA, or NP with the appropriate delegation in place), you would technically be working as an RN and would only be able to function at the RN level. If any orders need to be changed, you would need to report your assessment to the ordering provider and request new wound care orders.

However, I suspect this is not your intent. If you wish to see patients, assess their wounds, perform wound care, make changes as needed, and write orders for medications, wound supplies, etc., then you would be required to have a supervising physician and execute a Prescriptive Authority Agreement. The physician would also need to report the delegation to the Board of Medicine.



**After reading the article  
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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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TNP Member Since 2021

**Christina Paz**  
**DNP, APRN, FNP-C**  
Chief Executive Officer of  
Centro San Vicente

**Champion:**  
For access to quality  
care for Texans



## Breaking Barriers to Healthcare Access

**Christina Paz, DNP, APRN, FNP-C**, is the CEO of *Centro San Vicente Family Health*, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in El Paso, Texas. A passionate leader, she is dedicated to ensuring quality healthcare for patients across Far West Texas.

Imagine living in a community where the nearest healthcare provider is two or three hours away. For many residents in this region, that's a harsh reality. Geographic isolation, transportation challenges, and socioeconomic factors all create significant barriers to care.

[Click here](#) for Christina's full story.

## Members Who Make Texas NPs Proud!

Congratulations to **Kimberly Posey**, PhD, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, GS-C, who has recently been appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve on the Texas Nursing Facility Administrators Advisory Committee.

[Click here](#) for Kimberly's full story.

**Kimberly Posey**  
PhD, DNP, APRN,  
AGPCNP-BC, GS-C  
TNP Member since 2011

Congratulations to Kimberly Posey on her recent appointment by Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Nursing Facility Administrators Advisory Committee.

**Elizabeth Ellis, DNP, APRN,  
FNP-BC, FAANP, CRCHP**  
TNP Member since 2011

Congratulations to Elizabeth Ellis on her recent election to the NARHC Rural Education Foundation Board.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Fuselier Ellis**, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, CRCHP, who was recently elected to serve on the Rural Education Foundation Board, a 501(c)3 subsidiary of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC).

[Click here](#) for Elizabeth's full story.

### 2025 AANP Fellows

AANP has named 51 NPs as Fellows of the AANP (FAANP) for their exemplary service and achievements—six of whom are members of Texas Nurse Practitioners. The AANP Fellows will be inducted on June 19 at the AANP National Conference in San Diego, becoming part of a prestigious group influencing health worldwide. Congratulations to our Texas AANP Fellows of 2025! You make us proud!



**Jacqueline Broadway-Duren**  
PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC  
Missouri City, TX



**Jayne Dunlap**  
DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CNE, EBP-C  
Magnolia, TX



**Stephanie Key**  
DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS  
Round Rock, TX



**Kimberly Posey, PhD,**  
DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, GS-C  
Trophy Club, TX



**Tracy Wilson**  
DNP, MSN Ed, FNP-C  
Cypress, TX

### TNP Leadership

#### TNP Board of Directors



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**BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE**  
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MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

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## Meet the 2025 Candidates for the TNP Board of Directors

TNP is pleased to present the following individuals for you to consider for election to the Texas Nurse Practitioners Board of Directors.

TNP members with voting rights (Legacy, Regular, First Year Graduate, and Retired member types) were sent an email containing the slate of candidates and linked ballot for voting on Tuesday, April 25, titled “TNP Board Elections: Meet Our Candidates & Vote Today.” If you did not receive an email, please get in touch with Connie at [connie@texasnp.org](mailto:connie@texasnp.org).

The three candidates receiving the most votes will serve on the 2025–2026 TNP Board of Directors. Voting will close at 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2025. Results will be posted on [texasnp.org](https://texasnp.org) and shared via email.

