

Nursing Schools Taskforce



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR
SERIOUS ILLNESS CARE

Taskforce Members

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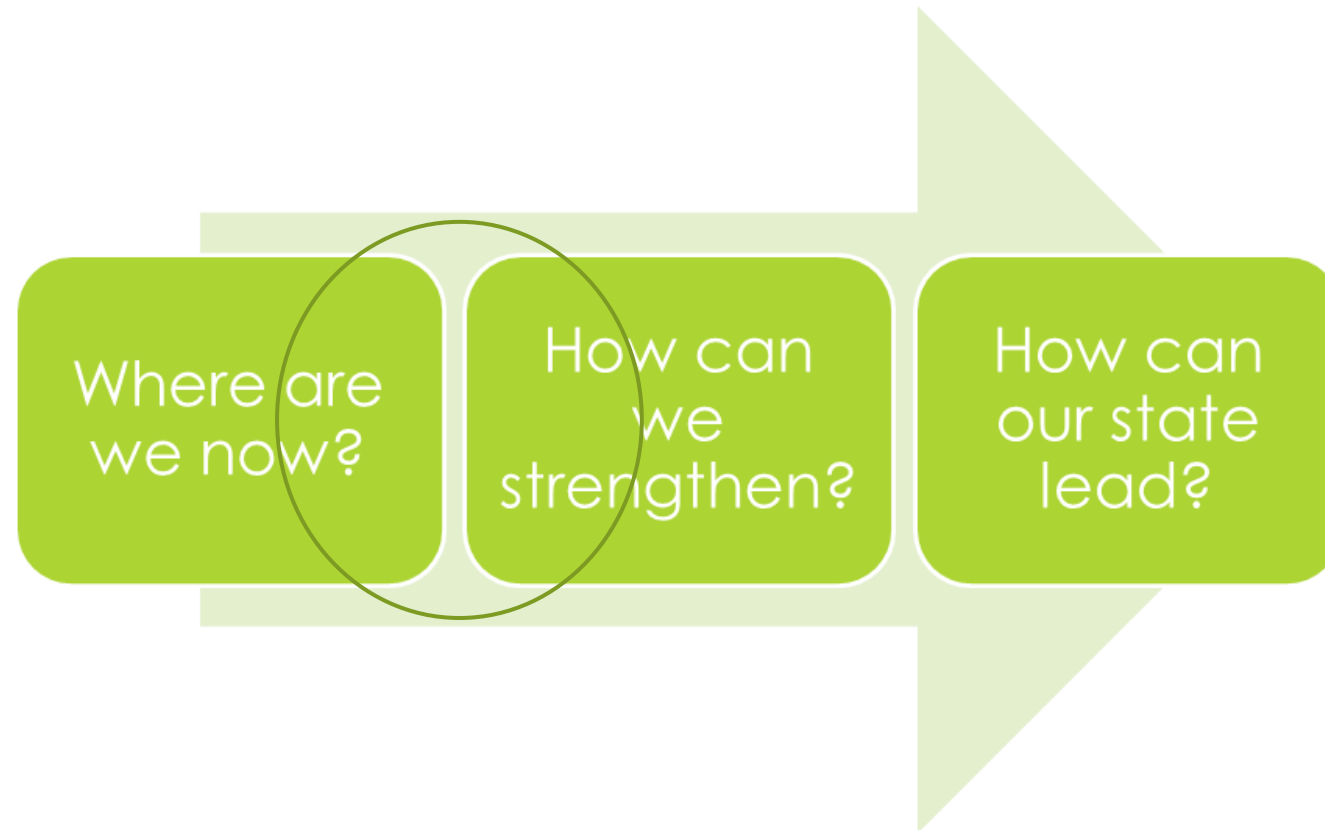
Diane Welsh, School of Nursing, Regis College

**Co-chairs*

Overall Goals

- ▶ Overall, we aim to strengthen nurses' ability and confidence to care for persons living with serious illness across the Commonwealth by:
 - ▶ Integrating national nursing competencies for caring for individuals with serious illness into Massachusetts nursing programs;
 - ▶ Ensuring adequate generalist and specialty palliative care training in clinical settings; and
 - ▶ Challenging all Massachusetts nurses to lead the way in having conversations about serious illness within their own families and communities.

Progress Thus Far



CARES Competencies

- ▶ Undergraduate and Graduate **CARES Competencies** – Endorsed by MACN Dean’s February 2021

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING



CARES:

Competencies And Recommendations for Educating Undergraduate Nursing Students
Preparing Nurses to Care for the Seriously Ill and their Families



Preparing Graduate Nursing Students to Ensure Quality Palliative Care
for the Seriously Ill & Their Families

Introduction



BSN Survey

- ▶ Assessing the Current Curriculum Related to Serious Illness and Palliative Care within Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - ▶ Survey of curricula for all BSN programs in Massachusetts
 - ▶ Completed in 2020-2021

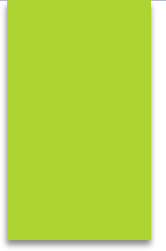
THANK YOU!!

