



## 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

**Friday Huddle 6-Year Anniversary:** Next week marks the sixth anniversary of the Friday Huddle!! Huddlers are invited to [contribute to a Padlet titled "I Huddle Because..."](#) to share reflections on what our weekly gathering means to YOU. Don't regularly make the Huddles, but read the summary every week? You are a Huddler, and we'd love to hear from you too. Highlights will be shared during next week's anniversary call.

**Rural Workforce Needs:** Despite increasing nursing graduates statewide, rural healthcare facilities continue to experience vacancies, with some organizations reporting more than 20% of nursing positions unfilled. This [ongoing maldistribution](#) highlights persistent challenges in aligning workforce supply with geographic and specialty needs.

### NURSE EDUCATION

**Clinical Placement Challenges:** Participants raised significant concerns about growing pressure on clinical placement sites across the state. Practice partners reported receiving increasing numbers of requests from both Oregon-based and out-of-state nursing programs, and healthcare organizations noted they are reaching saturation points while still trying to support workforce development and provide meaningful clinical learning opportunities.

Educators acknowledged the tension between expanding nursing program enrollment and securing sufficient clinical placements. While programs are working creatively to place students in community settings, ambulatory care, and other non-hospital environments, competition for placements remains intense. Educators emphasized the importance of helping students understand that hospital placements—especially in specialized units like ICU or OB—may not always be possible. Schools are increasingly preparing students for diverse clinical experiences across healthcare settings rather than focusing solely on hospital-based care.

The Oregon State Board of Nursing allows programs to use up to 50% simulation hours in clinical education, but many programs currently use much less simulation on average. Participants discussed opportunities to expand simulation and explore shared simulation resources among programs to relieve pressure on clinical sites.

### RESOURCES

**Carrington College ADN Ribbon Cutting:** Carrington College will [host a ribbon-cutting event](#) on April 6 to celebrate the launch of their new ADN program.

**Postsecondary Healthcare Education Shortage in Oregon Report:** The [OLDC examines workforce shortages across healthcare professions](#) and explores factors affecting education capacity and workforce supply in Oregon.

**Oregon Health Plan Federal Rule Updates:** The [OHA shared updates on new federal rules](#) affecting the Oregon Health Plan, including upcoming changes to eligibility verification timelines and program administration.

**Nursing Education In Oregon Infographic:** [OCN published an infographic](#) summarizing key data on nursing education programs across the state, including enrollment, graduation trends, and program distribution.

**NSI National Healthcare Retention Report:** The latest [NSI report provides national data and insights](#) on healthcare workforce turnover, retention challenges, and staffing trends across hospitals and health systems.



**OREGON CENTER**  
for **NURSING**

**NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:**

**Friday, March 20th, at 8:00 a.m.**

[OregonCenterForNursing.org](https://OregonCenterForNursing.org)

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