**Thank you for participating.**

### Candidates

#### Susan Calloway, PhD, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAANP (Incumbent)

Susan Calloway, PhD, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAANP, has been a nurse practitioner in rural and urban areas for 27 years and an educator of nurse practitioners for 26. She is the owner of Hill Country Psychiatric Associates providing geri-psych services in rural areas. Dr. Calloway is an innovator in establishing the first telehealth course for nurse practitioner students in the country and has served on the telehealth advisory councils for the AANP and NONPF. She has served on state commissions representing healthcare providers in Missouri and Texas and currently serves on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. She has presented nationally at conferences for AANP and NONPF, as well as statewide through TNP, and has numerous professional journal publications. She recently retired as the program director of the PMHNP program at TTUHSC to become adjunct faculty, where she was presented with the Chancellor’s Teaching Award. She was inducted as a FAANP and selected for Texas Nurse Practitioner of the Year. Her research interests are transitions for college-bound adolescents with mental health disorders, stigmatizing attitudes by healthcare providers in caring for individuals with mental health issues, and the efficacy of tele-mental health clinical experiences.



**Voting closes on May 15, 2025!**

**[Click here](#) to review the candidates.**

Please contact [connie@texasnp.org](mailto:connie@texasnp.org) if you did not receive your ballot via email.

### Statement of Goals

**Goal 1:** Seek full practice authority by creating a unified voice and sharing stories of the impact of NPs on healthcare and the negative impact of mandatory supervision.

**Goal 2:** Support improving the quality of health care in Texas by establishing a DNP student - Clinician/ Organization matching program in order to facilitate needed QI initiatives.

**Goal 3:** Support NPs in practice through mentorship services for transition to practice and for establishing nurse practitioner-owned clinics.

### Campaign Message

I am seeking a position on the board because I have the desire and time to devote to serving the nurse practitioners of Texas. I love my profession and the difference that nurse practitioners make in the lives of patients. My over 25 years of experience as an FNP and PMHNP, as well as an educator, have provided me with the ability to consider issues from several perspectives. My roots are from a farming community, so rural health and healthcare access have always been my passion. My goals are 1.) to seek full practice authority through a unified voice to improve healthcare; 2.) support improving the quality of healthcare in Texas through offering a DNP student-NP matching program to facilitate needed QI initiatives; and 3.) support NPs in practice through mentorship for transition to practice and for establishing nurse practitioner owned clinics.

[Click here](#) to view Dr. Calloway’s video message.



### Justin Cullers, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC (Incumbent)

Justin Cullers is a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) practicing medication management and psychotherapy in Austin. He has served on the TNP Board, TNP Policy Council, and TNP President's Council. He was honored with the TNP Visionary Award for his role in the ground-up development of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Texas (PAPN Texas) in 2020. He served as the first President of PAPN Texas and is a former President of PAPN Austin. A veteran who served in the Gulf War (1991) as an Army Combat Medic, he was inspired to become a PMHNP while treating traumatized service members as an Army Nurse at Brooke Army Medical Center during the early months of the Iraq War. He earned his MSN from the University of Texas-Austin and furthered his clinical training by completing the two-year Adult Psychodynamic Psychotherapy program through the Center for Psychoanalytic Studies in Houston.

#### Statement of Goals

**Goal 1:** Grow our grassroots efforts to eliminate barriers to practice and make Texas the next full-practice state.

**Goal 2:** Increase our membership and build an extensive NP community across our vast state.

**Goal 3:** Recruit and develop NP leaders from a variety of backgrounds.

#### Campaign Message

I represent the interests of working NPs who want to practice to the full extent of their training and prosper from their hard work. TNP has made great progress in advancing our interests in the Texas Legislature and promoting the importance of our roles to the public. I want to further that work by growing a membership community that reflects the diversity of our great state, listening to needs of our members, and advocating for our interests in the political and public arenas.

[Click here](#) to view Justin Cullers's video message.

### LuTricia Harrison, DNP, APRN-C (Incumbent)

With a distinguished career spanning over 29 years in healthcare and education, Dr. LuTricia Harrison, DNP, APRN-C, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to Texas Nurse Practitioners. A seasoned educator, healthcare provider, and entrepreneur, Dr. Harrison has dedicated her career to advancing healthcare education and improving patient outcomes.

