

# PLANNING FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES: CONSIDER A NURSE

## Speakers bios:

**Laurie Benson, BSN**, serves as the Executive Director, Nurses on Boards Coalition, whose mission is to improve health in communities through the service of nurses on all types of boards. She is Co-Founder and former CEO of a technology systems integrator, growing revenues to \$80 Million at the time of sale. She has served on public and private corporate boards in technology, finance, insurance, engineering, commercial real estate, manufacturing, and services industries, and numerous non-profit boards focused on entrepreneurship and improving quality of life. Laurie is passionate about leadership, innovation, and bringing possibilities into reality to benefit everyone involved. **Email: [laurie@nursesonboardscoalition.org](mailto:laurie@nursesonboardscoalition.org)**

**Laura Cantwell, MS**, is an Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach. She leads AARP Florida's work on livable community issues and is the state liaison on AARP's Network of Age Friendly States and Communities, which currently includes 44 Florida communities and the State of Florida. Laura serves on several statewide coalitions and committees, such as the Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Plan Steering Committee. She also serves as a Trustee at Large for the Florida Council on Aging. Laura holds an M.S. in Aging Studies from Florida State University. She is a graduate of Leadership Florida's Connect Class VII. **Email: [lcantwell@aarp.org](mailto:lcantwell@aarp.org)**

**Paul S. Lewis, FAICP**, has worked for the City of Orlando as a planner and planning manager for the past 35 years. He is known throughout Florida as an expert in growth management and sustainability, population and economic forecasting, aviation land use planning, and parks and open space planning. Paul has extensive experience in creating and implementing nationally recognized New Urbanism projects in both infill (Baldwin Park) and greenfield (Lake Nona/Medical City) locations. He is a strong advocate for Healthy Community Design, as evidenced by his work on the APA Florida Chapter award winning Parramore Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan. Paul is currently working with the Mayor's Committee on Livability & Healthy Aging on Orlando's first-ever age-friendly action plan. In 2016, Paul was inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners – College of Fellows. **Email: [paul.lewis@cityoforlando.net](mailto:paul.lewis@cityoforlando.net)**

**Alex Magee** has served as the executive director of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association for the past 15 years. She has more than 40 years of planning experience at the state, regional, local and non-profit level. **Email: [fapa@floridaplanning.org](mailto:fapa@floridaplanning.org)**

**Susan Poplin, AICP, MSP**, is a Principal Planner in the Land Use Planning Division, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department. Susan is a past officer of the APA-FL Capital Area Section from 2015 to 2021 including overseeing the award-winning age-friendly initiatives. She is known in the state and locally for her work with comprehensive planning, land use planning, and age-friendly communities. Susan has experience in developing special topic policy plans including the action plan for the Tallahassee Age-Friendly Community. Susan's interests include livable and age-friendly communities, school planning, and affordable housing. **Email: [susan.poplin@talgov.com](mailto:susan.poplin@talgov.com)**



American Planning Association  
Florida Chapter

*Creating Great Communities for All*





## Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC), AARP Florida, and APA Florida collaboration

*Are you interested in including a nurse leader who is passionate about creating great communities for all? We can connect you to local nurses.*

### What is NOBC?

Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC) represents national and state efforts by nurses and others working to build healthier communities. Our mission is to improve the health of communities through the service of nurses on boards and other bodies.

### Why Consider a Nurse?

#### Nurses Bring a Special Set of Skills to Support Communities:

*Leadership, Quality and Process Improvement, Communications, Human Resources, Strategic Planning, Finance, Teamwork, Research, Systems Thinking, Change Theory.*

- Promote a culture of health
- Provide access to care for all populations
- Serve patients and families of all ages
- Share best practices and resources
- Model collaboration principles
- Commitment to creating healthier communities

### How Can We Help?

- Conduct a match with nurses who have indicated an interest in serving in support of your mission and work in your communities
- Introduce you to one or more nurses for you to consider as members of your local boards and/or relevant local committees such as Arts and Planning, Transportation, Housing, Parks and Recreation, Citizen Engagement Committees, etc.

### Next steps:

Interested in including a nurse? Contact Storm Young [storm@nursesonboardscoalition.org](mailto:storm@nursesonboardscoalition.org) to set up an introductory call. During the call, we will assist you as you complete the [Find a Nurse – American Planning Association \(APA\)](#) form.

**For more information contact:** Laurie Benson, BSN, NOBC Executive Director,  
[Laurie@nursesonboardscoalition.org](mailto:Laurie@nursesonboardscoalition.org) 608-215-4425

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