



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

Travel Nursing Post-Pandemic: [Travel nursing has changed](#) since the pandemic, and travelers play a complicated role in the workforce. Participants with travel experience emphasized that travel nursing can broaden nurses' skills, expose them to different care environments, and bring valuable experience across regions and health systems. At the same time, concerns were raised about nurses entering travel positions with limited experience and receiving little orientation because they are expected to be immediately ready for independent practice. The concern is not travel nursing itself, but whether experience, preparation, and support are sufficient for nurses being placed into unfamiliar environments. Huddlers questioned whether continued reliance on temporary staff reflects larger problems with workforce planning, hiring capacity, retention, and the healthcare system's ability to distribute nurses where they are most needed.

Evidence-Based Practice for Nurse Leaders: A [recent article](#) prompted discussion about the gap between expecting nurses to use evidence-based practice and ensuring that nursing leaders themselves are trained to apply evidence to leadership and organizational decision-making. Participants discussed professional development as one potential opportunity to strengthen leaders' ability to incorporate evidence into their own work and, in turn, support evidence-based practices among their teams.

Is Public Health Foundational to All Nursing?: Huddlers explored whether public health should be viewed less as a nursing specialty and more as a foundation of nursing practice. Nursing education has traditionally emphasized acute and facility-based care, with some associate degree programs offering little dedicated public health education and even community experiences often remaining focused on treating existing health problems rather than prevention. The discussion raised broader questions about whether nursing education adequately prepares nurses to understand the communities, environments, prevention strategies, and systems that shape patient health.

NURSE EDUCATION

Broadening Continuing Education: Rather than relying solely on changes to prelicensure education, participants suggested continuing education as a more immediate way to strengthen public health knowledge across the existing nursing workforce. Huddlers discussed professional development in areas such as public health, advocacy, advanced care planning, reimbursement, communication, public speaking, and translating evidence for others—even when those topics fall outside a nurse's immediate clinical specialty. The conversation highlighted the potential for continuing education to help develop more well-rounded nurses and reinforce the idea that every nurse has roles as an educator and contributor to public health.

RESOURCES

Preceptor Recognition Awards: Join OCN for our [annual Preceptor Recognition Event](#) on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m.

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.

Crisis to Care Resource: Oregon Family Support Network has [released a resource](#) to help understand what to expect when taking a teenager to an emergency department for a mental health crisis.

Measles Cases Continue to Rise: Follow [OHA's tracking resources](#) for current information about Oregon measles cases and potential exposures.



NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, September 4th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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