Dr. Harrison has instructed, mentored, and guided nursing students, ensuring their success. As faculty, she has also supervised and evaluated nursing students in clinical rotations in undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Harrison has excelled in clinical practice as the owner and operator of a Family Clinic in Houston, Texas. She has provided direct patient care but has also served as a mentor and preceptor for Nurse Practitioner students. Dr. Harrison has also led diverse healthcare teams and provided direct nursing care in large hospitals and clinical settings. Dr. Harrison brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board of directors. Her leadership, commitment to excellence and knowledge of healthcare education have positioned her to make a significant impact on the TNP board of directors.

#### Statement of Goals

**Goal 1:** Advocating for the removal of restrictive barriers for NP is a critical priority in advancing both the profession and the quality of healthcare delivery.

**Goal 2:** Increasing the visibility and increased awareness of the vital role of the nurse practitioner in the role of the healthcare team.

**Goal 3:** Work with educational institutions to create pipeline programs that encourage nursing students to pursue participation in professional organizations.

#### Campaign Message

"Advancing Healthcare, Empowering Communities"

As a dedicated advocate for the Nurse Practitioner (NP) profession, I am committed to driving change through advocacy, visibility, and collaboration. My mission is clear: to expand access to high-quality healthcare and ensure successful patient outcomes, especially for our rural and underserved communities. Nurse practitioners are at the forefront of delivering compassionate, patient-centered care, and I believe every Texan deserves timely,

effective treatment—regardless of where they live. Together, we can break down barriers to care, expand the scope of practice for NPs, and create a healthcare system that works for everyone.

Through continued collaboration with healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities, we will pave the way for more accessible, equitable healthcare for all. Let's work together to ensure that every patient has the access they need and the care they deserve.

Join me in advancing the NP profession and improving healthcare for Texas.

[Click here](#) to view LuTricia Harrison's video message.

### Sharon Monica Quigley, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Sharon Quigley, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, has been a dedicated Family Nurse Practitioner since 2007. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor University's Louise Herrington School of Nursing, where she teaches in the DNP/FNP track while also practicing as a PRN Nurse Practitioner at CareNow Urgent Care under HCA Healthcare. Dr. Quigley has mentored and precepted numerous nurse practitioner students, shaping the future of advanced practice nursing. Recognized for her commitment to professional development, she received the 2024 Above and Beyond Award for her volunteer work with Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP). She also plays a vital role in the TNP Foundation's Silent Auction, organizing donation baskets. An active member of AANP, ANA, Texas Pain Society, TNP, and SANAP, Dr. Quigley has served on the TNP Education Committee since 2023 and is currently Treasurer of SANAP.

A Gulf War veteran (1990), she served as an Operating Room Nurse and later as Chief of Nursing Education. She earned her MSN from the University of Phoenix and DNP from Baylor University. A passionate advocate for full practice authority, she strives to enhance nurse practitioner autonomy and patient access to care.

### Statement of Goals

**Goal 1:** Advocacy - My goal is to advocate for holistic, equitable healthcare for all Texans and enable APRNs to practice to their fullest educational extent.

**Goal 2:** My leadership goal is to advance TNP's vision,

advocate for its mission, and promote APRN engagement to enhance healthcare quality and equity in Texas.

**Goal 3:** My service goal is to enhance healthcare access and quality for Texans by supporting APRNs, fostering community engagement, and promoting professional development within TNP.

### Campaign Message

Empowering APRNs to deliver holistic, equitable healthcare for all Texans is at the heart of my campaign. By advancing TNP's vision and advocating for our mission, I aim to ensure that APRNs can practice to their fullest educational extent. My leadership will focus on promoting professional engagement, fostering community involvement, and supporting continuous professional development within TNP. Together, we can elevate healthcare quality and equity across Texas, making a lasting impact on our communities. Join me in championing the role of APRNs and driving meaningful change in our healthcare system. Together, we can achieve a healthier, more equitable future for all Texans.

[Click here](#) to view Sharon Quigley's video message.

