TAKING ASPAN/TAPAN TO THE COMMUNITY
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Background: Nurses within the Northwest Houston area were unable to access the benefits of being an active ASPAN/TAPAN member. The closest region meeting is over 30 miles away and held in the busy Texas Medical Center. PeriAnesthesia nurses wanted to be involved in the organization but were unable, due to unavailability of chapters located within the communities. The purpose of this project is to create a new chapter of the Texas Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (TAPAN) on the Northwest side of Houston, Texas.

Objectives:
1) To advance PeriAnesthesia Nursing practice through increasing networking, education, research and leadership.
2) To increase the number of active members within ASPAN/TAPAN in the Houston Metropolitan Area

Setting/Participants: PeriAnesthesia nurses who work and live in the Northwest Houston area

Process of Implementation: PeriAnesthesia Nurse Managers were contacted from hospitals within Northwest Houston to complete a needs assessment. The application for chapter formation was completed and submitted on May 27, 2011. The TAPAN Board of Directors approved the chapter formation on August 14, 2011. The first meeting was held on August 27, 2011.

Statement of Successful Practice: The first meeting of the Northwest Houston Chapter of TAPAN was held on August 27, 2011 at 10:00 am. Susan Norris, TAPAN President, presented an in-service on ASPAN, TAPAN and Certification: What’s in it for me? A CEU was provided for those who attended. The first meeting of the chapter had 33 PeriAnesthesia nurses in attendance indicating a need for organizations like ASPAN/TAPAN to migrate from central locations out to the community hospitals.

Implications for the PeriAnesthesia Nurse: The development of the Northwest Houston TAPAN Chapter enables nurses who live and work on the Northwest side of Houston to get involved in the ASPAN/TAPAN organization. This has allowed more nurses to advance PeriAnesthesia nursing practice through education, research and ASPAN standards.