

Date: December 5, 2025



Oregon Center for  
N U R S I N G

# FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

## Nurse Workforce

**Hospital Closures & Capacity:** [Vibra Specialty Hospital](#) in Portland will close, laying off about 310 staff, while [Ashland Community Hospital](#) will close next spring but redeploy staff within the Asante system. Though closures were not explicitly linked to Medicaid cuts, Huddlers saw them as part of a larger pattern of financial strain and worried about what similar changes could mean for rural critical access hospitals and local access to care.

**Rural Access & Reality:** Huddlers raised concerns about rural patient access, citing higher ED use, longer stays, homelessness, addiction, and patients avoiding routine care due to fear of ICE. Rural nurses reported shortages at all levels, limited education and advancement options, pay gaps, and shrinking specialty and community supports. They saw opportunities to better connect nurses across rural communities to share resources and strengthen practice.

## Nurse Education

**Friday Huddle: Extended Cut:** [Join us on Friday, Dec. 12](#) at 9am to learn about OCN's new Oregon Healthcare Workforce Index and how nurse leaders can use it for planning and strategy.

**NAM: Charting the Future of the Health Workforce Well-Being Momentum Event:** On [Thursday, Dec. 11](#), this National Academy of Medicine virtual event will focus on health workforce well-being, burnout, and long-term system strategies, geared toward clinicians, health system leaders, and policymakers.

## Resources

**Wear With Care Clothing Drive for Unity Patients:** [Saturday, Dec. 6](#): Social workers in Portland will host an in-person gathering for a holiday social and clothing drive supporting Wear With Care, supporting discharged patients from Unity Center for Behavioral Health. If you can't join, consider a donation!

**Oregon's Prosperity Roadmap:** This week, Gov. Tina Kotek announced the [Oregon Prosperity Roadmap](#), which describes strategies, workforce goals, and cross-sector investments aimed at strengthening Oregon's economy. These initiatives could help Oregon's nursing workforce in the future.

**Oregon Health Forum Virtual Event:** Explore how federal Medicaid changes could affect Oregon's coverage, providers, and payment models, at Monday, Dec. 15th [Oregon Health Forum event](#) with a panel of health economists and system leaders.

**Rural Health Transformation Program - Survey Due Dec. 11:** [OHA's interest survey](#) is due for rural hospitals, clinics, tribes, and community partners preparing potential applications for Oregon's RHTP proposal. [KFF Health News](#) published an article that goes into more depth on other states' RHTP proposals and raises concerns about "radical transparency" as states and CMS manage a \$50 billion rural health fund.

## Next Friday Huddle:

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

[Register Here!](#)

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