### Tracy R. Wilson, DNP, MBE, MSN Ed, APRN, FNP-C

Dr. Tracy R. Wilson has over 22 years of experience in healthcare and patient advocacy, with expertise in clinical education, pediatrics, pharmaceuticals/medical affairs, and health disparities & policy. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Belmont University, a Post-master FNP certification from the University of Kentucky, and a Master of Science in Bioethics & Medical Humanities from Tulane School of Medicine, as well as a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Bellarmine University. Currently, she works as a Medical Science Liaison at ARS Pharma, focusing on an FDA-approved product for allergy and anaphylaxis, providing medical education to Key Opinion Leaders and healthcare professionals. Previously, as a field medical director for antivirals at Pfizer (2019-2024), Dr. Wilson launched six new products and contributed to health disparity initiatives.

Her leadership extends to roles with the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association, and the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. Dr. Wilson, a district-level National

### Tracy R. Wilson, DNP, MBE, MSN Ed, APRN, FNP-C (continued)

Delegate for the 2024 Democratic National Convention, represented over 10,000 Texas nurse practitioners, advocating for their needs nationally.

She is a recognized speaker and panelist, with numerous awards including the President's Award from the National Black Nurse Practitioner Association and the Patient Impact Award for Pharmaceuticals.

### Statement of Goals

**Goal 1:** My goal is to promote policies that enhance the practice environment for nurse practitioners, ensuring their autonomy and resources for delivering high-quality care.

**Goal 2:** My goal is to implement educational programs that support nurse practitioners' continuous professional development, keeping them updated on the latest clinical practices and healthcare trends.

**Goal 3:** My goal is to strengthen community ties through outreach programs that raise awareness of nurse practitioners' roles, fostering collaboration with healthcare professionals and organizations.


### Campaign Message

Greetings, Fellow TNP members,

I'm humbled to be before you today, having dedicated the last two years to the DE&I Committee and the Nominating Committee, working tirelessly to promote inclusivity and fair representation. As your AANP State representative on the Policy Council this past year, I had the privilege of being elected as a state delegate for the Texas Democratic Convention, which ultimately led to my election as a National Delegate to the Democratic National Convention and my current role as Precinct Chair. These experiences have deepened my commitment to our community and our profession. I believe in the power of collaboration and representation, and I am eager to continue advocating for our values and priorities.

Together, we can build a brighter future for all NPs. I ask for your support as we move forward, united in our mission to empower and uplift every voice in our community. Thank you!

[Click here](#) to view Tracy Wilson's video message.



The advertisement features a blue background with abstract white and green wave patterns. On the left, a large white speech bubble contains the text: "Let Us Help You Improve Your Practice's RCM Performance With Our Credentialing And Billing Expertise!". Above this bubble is a circular inset image of a female nurse practitioner in a white coat. Below the bubble is another circular inset image showing hands writing on a notepad next to a laptop. To the right of the speech bubble, a list of services is provided under the heading "How Can We Help?". Below the list is a circular inset containing a QR code and the text "Schedule a Consultation Today". At the bottom center, a white circle displays the contact information: "NIHCGRP.com" and "866.846.0396". To the right of this, under the heading "About NIHC", is a paragraph about the National Integrated Healthcare Group, followed by the NIHC logo and tagline.

**Let Us Help You Improve Your Practice's RCM Performance With Our Credentialing And Billing Expertise!**

**How Can We Help?**

- 20+ Years of Experience
- Customized to Your Needs
- Billing and Credentialing Experts
- Streamline your RCM Process
- AAPC Certified Coders / HFMA
- Centralize Credentialing and RCM
- Improve Collections
- Increase Patient Visibility
- Drive Practice Growth
- Get Your and Your Staff's Time Back

**About NIHC**

National Integrated Healthcare Group was established in 1998 and has extensive experience in credentialing, contracting, billing, and other RCM services. Based in Dallas, NIHC works with practices of any size and specialty throughout the United States.

We aim to provide a seamless solution to your practice's credentialing, and RCM functions to maximize your revenue. We want our clients to be able to focus on patient care and practice growth!