AACN Essentials

- ▶ Our work aligns with national emphasis on improving care for those with serious illness, particularly in nursing education

The competencies accompanying each domain are designed to be applicable across four spheres of care (disease prevention/promotion of health and wellbeing, chronic disease care, regenerative or restorative care, **and hospice/palliative/supportive care**), across the lifespan, and with diverse patient populations.

BSN Survey Results



Baccalaureate Survey Results – Big Themes

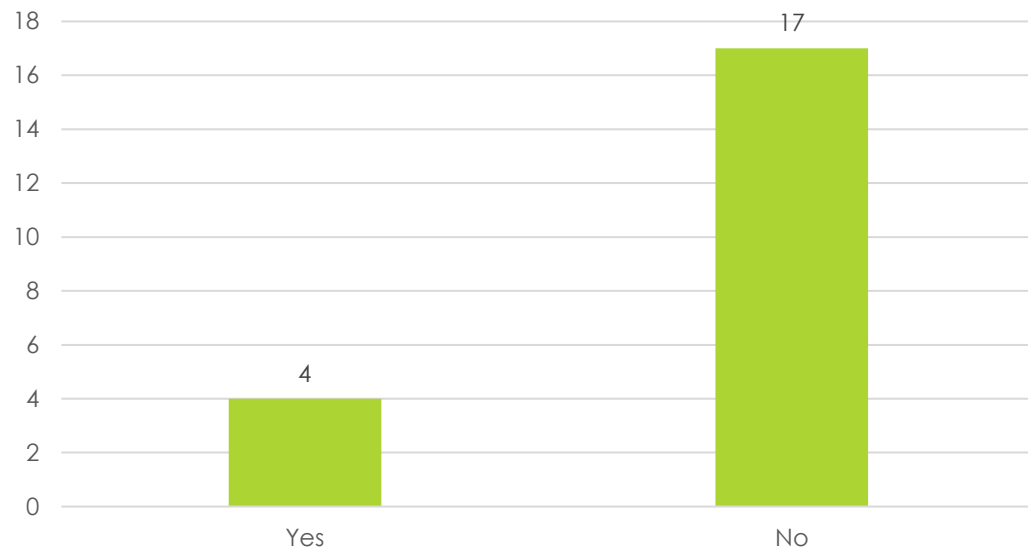
- ▶ The very impressive response rate (21/26)
- ▶ The very thoughtful consideration of the survey questions
- ▶ Broad course integration
- ▶ Low rates of utilizing ELNEC resources - especially Relias online modules (5/21)
- ▶ A number of faculty identified that the survey invited good reflection on their curricula

“We have added it to our curriculum committee agenda”

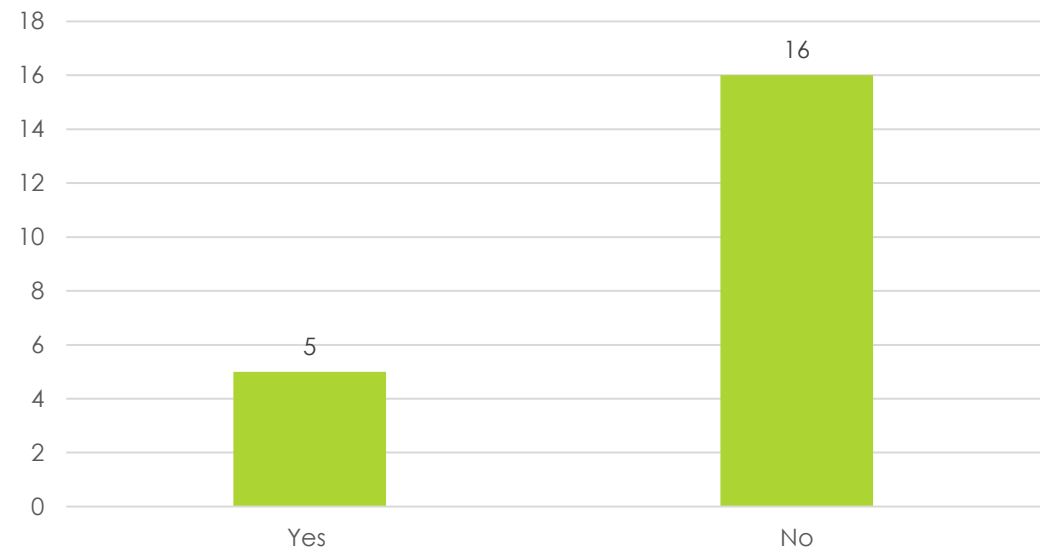
- ▶ **Enthusiasm for collaboration; welcoming leadership from the Mass Coalition for Serious Illness Care**

Separate Coursework or Online Modules

Does your college/university offer an independent course related to palliative care or serious illness?



