



# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

*A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders together to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.*

**DATE: September 11, 2020**

## Oregon Wildfires:

**Staffing Concerns.** Organizations in multiple parts of the state are coping with staffing issues as staff need to respond to evacuation orders or cope with the loss of their homes/property. Asante Health in Southern Oregon has 80 staff who have lost homes. There are travel nurses and new hires who have relocated to the area and have no lodging available. In the metro Portland area, multiple organizations have staff who have had to evacuate their homes or have lost their homes to fires in Clackamas County.

**Supporting Students.** Multiple students have lost their homes and all possessions including school supplies (scrubs, textbooks, computers). Students should be encouraged to reach out to their nursing program with their needs as schools work to inventory student impact. Workforce partners also suggested connecting with local workforce investment boards who may have grants available to help replace school supplies. Schools are working to replace clinical faculty who may be facing evacuation orders.

**Supporting Medically-Fragile Displaced Persons.** As communities are being evacuated, there are medically-fragile individuals who are being relocated to shelters, staging areas, etc. and may not have access to the supplies/support they need. Asante Health asked if there is a way to mobilize nursing students to locate medically-fragile individuals in evacuation shelters, conduct assessments and help connect them with community resources. Schools present on the call asserted this type of involvement would fall in line with courses centered around community-based care and schools may be able to adjust to provide this type of support.

**Mental Health Support.** As Oregon's healthcare workforce continues to respond to 3 concurrent crises (COVID, social unrest, wildfires), it is important to be aware of staff struggling to process/cope with stress. This is an ongoing theme for Huddles and it is clear more resources, opportunities, and solutions need to be created to support staff's mental health.

## Future Workforce Needs:

**Healthcare Workforce Committee.** The HCWF Committee met this week for the first time in 6 months. Committee efforts are currently focused on understanding the impact COVID-19 on the healthcare workforce, examining health equity in the healthcare system, and improving the healthcare workforce pipeline through identifying barriers and finding solutions. Marc Overbeck from OHA will be connecting with OCN and continuing to participate in the Friday Huddles as the workforce pipeline discussion/work continues. The Health Care Workforce Committee currently has 1 registered nurse and 1 advanced practice nurse representative. They are currently seeking additional representatives, especially representatives from marginalized communities.

## Resources:

[State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon \(SERV-OR\)](#). Register to volunteer your services during emergencies with significant health impacts.

[Oregon Wildfire Resources](#). A hub to stay informed and access resources within Oregon state government.

**NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 8 A.M.**

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