



(Iowa representatives at the meeting: Mary Berg, Cheryl Jones, Sherry McKay and Jimmy Reyes)

Mary Berg attended the AANP Region 7 Invitational Leadership meeting January 17th, 2015 in Kansas City, MO. The objectives of the meeting were to identify health policy and professional practice issues in each of the 4 Region 7 states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) , develop strategies to address these issues with emphasis on media engagement, and to look at the impact of federal health policies at the national, state and practice levels. AANP President Kenneth Miller reported that there 205,000 NPs in the U.S. with 55,900 being members of AANP. NP's are responsible for >916 million patient visits annually with 75% practicing in primary care. Two states adopted full practice authority for NPs this past year; Minnesota and Connecticut for a total of 19. AANP's federal policy agenda includes removing all federal barriers to NP practice including the ability to provide home health assessments and order durable medical equipment, both of which currently require physician documentation. Iowa's state policy agenda items this year include monitoring fireworks, telehealth, helmet law, concussion management in student athletes and texting while driving bills. NPs in our region need to stress to our legislators our ability to provide efficient, effective and patient centered care that ultimately decreases cost, increasing quality and improves access to care.