NAB Celebrates Launch of Groundbreaking AIT and Preceptor Tools at Its Mid-Year Meeting

NAB launched its groundbreaking AIT/Preceptor program during its meeting in Atlanta in November. The AIT/Preceptor program was developed in collaboration with the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA), and designed by leading experts from across the continuum of care. The launch was a true celebratory event, attended by over 100 meeting participants from across the country.

The AIT/Preceptor Manual is a tool to help the AIT and Preceptor collaborate in developing their individual program based on education, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities. Led by NAB Chair-Elect Lisa Hahn (Virginia), the National AIT program has three primary objectives:

- Spur and enhance the AIT’s professional development in the field of long term care (LTC) administration
- Equip the AIT with the tools and knowledge they will need as an administrator
- Engage the AIT in observing and participating in activities associated with administration or resident/patient care

NAB’s goal with this groundbreaking program is that stakeholders around the country will utilize these resources and encourage their adoption as the new national standard.

The Preceptor Online Training Modules, developed under the leadership of NAB Education Committee Chair Jennifer Johs-Artisensi (Wisconsin) focus on four goals:

- Demonstrate the basics of how AIT experiences work
- Recognize that the preceptor’s relationship with the AIT is more critical to their success than any factual information the preceptor could impart
- Prepare the preceptor to build a relationship that embodies mutual respect, trust, honesty and acceptance of risk
- Ensure the preceptors will be both guides and role models as they facilitate the orientation, development, and professional growth of their AITs.

NAB suggests that an AIT experience include a minimum of 1,000 hours, though state boards can tailor the resources to meet their state licensing requirements. Both of these resources may be used free of charge for individual training purposes, provided that no fees are collected for use of the program materials. NAB recommends that all states adopt the NAB/ACHCA AIT Training Program and Preceptor Training Course as their state standard requirements.

For more information regarding the program or associated training materials, please visit http://www.nabweb.org/ait/-preceptor-manuals or email nab@nabweb.org.
In Atlanta, the NAB Board of Governors voted to adopt the Health Services Executive (HSE) standards. Progress towards this groundbreaking professional qualification was highlighted during the NAB Atlanta meeting. "The HSE qualification is central to NAB’s ‘New Vision for Leadership’ which will change how leaders in the field are educated, trained and licensed," said Randy Lindner, NAB’s President and CEO.

The HSE will specifically address the current ecosystem’s four main challenges:

- Inability to place highly skilled leaders where and when they are needed
- Lines of services that have expanded beyond skilled nursing
- Multiple licenses with differing qualifications may be required to practice in multiple lines of service, even with similar leadership competencies
- Difficulties in attracting young professionals because of the profession’s image

Starting in summer 2017, NAB will begin to accept applications for the HSE qualification, and it will launch the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) exam. Each NAB member organization is encouraged to adopt and roll-out the HSE according to a schedule that best suits its needs.

In July 2017, NAB will offer new exam structures that will allow candidates to qualify for the HSE. Examinees would need to pass a 100-item section on the “core” knowledge and skills that apply across the continuum of care, as well as pass each of three 50-item sections covering a specific line of care—skilled nursing, assisted living and home- and community-based care. There will also be pathways for active licensees to qualify for the HSE. Visit the NAB website at http://www.nabweb.org/health-services-executive to learn more about this exciting new qualification!
Committee Reports

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Chair Michael Hickey (Washington) and the Continuing Education Committee recommended drafting a letter to sponsors to remind them of the new NCERS standards regarding the use of non-original material and attendance-keeping. Hickey also noted that a certified sponsor was found to not be performing to NCERS standards, so the committee recommends to the Executive Committee to place that sponsor on probation for one year, continue to monitor its practices and revoke its corporate status. The Board of Governors approved NCERS sponsors Sentera Life Care Corporation and Friends Services for the Aging for certified sponsor status.

EDUCATION
Chair Jennifer Johs-Artisensi (Wisconsin) reported that her committee had reviewed the strategic plan, and that education-related goals for the next two years will be to have HSE accreditation criteria established and to recruit more schools for NAB accreditation. The committee also recommended the renewal of academic accreditation for Kent State University for five more years, as well as initial accreditation to Virginia Commonwealth University for its assisted living administration program. Both recommendations were approved by the Board of Governors.

MEMBER RELATIONS AND OUTREACH
Committee Chair Laura Lucas (North Carolina) and Vice Chair Denise Boudreau Scott (New Jersey) reported that $1570 had been raised for the NAB Foundation at the Wednesday night fundraiser held in conjunction with the Chairman’s reception in Atlanta. The committee thanked Barbara Baxter and Mendee Rock of Georgia for their work in assembling the gift baskets that were raffled off at the fundraiser. The committee debuted NAB’s new logo, booth, and collateral materials that are parts of NAB’s rebranding efforts. The committee also worked in Atlanta on prioritizing stakeholder groups to reach out for support of the HSE, and reaching out to high school students to help create a positive image of the profession among prospective future administrators.

STATE GOVERNANCE
Chair Randy Snyder (Minnesota) remarked on the NAB leaders who had developed the AIT and preceptor products, and he solicited ideas from the Board of Governors to implement these programs fully. Vice Chair Margaret McConnell (Nevada) will work with the NAB staff to track and report on the states that have been successful in implementing the AIT and preceptor programs and adopt the HSE standards. The Board of Governors voted to adopt the HSE standards, and to fund the implementation of the new NAB Verify system with Heuristic Solutions.

Next NAB Meeting
We invite you to join us at our 2017 Annual Meeting, June 14-16 in Salt Lake City. Meeting details and registration forms will be emailed and posted on www.nabweb.org in March. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!