



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

New OCN Well-Being Report Released: OCN released its newest workforce report, [Better But Not Well](#), authored by Dr. Zhen Keck. The report compares nurse well-being survey data from 2022 and 2025, finding that while conditions have improved since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon nurses continue to experience significant stress, burnout, and workplace challenges. The report reinforces that recovery is underway but that substantial work remains to improve nurse well-being.

Healthcare's Role in Oregon's Economy: An upcoming [Oregon Health Forum webinar](#) will examine healthcare's increasing role in supporting Oregon's economy. There is an apparent contradiction between healthcare serving as one of the state's strongest employment sectors while Oregon simultaneously faces approximately \$421 million in anticipated Medicaid funding reductions. Participants discussed the potential workforce implications of these funding cuts and the importance of understanding how healthcare policy decisions may affect nursing employment and patient access to care.

NURSE EDUCATION

Continuing Education Requirements and Accessibility: Oregon is transitioning from clinical practice hours to [continuing education \(CE\) requirements](#) for nursing license renewal. OSBN Director Rachel Prusak shared that the Board is beginning long-term planning for implementation. Huddlers discussed the importance of providing affordable-ideally free- continuing education, particularly for required topics such as pain management and cultural competency. While recognizing that high-quality educational content requires investment, attendees emphasized that nurses should not be "nickel-and-dimed" simply to maintain licensure.

Student Loan Changes Continue to Raise Concerns: The group revisited [recent federal student loan changes](#) affecting graduate healthcare education. While recent court rulings prompted the Department of Education to revise [how professional nursing degrees are classified](#) for borrowing purposes, uncertainty remains regarding how these changes will ultimately benefit nursing students. Participants expressed concern that reduced borrowing opportunities and the elimination of Grad PLUS loans may disproportionately impact students from lower-income backgrounds, those balancing work and school, and future advanced practice nurses, potentially creating additional workforce shortages over time.

RESOURCES

Preceptor Recognition Nominations Now Open: Join OCN in recognizing Oregon's outstanding nurse preceptors. [Facilities are invited to submit preceptors](#) who have made a difference in Oregon's nursing workforce, with honorees recognized during Nursing Professional Development Week on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15.

Article- Navigating Social Media as a Nurse: Attendees were encouraged to review a [recently published article](#) discussing best practices for nurses using social media. The article highlights previous examples where online activity created professional or employment concerns and offers practical guidance for maintaining professionalism in digital spaces.



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for NURSING

NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, July 17th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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