



FRIDAY HUDDLE

Convene • Connect • Collaborate

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



In Remembrance: Dr. Pam Fifer, George Fox University dean and former OCN Board President, passed away recently. Pam’s commitment to nursing touched countless lives across Oregon. She will be dearly missed.

NURSE WORKFORCE

Primary Care Access & ED Utilization: Huddlers described ongoing challenges with access to primary care, resulting in emergency departments continuing to serve as a default entry point for care. Barriers include difficulty finding a primary care provider, long wait times for appointments, limited clinic hours, and urgent care gaps, particularly in rural areas. Even insured individuals reported challenges navigating the system, leading to delayed care or reliance on ED services for non-emergent needs.

Workforce & Nurse Practitioner Distribution: Despite a notable increase in nurse practitioners across Oregon, many are not practicing in primary care settings. OCN research has shown that hospital-based and specialty roles often offer more competitive compensation, benefits, and working conditions. This highlights a growing misalignment between workforce supply and system needs, raising questions about how to better leverage nurse practitioners to expand access to primary care.

Care Delivery Models & System Inefficiencies: Huddlers identified opportunities to improve care delivery through more integrated and accessible models. Suggestions included co-locating urgent care and emergency services for better triage, expanding virtual urgent care options, and increasing nurse-led triage and care coordination. Participants emphasized that many existing systems and processes have not evolved alongside advances in workforce capacity and technology.

NURSE EDUCATION

Student Engagement & Workforce Pipeline: A nursing student shared appreciation for nurse leaders and the opportunity to engage in the Huddle, reinforcing the importance of connection between students and the professional community. Participants emphasized that visible leadership, mentorship, and support are essential to preparing and retaining the next generation of nurses.

RESOURCES

OCN Trends Report AND Extended Cut: The Oregon Center for Nursing released a new [workforce trends report](#), highlighting key insights of the nursing workforce in Oregon. A [Friday Huddle: Extended Cut](#) session on April 17 will provide a deeper dive into the findings and implications.

Prescription Drug Affordability Board Survey: The [PDAB is collecting feedback](#) on the cost of certain medications to inform ongoing policy work.

Northwest Summit to Reimagine AI in Nursing & Healthcare: [Join the University of Washington](#) on May 15th to discuss how AI can strengthen care delivery.

Violence Prevention Summit: [Registration is open](#) for the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Partners for Health’s Violence Prevention Summit on May 22 at Samaritan Lebanon Hospital.



OREGON CENTER
for **NURSING**

NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, April 10th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

REGISTER HERE ▶