**NIHC**  
National Integrated Health Care Group

NIHCGRP.com  
866.846.0396

Schedule a Consultation Today



## TNP Affiliates

### ★ Austin Advanced Practice Nurses

Austin Advanced Practice Nurses is very proud of Jeffrey Howard and Andrea Kenned, whose project was TNP's current Legislative Policy Toolkit. [Click here](#) to download TNP's Legislative Policy Toolkit.

AAPN began collaborating with a local community center, El Buen Samaritano and will host a health fair with them on June 7 in South Austin. AAPN member, Marc Webb, is scheduled to give a presentation for the organization on April 3rd on movement disorders.

### ★ Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses

The Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses will hold their traditional fundraising event on November 8, 2025, at the Omni in Corpus Christi. The event is a Roaring 20's Casino Night because NPs are a safe bet in the 2020s. The planned event is expected to have 250-300 NPs, friends, and community partners in attendance.



CBAPN'S community outreach is active: The NP Running Team participated in the St. Patrick's Day 5K, we Sponsored a table at the American Heart Association Heart Ball 2025, sponsored lunch at the TAMUCC Nurses Week celebration, and volunteered at the Corpus Christi Wine Festival earning money that helps with our BSN/MSN/DNP scholarships. For more information about our events and monthly meetings: [coastalbendapn.org](http://coastalbendapn.org) and on Facebook: Coastal Bend APN.

### ★ Galveston Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses (GCAPN)

Galveston Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses (GCAPN) started monthly meeting presentations in January with Dr. Purvi addressing pain management. In February, Corrie Beck, DNP, presented a liver disease session, and in March, Corcept Therapeutics sponsored a discussion on Hypercortisolism.



Nancy Brownlee, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, represented GCAPN at TNP's Capitol Day on February 10 in Austin. GCAPN members, including NPs and DNP students of UTMB, met with Senator Mayes Middleton.

### ★ Texas: The Austin NAPNAP Chapter

Texas: The Austin NAPNAP Chapter recently received a service award at the National NAPNAP Conference in Chicago, along with all the other Texas NAPNAP Chapters, for a statewide day of service The Austin Chapter held in February. All chapters participated in service events in their community. The Austin Chapter made 103 care kits for their local Ronald McDonald House.

Several Austin NAPNAP Chapter members attended TNP's Regional Capitol Day.

**Let's highlight your Affiliate!**

Have news to share? Email [connie@texasnp.org](mailto:connie@texasnp.org).

## ★ North Texas Nurse Practitioners

The North Texas Nurse Practitioners (NTNP) have had a busy and impactful start to 2025!

**January 30** NTNP kicked off the year with our first **Meet and Greet**, where members connected and engaged in meaningful discussions. It was a fantastic time for all!

**February 15** NTNP members joined forces with **Tango Charities' Feed the City** initiative, making an incredible 2,470 sandwiches to help combat food disparities across the Dallas Metroplex.

**March 10** Members traveled to Austin to participate in **TNP's North & West Texas Regional Capitol Day**, meeting with legislators to advocate for full practice authority for NPs in Texas.

**April 4–5** NTNP was thrilled to host its **Annual Spring Conference** at the **DoubleTree Hotel in Richardson, TX**. This event provided valuable educational sessions, networking opportunities, and professional development for NPs in the region.

**NTNP looks forward to continued advocacy, service, and education throughout the year!**



## ★ Wichita County Nurse Practitioners

WCNP Rachel Reitan visited with Representative James Frank at TNP's Capitol Day during this 2025 legislative session. As a representative in our district, he has proudly declared his support for TNP and our legislative goals. Wichita County NPs have been meeting quarterly, and their most recent gathering included an education session provided by their local Cardiac NP expert, Heather Shaver, who presented on the most frequent primary care questions for cardiology.



Rachel Reitan, WCNP President and TNP Legislative Ambassador, Texas Representative James Frank, and TNP President Erin Perez



Jessica Wiles, Anais Molina, and Rachel Reitan at the TNP Legislative Session preparing for our legislative visits representing North Texas.





