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Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

FAGIN TO OUTLINE NURSES' NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN IN USD LECTURE

The U.S. nursing industry has developed its own plan for revamping America's health care system. That plan will be the subject of a free public lecture at the University of San Diego's Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing in February.

Claire M. Fagin, R.N., Ph.D., President of the National League for Nursing and Dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, will discuss "Health and the Public Purpose" on Tuesday, February 11.

The lecture, sponsored by the Hahn School of Nursing and Zeta Mu Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, will take place at 4:00 p.m. in USD's Manchester Conference Center. The event is free and open to the public but reservations are required (call 260-4548).

Dr. Fagin, who serves as an advisor to the World Health Organization, is a long-time advocate of lowering health care costs and providing more responsive services to consumers.

In a recent speech, Dr. Fagin said, "What we are clearly in need of most in health policy in America is leadership. Nurses are the largest group of professionals in health care ... and nursing has united to develop a national health plan."

That plan, put together by the National League of Nursing and the American Nurses Association, would rely on nurses as

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mainstream providers, or "gatekeepers," of all medical services, responsible for controlling costs and ensuring quality.

Fagin believes the NLN-ANA plan would make medical services more responsive to patients' needs. "Nurses' psychological (and often physical) proximity to the patient allows nurses to see things through the same lens as the patient," she said.

Fagin's lecture also will focus on how nurses and consumers alike can help enact health care reform by playing what she calls "political hardball."

For further information about the February 11 USD Nursing Lectureship, please contact the School of Nursing at 260-4548.