



## 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

**Legislative Tracker & 2026 Session Preview:** OCN shared an early overview of nursing- and healthcare-related bills recently posted ahead of the legislative session. Approximately [ten bills are currently being tracked](#), including placeholder bills and two nearly identical House and Senate bills related to staffing plans. Huddlers were encouraged to flag additional bills for inclusion as more details emerge.

**Hiring, Transferable Skills & Workforce Mobility:** Huddlers emphasized the importance of recognizing transferable skills when hiring and interviewing nurses. Leaders shared that experience in customer service and other non-clinical roles builds critical nursing competencies such as prioritization, communication, and adaptability. Nurses were encouraged to fully represent their professional backgrounds rather than viewing career transitions as starting over.

**Leadership & Well-Being Culture:** Participants reinforced that healthy leaders set healthy culture. Modeling behaviors such as taking mental health days and openly discussing workload pressures was highlighted as an important leadership practice within nursing organizations.

**Vaccine Guidance & Public Health Coordination:** Participants discussed immunization guidance challenges for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), particularly those near state borders. While Oregon follows West Coast Health Alliance recommendations, some FQHCs headquartered in Idaho are following federal guidance for operational simplicity. OHA and local public health partners are working on coordination and clarity.

### NURSE EDUCATION

**Student Loan & Higher Education Policy Update:** Huddlers briefly discussed proposed federal rule changes from the U.S. Department of Education aimed at simplifying student loan repayment and increasing affordability. The update was noted as relevant to nurses and nursing students managing educational debt. If you would like to send a letter to the Dept. of Education related to the rulemaking on the definition of a "professional degree," click [HERE](#).

### RESOURCES

**Alex Pretti Virtual Vigil:** Don'tClockOut is hosting a [virtual vigil](#) 1/30/2026 at 6pm CT.

**OCN is Hiring!** The Oregon Center for Nursing is searching for a [Research Deputy Director](#). If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, please reach out!

**ANA Nursing Survey:** The ANA is [seeking public comment](#) on nursing scope and standards. If interested, please provide feedback by 02/19/2026.

**TedTalk About Living Through Turbulent Times:** Jana mentioned a [TedTalk](#) that inspired her to give grace while we are building a world without knowing what we are doing.