### TNP's 2025 Pharmacology Conference

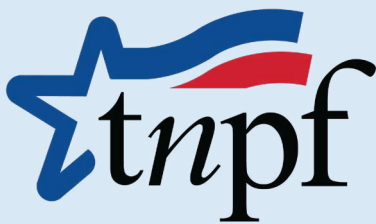
Texas NPs from throughout the state joined together for TNP's 2025 Pharmacology Conference + Opioid Pre-Conference. Attendees not only earned their CEs, but also met up with old friends, made new connections, and enjoyed the festivities of TNPF's Walk & Wine Down and Silent Auction – all while relaxing at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort.





TNP's 2025 Pharmacology Conference (continued)





## 2024 TNPf Annual Report Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation



### Board Listing

#### President

Jan Zdanuk Dodd DNP, APRN,  
FNP-BC, CNS, FAANP

#### Vice President

Michael Doyal APRN, FNP-BC

#### Treasurer

Carmen Horton MSN, APRN-BC

#### Secretary

Jennifer Kucera MSN, APRN,  
FNP-C, FOMA

#### Member at Large

Elizabeth Gigliotti APRN, ACNP-BC



On behalf of the Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your support throughout 2024. We understand that contributing financially to causes outside your immediate family or community is often challenging. Your dedication to the Foundation's mission, however, has had a profound impact on our ability to provide support and assistance for education, research, and disaster relief to fellow Nurse Practitioners (NPs) across the state.

Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation saw incredible growth in 2024. Through two silent auctions, two *Walk and Talk* events, and our partnership with Kendra Scott, LLC, we were able to:

- Award seven \$1,500 scholarships to aspiring NPs
- Distribute over \$5,000 in emergency grants to NPs impacted by Hurricane Beryl
- Support TNP's efforts in raising awareness of NPs and their role in improving healthcare access in Texas
- Continue our partnership with the T.L.L. Temple Foundation to expand access to women's and maternal health services

Our *Waiting for Care* campaign has spotlighted the struggles women face in accessing care—and how, without the support of APRNs, many of their outcomes would have been drastically different. These initiatives are only possible because of the ongoing support we receive from individuals like you.

Looking ahead, we urge you to continue championing our cause. As the future of our profession, your involvement—whether through donations, participation in our events, or financial contributions—remains vital to the Foundation's success. Together, we will continue to support NPs and increase awareness of the crucial role they play in Texas healthcare.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jan Zdanuk Dodd DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNS, FAANP  
TNPf President





## About/Our Purpose

Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation (TNPf) is dedicated to charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. TNPf is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. TNPf is the only charitable foundation in Texas that is 100% focused on programs and initiatives that support and benefit current and future nurse practitioners and the patients they serve throughout our state.

Contributions to TNPf are immediately put to work to help Texas NPs and their communities!

TNPf assists future and current nurse practitioners in Texas by:

- Providing financial resources that advance the profession, including scholarships for NP education or NPs pursuing an advanced nursing degree.
- Awarding grants to nurse practitioners and partner organizations for research relevant to advanced nursing professions.
- Awarding grants to community projects that promote and improve access to healthcare for Texans.
- Collaborating with organizations with similar missions and goals.
- Awarding funding to organizations that advance continuing education for the nurse practitioner profession.
- Promoting public awareness of the nurse practitioner role.
- Providing short-term, immediate financial assistance to eligible TNP members whose lives are impacted by an accident or natural disaster.

## Initiatives and Impact

### Awarded \$10,500 in Scholarships

The Foundation provides six scholarships annually for Texas NP, DNP, and PhD nursing students. In addition, through the Katie Russell Memorial Scholarship Fund, one \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a student seeking to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.



**Together, we provided 28 Emergency Assistance Grants to NPs impacted by Hurricane Beryl.**

### Helping NPs in Need During a Natural Disaster

The Foundation awarded \$5,000 in emergency grants to assist TNP members and their families impacted by Hurricane Beryl in the summer of 2024.

