

Date: September 5, 2025



FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Nurse Workforce

Vaccine Policy uncertainty: Huddlers reflected on the [disorienting pace of national policy changes](#). While the old systems had problems, the rapid restructuring is creating confusion and concern among nurses. The group emphasized a desire to move toward better solutions, not just back to pre-COVID practices. This uncertainty raises questions about whether the constant changes are making it harder for nurses—and the general population—to engage meaningfully in healthcare policy and decision-making.

Multiple organizations are making an effort to clear up confusion and advocate for fact-based vaccine information, including the [Oregon Health Association](#), the [Vaccine Integrity Project](#), and the newly formed [Joint West Coast Health Alliance](#).

Behavioral Health Talent Council: OSBN Director Rachel Prusak is serving on this governor's office-led council chaired by the First Lady. The focus is expanding access to behavioral health through workforce recruitment and retention. Director Prusak noted that psychiatric nurse practitioners (PMHNP) are the largest prescribers of mental health medications in Oregon, even more than psychiatrists. Anyone connected to psychiatrists or systems excelling at Psych NP recruitment, please [contact Director Prusak](#).

Nurse Education

Clinical placement shortages: A workshop series by [the National Academy of Medicine](#) has been addressing clinical placement and slot shortages across the United States. The first session included educators across health professions (nursing, osteopathic doctors, physical therapists, etc.) highlighted the challenges in securing clinical placements. The next session will address placement shortages from the perspective of employers.

Nurse Professional Development Week: In advance of NPD week, OCN director Jana Bitton has asked for participants certified in Nurse Professional Development (NPD) to contribute to social media and storytelling efforts. [Contact Jana](#) to get involved.

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. [Register today](#) to save your spot, and [submit your questions and stories](#) to Senator Merkley.

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!](#)

NAM Workshop: [Addressing Training Site and Slot Shortages Across the Health Professions](#) webinar will be held on Thursday, September 25.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, September 12th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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