



FRIDAY HUDDLE

Convene • Connect • Collaborate

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



NO HUDDLE NEXT WEEK! OCN is closed for Independence Day.

NURSE WORKFORCE

Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Medicaid Changes: This week's discussion centered around upcoming federal Medicaid changes under H.R. 1 and what they will mean for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. While many implementation details are still being finalized at the federal level, Oregon is required to implement new federal requirements, including work and activity reporting for some adults, more frequent eligibility renewals, changes to non-citizen eligibility, shorter retroactive coverage periods, and small co-pays beginning in 2028. OHA emphasized that its priority is to keep as many eligible Oregonians enrolled as possible despite these federal mandates. The greatest immediate concern is ensuring members receive critical notices as these changes roll out, making it essential for [OHP members to update their contact information](#). Participants discussed how administrative barriers—including language differences, housing instability, distrust of government, and increasingly complex paperwork—may result in otherwise eligible individuals losing coverage. Because [nurses remain one of the most trusted professions](#), attendees were encouraged to serve as trusted messengers by reminding patients, families, students, and community members enrolled in OHP to verify and update their contact information and to help connect them with upcoming OHA resources, including translated materials, partner toolkits, and plain-language guidance that will be released over the coming months.

NURSE EDUCATION

Graduate Nursing Education: Huddlers discussed the far-reaching workforce implications of proposed changes ([currently blocked by a federal judge](#)) to graduate student financial aid. Eliminating Grad PLUS loans for most graduate nursing programs could significantly increase the financial burden of advanced nursing education, potentially reducing the number and diversity of future nurse practitioners, nurse educators, and behavioral health providers. Participants explored how these changes may disproportionately affect rural healthcare, primary care, and nursing education, while also debating broader questions about the affordability and structure of graduate nursing education. Huddlers discussed whether Oregon may need new educational models if graduate enrollment declines because of financial barriers. The group explored questions about DNP versus master's preparation, specialty workforce shortages, and how Oregon can continue preparing advanced practice nurses while ensuring education remains accessible and responsive to workforce needs.

Clinical Placements and Online Education: There are concerns about the rapid growth of online nurse practitioner programs, increasing pressure on already limited clinical placements, and the importance of quality preceptorship and mentorship for new advanced practice nurses. Participants emphasized that expanding educational access must be balanced with maintaining high-quality clinical training.

RESOURCES

Preceptor Recognition Nominations Now Open! Join OCN in our 6th year of recognizing the hard work and dedication of Oregon's preceptors. [Nominate a preceptor](#) you'd like to recognize from your organization to be included in the Sept. 23 Virtual Recognition Event. The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15.

Sponsor OCN's October Nursing Conference: OCN will be hosting "[Caring for All, Diminishing None](#)" on Oct. 19. This full-day conference will bring together nurses, nurse leaders, nursing students and workforce leaders to learn more about the challenges of building healthy workplaces in healthcare. OCN is currently looking for sponsors to help offset the costs of both the conference, and support the overall work of the Center. Interested? Reach out to admin@oregoncenterfornursing.org.

Healthcare Workforce Committee: The [next HCWF Committee meeting](#) will be held virtually on July 8th at 9:30am.



OREGON CENTER
for **NURSING**

NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

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

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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