### Supporting NP Education

Through the Kim Oas Memorial Fund, the Foundation supported Dr. Barbara Peavey's presentation on Neuroplasticity: The Importance of Brain Health at TNP's 2024 Annual Conference.



## \$20,000 Grant to Raise Public Awareness about NPs' Impact on Healthcare Access

The Foundation provided a grant to TNP to raise awareness about the crucial role nurse practitioners (NPs) play in improving healthcare access. The funds supported the production of a video featuring community leaders discussing the impact NPs have in their communities. The campaign also continued to share stories of NP healthcare providers and the positive difference they make in the lives of those they serve.



## Received a \$25,000 grant from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation

The Foundation launched the Waiting for Care Campaign to raise awareness about the need for improved healthcare access for women. The campaign included a website, social media outreach, and a video to help promote awareness and understanding of the important role nurse practitioners play in providing care. Specifically, it focused on addressing healthcare challenges faced by women in Texas, emphasizing the need for greater access to services.

## Financial Overview

### Revenue – where did revenue come from Income

Kendra Scott, LLC Give Back: \$1,830.32 (2%)

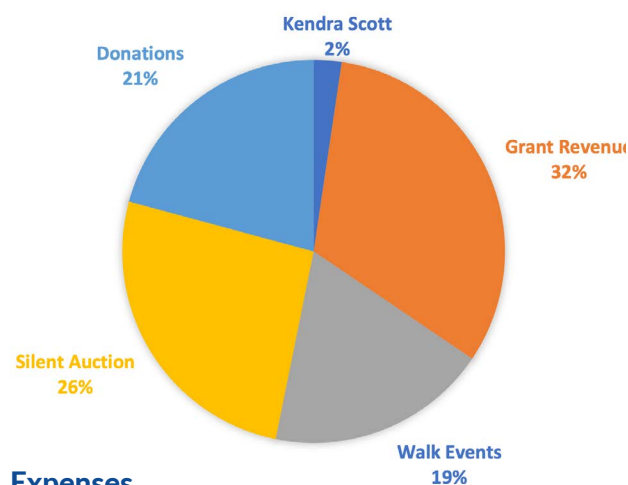
Grant Revenue: \$25,000.00 (32%)

Walk Events: \$14,775.00 (19%)

Silent Auctions: \$20,545.00 (26%)

Donations: \$16,570 (21%)

**Total Income: \$80,995.32**



### Expenses

Walk Events: \$3,059.66

Grants: \$45,010.00

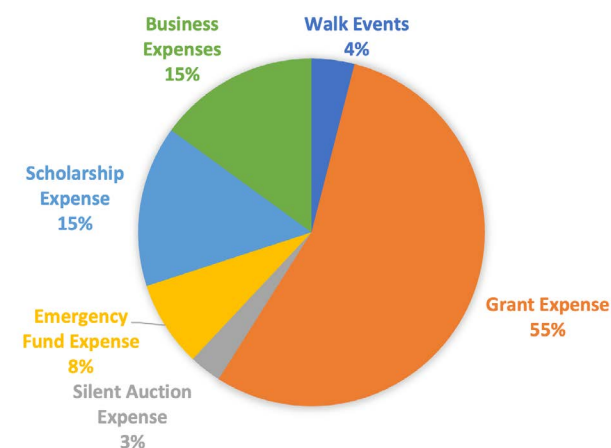
Silent Auctions: \$2,722.90

Emergency Fund: \$6,750.00

Scholarships: \$12,000.00

Business Expenses: \$12,112.93

**Total: \$81,655.49**



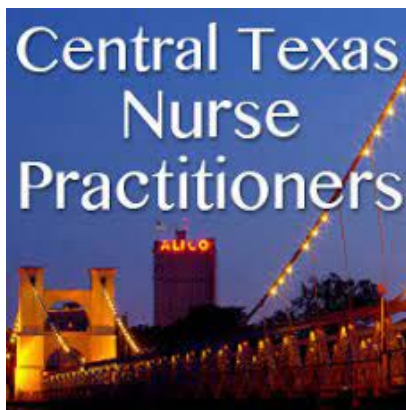
**Total Assets in 2024: \$211,460.81**

## Events and Awards

### TNPf 'Spirit of Texas' Giving Award

Hats off to our 2024 TNPf "Spirit of Texas" Giving Award recipient, the Brazosport Area Nurse Practitioners!

