



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

Nursing- “Oregon’s Center of Gravity”: Many current conversations focus on healthcare financing and organizational sustainability rather than community health outcomes, prevention, and social drivers of health. As the state’s largest healthcare profession, nursing may be uniquely positioned to connect patient and community experiences with policy, economics, and systems-level decision-making. Yet, nurses are frequently absent from state committees and decision-making groups, even when the issues under discussion directly affect nursing, healthcare, or Oregon’s economy. Rather than looking for a single “table,” nurses may need representation across many tables and must be explicitly recognized as nursing professionals when serving on them. Huddlers stressed the importance of bridging geographic and cultural divides within Oregon, identifying shared priorities, listening to communities, and proactively inserting nursing perspectives into conversations where decisions are being made.

Leadership and Collective Action: Leadership is an important component of strengthening nursing’s influence. Participants questioned whether nurses receive enough formal leadership preparation during their education, particularly when nursing curricula remain heavily influenced by preparation for the NCLEX. The group also acknowledged that collective action does not necessarily mean solving every challenge. Some persistent workforce issues, such as scarcity of clinical placements, may need ongoing management rather than a single solution. The group discussed the possibility of a more coordinated nursing voice or council that could represent perspectives across care settings and regions and help inform policy through the lens of patient and community health.

Food Affordability, Health, and Prevention: Rising grocery and housing costs prompted concern about the downstream effects of unmet basic needs on health. Increasingly expensive food can make traditional patient education about nutrition and chronic disease management financially unrealistic, particularly for people managing diabetes, heart failure, and other chronic conditions. The group emphasized the connection between food, housing, poverty, preventive care, and hospital utilization, noting that healthcare cannot meaningfully improve outcomes without addressing the conditions in which people live. Nurses may have an important role in adapting education to patients’ financial realities while also advocating for stronger attention to prevention and social drivers of health.

NURSE EDUCATION

Nurse Educator Workforce and Faculty Support: Recent articles from the [Oregonian](#) and the [American Journal of Nursing](#) examined nurse educator salaries and burnout, broadening the well-being conversation beyond hospital-based nurses and highlighting pressures unique to nurse faculty. OCN continues to develop a statewide program for new faculty, and is [seeking survey input from nursing education programs](#) about their current orientation practices.

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: Today is the last day for early bird pricing for [OCN’s conference on October 19!](#) Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still 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.

Wildfire Support- ORVOAD: With wildfires affecting multiple areas of the state, please [explore the Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster’s opportunities](#) to volunteer, access information, or participate in coordination efforts.

Vaccine Policy Update: A recent executive order was announced concerning the separation and spacing of vaccines. An executive order itself [does not immediately change Oregon’s vaccination requirements](#) or eliminate access to currently available combination vaccines. The [West Coast Health Alliance](#) continues to support established pediatric immunization guidance.



NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, August 21st, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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