

Date: May 16, 2025



FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Nursing Workforce

Oregon Revenue Forecast and Kicker Refund: The [state's revenue forecast](#) was released this week. While the kicker is estimated to be more than \$1 billion, lawmakers will have less the spend than expected, meaning less funds available for public programs, including healthcare and education.

Access and Affordability of Care: Huddlers shared patient stories revealing care access issues, including insurance denials over dosage wording, difficulty finding primary care providers, and low Medicaid reimbursements. Although behavioral health funding in Oregon has been relatively strong, attendees warned that federal cuts could reverse progress.

Healthcare Affordability Opportunities: The Oregon Health Authority has [upcoming healthcare affordability task force opportunities](#) and welcomes public input. Participants were encouraged to share patient stories and provider experiences—particularly from nurses across diverse settings—to help shape the discussion

Nursing Education

Help Shape the “Be a Nurse” Page: OCN is updating its prospective nursing student webpage and is seeking input from nurses and educators. A one-hour Zoom session will gather feedback on what future students should know before entering nursing school. Those interested can [contact Jana Bitton](#) to join.

Graduation Season Check-In: Schools across Oregon are graduating students, with mixed employment outcomes. While some students secured jobs before graduation, others reported trouble getting interviews—especially in specialty care. Employers noted a shift toward hiring experienced staff and fewer new grads due to stabilized vacancies.

Reintroducing Long-Term Care as a Career Path: As hospital residency programs have expanded, fewer new grads are choosing long-term care. Educators are starting to respond: some programs place more students in assisted living and memory care settings, with positive feedback. OCN may develop a subject matter expert directory to connect students with diverse nursing voices.

Events & Happenings

Senior Loneliness Support Line: Lines for Life is a nonprofit offering specialized hotlines including a [senior loneliness support line](#). These resources are critical for older adults, especially those experiencing isolation.

Outstanding Preceptor Task Force: OCN will host its annual Outstanding Preceptor event this September and is forming a task force to prepare. [Email Jana Bitton](#) if you'd like to participate.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, May 23rd, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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