

**Date: August 29, 2025**



# FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

## Nurse Workforce

**COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance:** [Newly issued federal recommendations](#) approve vaccines for adults 65+ and those 6 months–64 at higher risk. Off-label access remains possible for others. Huddlers debated the scientific rationale, insurance coverage, and potential barriers for marginalized populations.

**Medicaid Cuts:** Huddlers shared ongoing worries about how organizations will sustain services as Medicaid funding decreases. Discussion centered on long-term care, adult foster homes, and the resulting moral distress for staff as patient access and equity face further strain.

**Nursing Trust and Professional Integrity:** With misinformation increasing and reports of unlicensed [nurse impostors](#), participants reflected on the profession's long-standing reputation as the most trusted. Huddlers emphasized that trust stems from the intimate and holistic care nurses provide, but warned that systemic distrust could have consequences for practice.

**Nurse-Led Solutions Highlighted as Future Models:** Huddlers explored how nurses might lead emerging models of care outside traditional systems. Ideas included community-based programs, health education in non-clinical spaces, and building grassroots support networks to meet patient needs.

## Events & Resources

**Town Hall with Senator Merkley:** OCN plans a Friday Huddle: Extended Cut on Tuesday, September 16, with Senator Jeff Merkley to discuss Medicaid cuts and health policy updates. For more information, please email Jana Bitton at [jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org](mailto:jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org).

**Outstanding Nurse Preceptor Event:** OCN will honor 20 nurse preceptors as part of its annual Outstanding Nurse Preceptor event on Wednesday, September 17. [Be sure to register early!](#)

**Rural Health Transformation Program:** OHA will accept public comment for the Rural Health Transformation Program through Friday, September 5. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Workplace Violence Prevention in Healthcare Setting RAC:** OHA is seeking applicants for its [Rules Advisory Committee](#) on workplace violence prevention, part of [SB 537](#). For more information contact: [Mellony.C.Bernal@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Mellony.C.Bernal@oha.oregon.gov) or [Sadie.Morrissey@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Sadie.Morrissey@oha.oregon.gov)

**NWONL Portland-SW WA Chapter Meeting:** The Northwest Organization of Nurse Leaders will host a Portland and Southern Washington Council [meeting on Friday, September 19](#), with OCN and the Washington Center for Nursing presenting.

**The National Academy of Medicine Webinar:** NAM will hold a webinar on Thursday, September 25, titled "Change Maker in Action Series: Pivoting with Purpose to Sustain Well-Being." [Click here to register.](#)

### Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, September 5th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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