



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

Rapid Growth of the Nurse Practitioner Workforce: Projections identifying [nurse practitioners among the fastest-growing occupations](#) prompted a wide-ranging conversation about what that growth means in Oregon. OCN data show that Oregon's NP workforce has more than doubled in recent years, growing much faster than the RN workforce, but workforce growth does not automatically translate into an equivalent number of available positions, particularly as healthcare systems adapt more slowly to changes in workforce supply and models of care.

NP Practice Authority and Workforce Utilization: Huddlers discussed the gap between Oregon's statutory full practice authority for nurse practitioners and the restrictions NPs may still encounter within healthcare systems, insurance structures, pharmacies, and federal programs. Participants described limits on admitting privileges, patient panels, workers' compensation care, and other services that can prevent NPs from practicing at the top of their scope. Rural communities, critical access hospitals, FQHCs, and independent practice were identified as settings where NPs may have greater opportunities to use their full skill set, showing the potential of the rapidly growing NP workforce and the need for healthcare systems and policies to evolve alongside it.

Mental Health Is Part of Every Nurse's Practice: Participants discussed the loss of inpatient, residential, and community-based behavioral health resources over time, as well as the difficulty patients face accessing care—particularly when housing, transportation, or substance use are also factors. Mental health cannot be treated as a completely separate specialty: nurses in every setting encounter patients with behavioral health needs and should be prepared to communicate about mental health and substance use, recognize concerns, and provide appropriate support and referrals.

NURSE EDUCATION

Advice for Nursing Students- Stay Curious and Stay Broad: Experienced nurses encouraged students to remain open to the many different roles available within nursing and not assume that a hospital position is the only path to a meaningful career. Participants also stressed the importance of continuing to learn after graduation, particularly in areas such as public health, mental health, and emerging health threats that may change faster than textbooks and formal curricula. Staying at the top of one's scope, seeking continuing education, and remaining engaged with the larger nursing community are ways to build both professional satisfaction and adaptability throughout a career.

Statewide Nurse Faculty Orientation: OCN is developing a statewide orientation program for new nurse faculty. The program is intended to serve faculty across public and private institutions, associate degree, baccalaureate, and graduate programs, with particular attention to clinical faculty. OCN is forming an advisory council of educators and practice partners to help guide development, with meetings expected to begin this fall- those interested should [contact Jana Bitton](#).

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.

Rural Transportation Think Tank: The Office of Rural Health has launched a [Rural Transportation Think Tank](#) focused on how transportation affects access to both emergency and preventive healthcare in rural communities. The forum offers an opportunity to share experiences and explore transportation barriers affecting rural health.

ANA Seeks Input on Ethical AI in Nursing: The American Nurses Association is [seeking public comment](#) as it develops guidance on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in nursing. Nurses interested in how AI is being introduced into healthcare and how it may affect nursing practice are encouraged to participate in the survey.



NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, September 11th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

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