Each year, TNPf awards a TNP Affiliate with a traveling trophy for exemplary support of the Foundation. We thank our dedicated Affiliates for their generous financial contributions, fun and creative auction items, and encouragement of their members to support TNPf. The Award is presented at TNP's Annual Conference.



### Golden Shoe Award

The Central Texas Nurse Practitioners affiliate was awarded the "Golden Shoe Award" for their collective participation in the Walk events as the affiliate with the most participation for 2024.

What could be better than a beautiful stroll with wonderful people who share your professional interests and passion? At each conference Walk & Talk event, TNPf recognizes the TNP Affiliate that puts its best foot forward by recruiting the most walk attendees.



In 2024, the Foundation organized two silent auctions one at the pharmacology conference, featuring 43 items, and another at the annual conference, with 88 items available for bidding.





The Foundation organizes *Walk and Talk* events at TNP's Pharmacology and Annual Conferences. In 2024, 33 attendees participated in the Pharmacology Conference, while 48 joined the Annual Conference.

## Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors

### \$5,000+

Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners  
Paul and Sally Houdayer Foundation  
North Texas Nurse Practitioners

### \$2,000-\$4,999

Jan Zdanuk Dodd  
Kendra Scott, LLC

### \$1000 - \$1999

Betty Keller

### \$500 - \$999

Austin Advanced Practice Nurses  
Brazosport Area Nurse Practitioners  
CVS Minute Clinic  
H-E-B

### \$100 - \$499

APN Behavioral Healthcare  
Biocodex/Florastor  
Constance Bowie  
Vicki Brooks  
Fort Worth Area Nurse Practitioners  
Joyce & Julius Germano  
Lisa Ginapp  
Gulf Coast Sleep Center and Diagnostics  
Sr. Barbara Lynn Hyzak  
Jennifer Kucera  
North Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Erin Pérez  
Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Austin  
Aaron Salinas  
Tracy Smith  
South Heart Clinic  
South Plains Nurse Practitioners Association

Jeffery Stefek  
University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)  
Ligy Varkey

### Other Donors

Terri Barnhart  
Shannon Brow  
Editha Claros  
Michael Doyal  
Jill Fuhrmann  
Elizabeth Gigliotti  
Eddie Gradney  
Dinah Halopka  
Barbara Johnson  
Shannon Kennedy  
Laura Lipp  
Heather McManus  
Ariel Perez  
Viviane Teixeira



## Help us do more good in 2025!

The Foundation will continue to explore opportunities to support Nurse Practitioners in Texas and further its mission. For more information on how you can get involved and support the Foundation, please [click here](#).

### Scholarship Applications are Open!



## Inviting SCHOLARSHIP Applications

**Submission Deadline:  
May 31, 2025**

**Apply Today**

The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation is prepared to award seven scholarships this year and will be accepting applications until May 31.

To be eligible for consideration, be sure to provide all required documents, some of which may take time to obtain, such as transcripts and letters of recommendation. No mailed applications will be accepted. All applications and supporting documents require online submission.

A checklist of required documents can be found on the website for convenience. Order your documents now to submit your application before the deadline.

[Click here to Learn More & Apply for a Scholarship](#)

Contact [connie@texasnp.org](mailto:connie@texasnp.org) for questions.

**We look forward to reviewing your application, and we wish you the best of luck!**



4425 S. Mopac, Building III,  
Suite 405  
Austin, Texas 78735  
Phone: 512.291.6224

## TNP has lots to communicate!

Are you receiving TNP emails? Log in to update your email address. Contact [jill@texasnp.org](mailto:jill@texasnp.org) if you are not receiving TNP's emails.

Follow us



**texasnp.org**