Once again the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) has assigned an ad hoc committee that will produce a consensus report to create pathways for the nursing profession to help our nation create a culture of health, reduce health disparities, and improve the health and well-being of the U.S. population in the 21st century. The committee will leverage the lessons gained from the Institute of Medicine’s 2010 report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which served as a blueprint for the profession to build capacity by strengthening education, expanding scope of practice, promoting leadership, and improving workforce diversity.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has sponsored a new report, *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030*, to assess the current state of science and technology to inform their assessment of the capacity about the nursing profession to anticipated health and social care demands from 2020 to 2030, with emphasis on multi-sector teams and partnerships. It is this multi-sector approach that demonstrates how nurses on the frontline of care are integral to designing and delivering innovative solutions to reduce health disparities and address social determinants of health.

**Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers: Case Exemplar**

Nursing’s commitment to health as a basic human right and for doing public good recognizes that the ability to overcome healthcare inequities, poverty, and poor health can only be achieved through innovation, evidence-based practice solutions, and nurse-led models showing evidence of impact. To examine how nurses address those who experience poverty and poor health outcomes due to complex care needs, the NAM Committee visited the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in Camden, NJ, during their second of three city site visits.

As a board member representing Rutgers University-Camden to the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers and one of two nurses on the board, I know firsthand how poverty and poor health can be an overwhelming experience. In one of the poorest cities in the nation, Camden is home to just 77,000 people with a population of 49% Hispanic and 48% African Americans, where 46% of the residents speak a non-English language, predominantly Spanish.

Camden ranks among the most economically depressed cities in the country. Compared to New Jersey residents as a whole, Camden residents experience the worst health outcomes despite disproportionate spending on health care. For example, the prevalence of adult diabetes is nearly double the state incidence (15.2% vs. 8.7%). Camden has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the country. Despite the sobering statistics, Camden is rising and demonstrating what is possible when collaborations and coalitions are formed between healthcare systems, higher education, social services agencies, government agencies, and residents. As an anchor institution, Rutgers University plays a critical role in leveraging its human capital of faculty, staff, and students to align the mission and social services of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers.

The Camden Coalition, an Accountable Care Organization, seeks to transform care delivery to individuals and vulnerable populations with complex health and social needs within the city and beyond. With nurses as frontline providers and key participants in clinical redesign initiatives, the Coalition uses a core model that centers on continued on page 178
patients who are frequent users of emergency services and have high hospitalizations. Nurses, as field integrators and care coordinators, connect patients to existing community resources. Building capacity to access services independently for patients and families, the Coalition uses a network of providers to navigate care for those who require access to food, housing, transportation to healthcare services (including behavioral and mental health, addiction services, health education, and nutritional management).

By examining evidence-based models of nursing care that address social determinants of health, nurses have unique opportunities to help build and sustain a culture of health to shape patient-centered population primary health care locally and globally. As integrators and influencers, NAM Committee members will tap nurses as key informants.

Local to Global, NAM Committee’s Charge

From domestic and global approaches and from nurses themselves, the NAM Committee will draw conclusions and make recommendations for the future decade of nursing in the United States. To accomplish its tasks, the NAM (2019) Committee will examine current and future challenges, including:

- Role of nurses in improving the health of individuals, families, and communities by addressing social determinants of health and providing effective, efficient, equitable, and accessible care for all across the care continuum, as well as identifying the system facilitators and barriers to achieving this goal.
- Current and future deployment of all levels of nurses across the care continuum, including in collaborative practice models, to address the challenges of building a culture of health.
- System facilitators and barriers to achieving a workforce that is diverse, including gender, race, and ethnicity, across all levels of nursing education.
- Role of the nursing profession in assuring the voice of individuals, families, and communities are incorporated into design and operations of clinical and community health systems.
- Training and competency development needed to prepare nurses, including advanced practice nurses, to work outside of acute care settings and to lead efforts to build a culture of health and health equity, and the extent to which current curriculum meets these needs.
- Ability of nurses to serve as change agents in creating systems that bridge the delivery of health care and social needs care in the community.
- Research needed to identify or develop effective nursing practices for eliminating gaps and disparities in health care.
- Importance of nurse well-being and resilience in ensuring the delivery of high-quality care and improving community health.

The Future of Nursing Is Yours

Stay informed, contribute to the conversation, and share your voice. The NAM Committee would like to hear your insights on ways to advance the nursing profession to help our nation improve the health and well-being of the U.S. population in the 21st century. Each nurse has a moral imperative to be informed and remained informed about the future of nursing – the future is ours. To learn more about the ongoing study, visit nam.edu/FutureofNursing2030. $

Reference