



FRIDAY HUDDLE

Convene • Connect • Collaborate

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



NURSE WORKFORCE

Medicaid Budget Pressure: Huddlers discussed a looming state budget gap, anticipated painful cuts, and concern that federal changes could hit Oregon disproportionately, alongside specific concern about CCO rate-setting and CCOs pulling out of local markets.

Patient Safety & ICE Concerns: A bill is in development related to ICE and hospitals, intended to address concerns being raised about how ICE behaves and access to healthcare facilities. OCN's Legislative Tracker will be released soon to track all nursing related bills.

Staffing Law Reality Check: A statistic from the Oregon Health Forum was cited that implementing staffing ratios cost \$400M to hire needed nurses plus \$200M to administer; participants questioned the figure and shared that staffing challenges and complaints persist even after the staffing law, with "break nurse" roles often pulled first when units are short.

Vaccine Recommendations and Standing Orders: OSBN and partners are actively discussing vaccine standing order approaches, alongside questions raised about guidance alignment for FQHCs—particularly for organizations near state borders navigating federal vs. West Coast Health Alliance recommendations.

NURSE EDUCATION

NurseLearn Well-Being Session: On January 27 at 12:30 pm, OCN's Program Director Dawne Schoenthal will speak about why common wellness advice often fails and what may work instead. Register [here](#) to attend this accessible, lunch-hour learning opportunity.

Leadership Development Learning Sessions: Northwest Organization of Nurse Leaders (NWONL) highlighted upcoming sessions focused on leader development and the realities of nurse leader turnover. Sessions include Developing the Leader Within [Mon. Jan. 26](#) and Nursing Leadership in the New World of Work with Dr. Rose Sherman [Tue. March 24](#), with interest in applicability for frontline leaders (including charge nurses).

RESOURCES

Healthcare Priorities in the 2026 Short Legislative Session: [Lund Report Recap](#) of legislators' healthcare priorities and short-session dynamics; recommended for anyone tracking Medicaid, budget, and system stability signals affecting nursing.

OpenEvidence: Huddlers discussed [OpenEvidence](#) as a health-specific AI tool that returns multiple evidence based sources and is free for healthcare professionals. [Click here](#) to learn more about how its used for nursing.

Oregon Office of Rural Health Community Conversations: [2026 Schedule](#) – A set of rural health community conversations for leaders who want to stay connected to rural system pressures and transformation priorities. The topic for Jan. 29. 12pm is an Oregon Legislative Update.