

**Hartford Scholar Policy Leadership Institute
Orientation Call for Scholars
Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010
3 pm (EDT)**

NOTES

Institute Leadership team:

Brian Lindberg, Consultant
Laurie Lindberg, Consultant
Patty Franklin, HGNI
Pat Archbold, HGNI
Linda Harootyan, HGSWI
Julia Meashey, HGSWI

Welcome remarks & introduction of “the team” (Linda Harootyan)

- 6th year of Policy Leadership Institute
- Purpose of whole experience is to begin to open doors into the policy arena
- Some of you may have already had some involvement in policy; the intent of the Institute and the visits to the Hill is to provide an opportunity to introduce yourselves and start developing relationships (you will not be advocating for anything specifically; not intended to be a high stress situation)

Welcome remarks from HGNI (Pat Archbold)

- 10 yrs ago JAHF began investing in the HGNI; as Linda mentioned, 5 yrs ago nurses began participating in this Policy Leadership Institute
- thanks to GSA for including nurses in this incredibly valuable Institute
- Nurses who have attended past Institutes benefited greatly from their experiences – several developed long lasting relationships with congressional members; others went on to collaborate on interdisciplinary research with social workers who they attended the Institute with

Logistics; intended outcomes (Julia Meashey)

- Hope everyone has been receiving e-mails from our office with logistics information; have developed a webpage to serve as a central resource for all items related to the Policy Institute – go to www.gswi.org and look on the left hand side of your screen for the button with the Capital Dome; click on the button to direct you to the Policy Institute page
- Will soon be sending an e-mail re: the research summaries for the Institute (nurses will receive template); scholars will be asked to update summary from last year; all will be asked to include, if possible, a statement regarding research findings
- Please review the Participant roster carefully and provide any updates or corrections as soon as possible (this information will be posted to the Institute webpage)
- Review of intended outcomes (see below)

Intended Outcomes of the Institute

Washington, DC, October 6-8, 2010

- Stronger understanding of the connections between research, academic, practice, and policy arenas.
- Recognition of the value of building relationships with congressional staff/elected officials before you need them.
- Enhanced understanding of the full extent of public policy opportunities.
- Development of practical advocacy skills, including communicating with policy makers, media, allies, etc., building coalitions, and developing rapport with staff/elected officials.
- Ideas for future growth and learning opportunities for individuals and for the Hartford Scholars Program.
- In other words, the program will focus on the skills needed to make public policy a part of your academic life.

Presenters and Hill visits (Brian Lindberg)

- See summary provided below

Policy Institute Presenters

- To give you a flavor for DC, we will start out the institute with dinner at a well-known Capitol Hill restaurant. A speaker will offer his insights on what happened in Congress this year and what might happen in aging policy the next year.
- The next morning, we will start with a speaker who will inspire us to make policy advocacy a bigger part of our otherwise full schedules.
- Then we will do an interactive session to help us frame our complex research topics into more usable messages for everything from cocktail parties to meetings on Capitol Hill.
- We'll spend some time talking about giving testimony and how to get comfortable with meeting with Congress and their staff. And we'll have a practice session.
- In between all of that, you'll hear from colleagues who have already done policy advocacy and have survived.
- The last day, we will be up on the Hill with a briefing on how Congress really works and then off to our own meetings with congressional staff or Members of Congress.

Your Hill Visits

- The speeches and workshops during the institute will help to prepare you for one of the most important and rewarding activities of the institute - your visit to Capitol Hill, which will take place on Friday, October 8.
- You will receive an e-mail regarding setting up meetings with the staff of the U.S. Senators and member of the House of

Representatives from your university's district and/or your home district in order to introduce yourself and your work.

- Please remember that this is not a high-pressure meeting, but just a chance to introduce yourself and your work to the people who represent you in Congress (or their staff), and to offer yourself as a resource in the future.
- **Now is a great time to set up these Hill appointments.** They should be scheduled at least a couple of weeks *before* you arrive in D.C.!
- Today's call is to give you a chance to discuss this with us and to ask any questions that you may have regarding the Policy Leadership Institute or the Capitol Hill visits.
- Also, if it makes sense to team up on visits, we should do that today if possible.
- Brian's phone number: 202-789-3606. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or need technical assistance.

Questions from scholars

Q: Gaynell Simpson – You may have covered this in your remarks Brian, but I live in a different zip code than the University I teach at - Should I try to meet with both people (Senators & Representatives from both University area & home area)?

A: Yes, if you would like to and you can fit it into the schedule; thinks it may be helpful to develop a relationship with both.

Everyone will have 2 senators to meet with; you may have more than one house member depending on where you live and the district you work in; it is possible to have more than 2 senators (ie. live in NJ & work in NY)

Brian would be happy to help you figure out who might be the best to meet with; the University will often wield more

power (in terms of scheduling) than an individual constituent

Q: David Hodge – In terms of booking appointments, how much time in between appointments should we plan? What logistics are there to factor in?

A: Good question – think it takes most people about 20 minutes to get from house to senate or vice versa (ie. mtg on senate side at noon – give 30 minutes per meeting and 20 minutes for next meeting on House side)

Meetings may differ in length – you may end up standing in the hall for a quick conversation or you may find yourself sitting in senator's office (which could take as long as 40 minutes) – lengths of meetings can vary depending on staffers schedule;

Keep in mind:

- you can walk out and catch a cab if you are running late
- you will most likely have to go through security if you are going between buildings
- if you are setting up 4 meetings & you can schedule several minutes apart - try to schedule senate meetings together and then house meetings together

An additional comment: Don't be surprised about the age of the staff members (quite young); in spite of their youth, they are very sharp and it is smart to build relationship with them (relationships with staffers may prove very valuable later on)

Q: Dana Lynn Carthron – I'm in NC, but I'm new to the area and more familiar with Arkansas issues; would it be okay to meet with AR members?

A: Yes, it is fine, but what you will find is that it may be more difficult to get appointments if you are not from the representatives state (they tend to reserve time for their own constituents); just keep this in mind and if there is any connection you can mention in requesting the meeting keep it in mind (ie I'm a graduate of _____ University in your state or I've been doing research on _____ which is a state issue).

Q: Halaevalu Vakalahi – This discussion brings up a thought about my research related to the Pacific American population; I live in Virginia, but obviously my research relates to my home (Hawaii); I will need some help figuring out how to make connections (will contact Brian offline)

A: Yes, your work will probably be most interesting to the Hawaiian members of congress (rather than to Virginia members); we should take advantage of that.

Q: Nancy Giunta – You mentioned doing group visits; I know there are 3 people from NY - do you recommend we coordinate those visits or do them alone?

A: Let's talk about it; we've helped scholars coordinate in the past – could look at it a couple of different ways (ie. staff person will have to schedule 3 meetings that day – in a sense if you can make it easier for the staff person it sets the right tone; especially if the 3 of you feel you could each present a little about your work in a reasonable amount of time)

Note: Sunha's congress person is not the same; in this case, you might want the experience of doing the senator appointments as a group and doing the representative appointments alone

Adrianna & David have that option as they are both from AZ and might be able to visit senators together; Brian suggests that NY & AZ participants coordinate with each other; perhaps copy Brian and he can provide some feedback.

Comment: Casey Shillam– Shared that she plans to visit senators from California (in case anyone is interested in working with senators from CA); she plans on working with CA senators and Sen. Wyden from Oregon