

PRESS RELEASE

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American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing Pledges Leadership and Resources to Nursing Campaign for Better Health Care in America

PITMAN, NJ – Ambulatory care nurses play a crucial role in helping Americans who aren't getting the health care they need, Kristene Grayem, MSN, CNS, PPCNP-BC, RN-BC, president of the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing](#) (AAACN), recently told a panel of the country's top nursing leaders.

Grayem, along with representatives from other influential nursing and health care organizations, was one of several invited speakers at the [Future of Nursing \(FON\) 2020-2030](#) Town Hall, held July 24 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.



AAACN President Kristene Grayem addresses the Future of Nurse Town Hall.

“Ambulatory care nurses are visionary leaders who partner to design and coordinate care outside of acute care settings,” Grayem said. “We pledge to bring our passion, resources, and evidence-based knowledge to the Future of Nursing Campaign.”

Because ambulatory care nurses work in telehealth, care coordination and transition management (CCTM), research, and management, Grayem explained that they will help drive changes in a system that fails to serve many Americans.

The goal of the FON campaign, which is working under the auspices of the National Academies of Sciences Engineering, and Medicine, is to mobilize America's nurses and chart their path as leaders and change agents in improving the health of the U.S. population in the 21st century. The campaign focuses on eliminating disparities in care based on social determinants like culture, residential segregation, access to services, and other socioeconomic conditions.

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“As nurses, we see disparities in health care every day. We watch individuals, families, and communities suffer when we know their suffering could be prevented,” Grayem told the audience during her speech, which was also live streamed via NAM’s website. “We all know we can do better.”

[Watch](#) or [read](#) Grayem’s full address

Gathering the Data

Grayem was one of four speakers whose organizations were asked to the Philadelphia Town Hall to make recommendations during the “Invited Comments” portion of the event. The FON panel will use the information from Philadelphia and additional town halls, along with other guidance they are gathering from nursing organizations across the country, to produce a consensus report with findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The report will be a seminal guide in steering the nursing profession during the upcoming decade.

The 4-hour event focused on “Payment and Care for Complex Health and Social Needs,” and also included presentations by nurses who lead care in schools, inner cities, and rural settings, as well as speeches from executives who oversee local, state, and federal programs. The speakers shared their models and innovations and called on the powerful and trusted nursing workforce of nearly 4 million to help from the frontlines to the boardrooms to provide equal, high-quality care to all U.S. populations.

Ambulatory Care Nurses: Leading Change

One of the most challenging hurdles in America’s health care system today is effective care coordination. After listening to many town hall speakers describe how Americans are getting lost in a confusing health care system, Grayem told the audience that AAACN has a successful program that is changing the system. Thanks to AAACN’s [CCTM education program and resources](#), ambulatory care nurses are able to help patients get the right care, at the right time, by the right provider.



Pictured at the Town Hall (from left): Sue Hasmill, Senior Advisor at the National Academy of Medicine; AAACN President Kris Grayem; AAACN CEO Linda Alexander; and FON panel co-chair, Mary Wakefield.

“AAACN has developed an innovative Care Coordination and Transition Management program,” she said. “Nurses in CCTM roles ensure that individuals don’t fall between the cracks in our health care system. They help reduce potentially avoidable ED visits, decrease readmissions, and manage safe patient handoffs. My AAACN colleagues and I believe that, thanks to CCTM nurses, fragmented care will be a thing of the past.”

Grayem also described a second initiative led by AAACN that focuses on [Nurse-Sensitive Indicators](#), or NSIs. Identifying and measuring NSIs demonstrates the value and contributions of RNs in the health care system. NSI research and data are pivotal to

providing better health care to Americans.

“Outcomes matter,” Grayem told the audience. “Continuing to develop, implement, and measure NSIs is critical to demonstrating ambulatory care RN value and impact on complex care.”

Answering the committee’s call for practical suggestions, Grayem outlined four requests:

- Invest in ambulatory care nurses and RN roles in care coordination and transition management in all practice settings.
- Build ambulatory care nursing and CCTM competencies into nursing school curricula.
- Promote continued development, standardization, and benchmarking of ambulatory care NSIs.
- Support expanding and reimbursing telehealth services delivered by RNs.

“Ambulatory care nurses are leading the charge to improve health. They play a critical role in the future of nursing,” Grayem said. “We are so excited you are doing this work and we are ready and eager to partner with you.”

About The Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Campaign

The [Future of Nursing 2020-2030](#) is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AARP, and the AARP Foundation. It is supported broadly across the U.S. by state-based coalitions, advisory boards, online supporters, and grant and award programs.

About AAACN

The [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](#) is a welcoming, unifying community for registered nurses in all ambulatory care settings. As the premier nursing organization for this specialty, AAACN is devoted to advancing the art and science of ambulatory care nursing.

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