

Date: May 23, 2025



FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Nursing Workforce

Medicaid Policy & Impact on Nursing: A [federal budget bill](#) passed narrowly in the House, containing significant changes to Medicaid. Though still evolving, the implications for Oregon's healthcare system could be wide-reaching. The provider tax mechanism, where hospitals 'donate' money to increase Medicaid match funding, is under federal scrutiny and could change funding patterns that affect hospital operations and workforce stability.

Maternity Services Reductions: [Samaritan Health may reduce maternity services](#) in Corvallis, Lebanon, and coastal areas, an event that has happened in rural Oregon hospitals in the past. While nurse shortages are cited, it's also tied to declining birth rates and [the financial instability hospitals face](#). Huddlers noted positive developments where local home visiting programs were funded to address gaps after hospital-based services were reduced.

Mental Health and Nurse Retention: Huddlers discussed [nurse mental health](#) and shared relevant burnout stories, reflecting widespread emotional strain in the profession. The group emphasized how accumulated systemic stress can easily pile up and overwhelm, and highlighted the importance of workplace wellbeing for RNs and interdisciplinary care teams.

Protective Policies from OSBN: The Oregon State Board of Nursing is taking concrete steps to remove mental stigma in nursing, such as removing mental health disclosure questions from licensing, [adding resources to its website](#), and resuming an Alternative to Discipline program. These are major structural supports that aim to keep nurses in practice safely and sustainably, rather than pushing them out during personal or professional crises.

Nursing Education

DOSE Framework: The Dopamine, Oxytocin, Serotonin, and Endorphins (DOSE) model garnered interest among huddlers, encouraging exploration into possible CEU content, workshops, or webinars based on the DOSE framework. More information to follow.

Events & Happenings

Upcoming Board of Nursing Outreach: The Oregon State Board of Nursing is expanding accessibility by streaming all meetings and making rulemaking processes transparent. OSBN will also be hosting sessions in Southern Oregon (June) and the coast (September) as part of a goal to reach communities beyond Portland.

Opioid-Related Good News: [Opioid deaths in Oregon are declining](#) thanks to sustained public health efforts. While the problem isn't "solved," the trend is positive and underscores that policy and community efforts are making a real impact.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, May 30th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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