Do you offer the ELNEC Undergraduate Online Curriculum (offered through Relias Academy)?



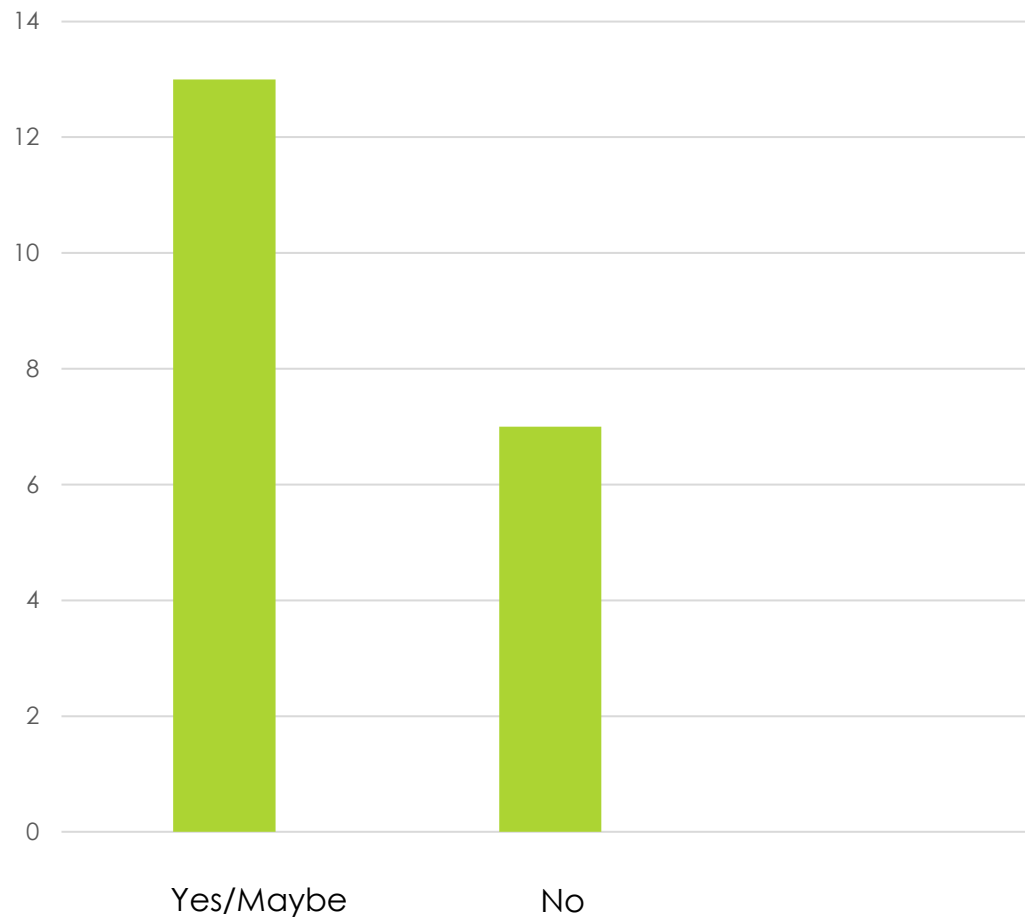
How are CARES competencies integrated in curriculum?

- *Integration over content across courses, impressive and the specific courses we would anticipate including this content are well represented*
- *Emphasis on lecture and discussion; not as wide variety of methods such as simulation, case study, guest lectures, role plays.*
- *Lots of variation in assessing outcomes - with exams highest on the list and discussions being the highest method (mismatch there and great implications for assisting with creative assignments that are also efficient in terms of assessing outcomes)*

Overall student preparation

Do you feel your students are well prepared in the area of palliative care or care of the patient with serious illness?

Yes = 5
Maybe = 8



Additional Outcome Measurement

“Direct observation using evaluation methods. Indirectly through student, alumni, and employer surveys.”

“End of program survey assesses student confidence with serious illness and palliative care.”

“Program outcomes are measured in the usual ways post-graduation through exit surveys, etc.”

Clinical Performance

How Can Mass Coalition for Serious Illness help?

Lots of appreciation for potential resources that Mass Coalition for Serious Illness could offer:

“Sharing the materials, collaborative planning, sharing of best practices and planning, sponsoring events that focus on serious illness and palliative care”

“Providing list of resources related to palliative care in different population.”

“Identifying resources that are available to support faculty delivering this content.”

Summary: Looking for central site for resources and collaboration