

Date: August 8, 2025



FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Nurse Workforce

Medicaid Cuts & Uncertainty: Concerns about the upcoming federal Medicaid budget reductions include possible layoffs across support staff, ripple effects on RNs, rural hospitals consolidating units, moral distress over reduced patient access to needed services despite available capacity, and impact on specialty roles. Participants voiced concern that even when capacity exists, reduced staffing or funding will limit patient access—particularly in mental health, long-term care, and preventive health services. Some nurses are experiencing moral distress as they anticipate turning patients away from services they know are available in theory but not funded in practice. OCN held an extended discussion on this subject after the huddle, find the recording [HERE](#).

Workforce Sustainability & Flexibility: Some organizations are holding off on hiring and focusing on flexible job descriptions to allow pivoting as funding impacts become clearer.

Understanding Health Care Financing: While policy conversations have improved nurses' awareness of reimbursement models, Medicaid's role, and state vs. federal funding streams, some still feel under-prepared. Several suggested that financial literacy in health care should be embedded earlier in nursing education so workforce members can anticipate and respond to systemic funding changes.

Nurse Education

Curriculum & Financing Education: Huddlers discussed whether nursing programs teach health care funding, reimbursement, and insurance navigation. Some programs, like Sumner College, do include insurance, Medicaid/Medicare, and cost-saving strategies in their curriculum. Participants agreed this knowledge is increasingly essential for nurses to understand care access, budget constraints, and discharge planning.

Scholarship Opportunity: The Northwest Organization of Nurse Leaders is offering two \$2,500 scholarships for nurse leaders currently in graduate or doctoral programs. [Applications are open](#) until the end of this month.

Events & Resources

OCN Outstanding Preceptor Event Registration is Open: Mark your calendar and save your spot- [register now](#) for the 2025 Outstanding Preceptor Awards Event.

Faith Community Network CE-Approved Professional Development: On August 28, the Faith Community Network is hosting [Courage to Care: Leadership, Advocacy, and the Nurse's Responsibility](#) with Angel Harris at Lebanon Hospital (\$30 fee, CE approved).

ORH Rural Health Excellence Award: [Nominations are open](#) through the end of August for hospitals or organizations delivering exceptional rural healthcare in Oregon. Winners will be recognized at the 2025 Oregon Rural Health conference.

Vaccine Confusion and Conflicting Policy: For clarity on the 2025 vaccine rollout process, see [this article by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#), and the ["Your Local Epidemiologist" blog](#) by Katelyn Jetelina.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, August 15th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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