



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

Leadership Transitions Across Oregon: Oregon is experiencing many changes in healthcare leadership recently. Huddlers how succession planning, documentation, and mentorship can help organizations maintain momentum through leadership transitions. Rather than focusing solely on individual departures, emphasis should be on the importance of intentionally preparing the next generation of nurse leaders and preserving institutional knowledge.

Workforce Distribution vs. Nurse Shortage: A [recent Time article](#) reinforced a message OCN has emphasized for years- the issue facing healthcare is not an overall shortage of licensed nurses, but rather uneven workforce distribution and retention challenges. Hospital positions in the Portland area remain highly competitive, while rural hospitals, long-term care, behavioral health, and community-based settings continue to offer strong employment opportunities. Several attendees encouraged new graduates and newly licensed nurses to remain open to diverse practice settings, noting these roles can provide rewarding career paths and valuable experience. Participants agreed that solving workplace culture, retention, and geographic distribution issues is more sustainable than simply increasing the number of nursing graduates.

NURSE EDUCATION

NCLEX Accommodations: Educators discussed current experiences with the NCLEX and student preparedness. While overall pass rates remain positive, several faculty members reported a noticeable increase in students [requesting testing accommodations](#), including extended time, reduced-distraction environments, and support for significant test anxiety. Participants observed that today's nursing students often enter programs with higher baseline anxiety levels than before the COVID-19 pandemic and that the increasing complexity of healthcare may also contribute to additional stress during licensure preparation. Multiple factors may be influencing these trends, including increased awareness of available accommodations, evolving educational practices, and the growing cognitive demands placed on nursing students. Educators expressed interest in continuing the conversation and better understanding how nursing programs can support student success while maintaining rigorous educational standards.

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 on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 24.

OCN Conference Registration Open: Registration remains open for [OCN's conference on October 19](#). Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available! This year's keynote speaker, Renee Thompson, will focus on addressing workplace incivility and fostering healthier work environments. Review her [recent LinkedIn article](#) to learn more about her work before the conference.

Oregon Rural Health Excellence Award: [Join ORH Oct. 7-9](#) in Bend to recognize rural hospitals, clinics, local public health departments, and community based organizations that demonstrate remarkable dedication to health outcomes in their communities.

HAO Report- Hospitals in Crisis: The [Hospital Association of Oregon released a report](#) outlining the anticipated financial impact of upcoming Medicaid funding reductions on hospitals- rural and critical access facilities in particular.



OREGON CENTER
for **NURSING**

NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, August 7th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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