



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

The Friday Huddle's Role in Oregon Nursing: Huddlers reflected on how the Friday Huddle has evolved since it began during the COVID-19 pandemic and whether its format should change as the nursing landscape changes. While participants acknowledged that recurring challenges such as clinical placements, faculty shortages, and workforce pressures can make conversations feel cyclical, many emphasized the Huddle's value as an informal, cross-sector space for sharing information, testing ideas, hearing perspectives from across Oregon, and building connections. Nursing leaders increasingly have specialized venues for education, hospital leadership, and other sectors, potentially recreating the professional silos that existed before the pandemic. The group discussed whether the Huddle's next evolution could include more intentional connections among those groups, regular report-outs from nursing leadership organizations, and renewed outreach to leaders. If you want to chime in, [email us!](#)

Oregon Employment and Nursing's Influence: Newly released [Oregon employment data](#) show continued growth in healthcare and social assistance employment as one of the state's largest employment sectors. Nursing represents a substantial portion of Oregon's healthcare workforce, reinforcing last week's discussion about the profession's potential influence on the state's economy, healthcare system, and public policy.

Temporary Healthcare Staff Rate Setting: Oregon's [Temporary Health Care Staff Rate Setting Program](#) was developed in response to pandemic-era reliance on temporary and travel healthcare workers. The current 2026 maximum rate is \$127 per hour, and the state is beginning the process of establishing rates for 2027. Public comment is expected this fall, providing an opportunity for interested stakeholders to participate in the rate-setting process.

NURSE EDUCATION

Virtual and Mixed-Reality Simulation: Oregon programs are using virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed-reality simulation in nursing programs to varying degrees, including as part of broader simulation programs and for clinical makeup experiences. Participants noted potential benefits but also significant considerations, including equipment and maintenance costs, rapidly changing technology, motion sickness, anxiety, and accessibility for students who may not tolerate fully immersive environments. Some programs provide alternatives such as observing from a computer screen or debriefing room. The discussion highlighted the importance of evaluating simulation technology based not only on innovation and cost, but also on educational effectiveness and student needs.

RESOURCES

Preceptor Recognition Nominations Closing Soon: [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: Join us 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.

OHA Federal Policy Impact Tracker: The Oregon Health Authority maintains an [online resource](#) tracking how federal policy changes are affecting healthcare in Oregon. The resource includes updates on issues such as immunization policy and gender-affirming care and may be particularly useful for educators, healthcare leaders, and others trying to follow rapidly changing federal actions and understand their implications at the state level.



NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, August 28th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

[REGISTER HERE](#) ▶

