

Date: May 31, 2024



Oregon Center for
NURSING

FRIDAY HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

Nursing Workforce

Nursing Wellness is Public Protection Webinar: This past week, the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), in collaboration with the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) and Oregon Nurses Association (ONA), hosted an hour-long webinar exploring mental well-being and substance abuse in the nursing profession. A [public replay of the event](#) is available on the OCN YouTube channel. The webinar also highlighted the mental health resources available to Oregon nurses. The [most current list](#) is available on the OSBN website, including the [Oregon Wellness Project](#) and the [Nurse Assistance Network \(NAN\)](#) hosted in part by the Oregon Nurses Foundation. Finally, OCN would love additional input on similar topics and ideas for future webinars. You can share your ideas and feedback via email at jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org.

Educating and Retaining Nurses in Oregon: We discussed the statewide interest and efforts to increase capacity in Oregon's nursing programs, as well as encourage those new graduates to stay living and working in the state. Huddlers agreed this is even more crucial in rural Oregon communities, as these positions often remain harder to fill. Data-driven insights and strategies are essential in the effort to turn conversations into action. Programs like the [Oregon Area Health Education Center](#) exist to "improve the distribution, diversity, and supply of health care workers in rural and under-resourced areas." In addition, the OSBN will embark on a summer listening tour across the state, including many rural hospitals, to hear about this challenge and other issues essential to the Oregon nursing community. A finalized schedule will be made available soon.

Pertussis on the Rise: Oregon health officials warned about a sharp rise in pertussis cases, more commonly known as whooping cough. As of May 29, 2024, there have been 178 reported cases of the illness, a 770 percent increase from the 20 cases reported as of the same date in 2023. The [Oregon Health Authority shared additional information](#) on the reported cases and important reminders about childhood vaccinations.

HRSA Faculty Loan Repayment Program: Nurse educators in Oregon can now apply for [the 2024 loan repayment program through HRSA](#)—up to \$40,000 over two years. The deadline for applications is June 27, 2024. Learn more about the application process and apply online.

KFF's Health Policy 101: Refresh your knowledge of a wide range of health programs and policy topics in the United States. The [new KFF Health Policy 101](#) is a free educational resource geared towards students and educators that introduces how the American healthcare system works in our modern society.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, June 7, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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