

## **Symposium A5: Health Policy Research in Nursing**

### ***Case Study Approaches to Health Policy Research in Nursing***

Esther Seibold, DNSc, RN, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA ~ Christine Cekarrelli, PhD, RN, Elms College, Chicopee, MA ~ Allison Squires, PhD, RN, New York University, New York, NY

Case study approaches to health policy research offer nurse researchers the opportunity to study a policy question by synthesizing multiple sources of data and conducting research in non-traditional settings. A well-done case study will illustrate in great detail the nature and complexity of a particular case or group of cases. The purpose of this symposium is to show how nurses can use case study approaches to shape and inform health policy. It will illustrate how case study is different from mixed methods studies and where it is best used for health policy analysis. Then, the three presenters will present cases at the organizational, state, and international levels. A comparative case study of school-based mental health services serves as the first study, illustrating the application of the case study method at the organizational level. That study illustrates how case study can shape school and local health policy and inform policy choices at the state level. The second study compares policies affecting home-based family caregivers between two states in the United States. It provides nurse advocates with information about how they can impact state policies affecting select populations. The final case presentation will show how case study approaches can be used to study the production of nursing human resources in different countries, with an emphasis on developing countries. The presentation concludes by emphasizing how “non-traditional” research methods can help nurses advance health policy by helping to provide a comprehensive picture of a particular policy question.