



Oregon Center for
N U R S I N G

FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

DATE: September 2, 2022

Nursing Workforce:

Emergency Room Capacity. Emergency departments are packed around the state. Saint Alphonsus Medical Center Ontario, Santiam, Kaiser Permanente, and Providence all shared their ERs are packed with long wait and boarding times. Many are struggling to find beds for medical or psychiatric care and discharge patients that need outpatient care, SNFs, placements, etc. Bill Schueler with the Emergency Nurses Association is hearing from experienced ER nurses they are considering leaving the profession because of the overcrowding and staffing issues. Nursing schools are soliciting advice on how to best prepare new graduates for roles in emergency departments, especially given that clinical experiences in emergency departments have been severely reduced. Though systems have reduced the numbers of direct care clinical experience hours required to participate in new graduate residency programs, specialty residency programs do have higher requirements for placement.

Throughput. The inability of individuals to access care in community settings, staffing shortages in long term care, skilled nursing and behavioral health are affecting capacity in hospitals and ERs. Delays in care are leading to higher acuity issues which require more complex interventions.

School Nurses. During the pandemic, school districts had access to additional funding which was used in some instances to bolster their school nurse workforce. As students return to schools, districts are looking ways to maintain their nursing workforce. Many applicants for school nurse positions turn down jobs because of the pay disparity. Like many settings, schools are anticipating losing a portion of their workforce due to retirement and budget shortages. Several nursing education programs partners with school districts for clinicals, giving students the opportunity to experience this community-based setting.

Nursing Education:

Faculty Sharing Models. There has been a rekindling of faculty-sharing models at some hospitals in the state. Sky Lakes Medical Center and Grand Ronde Hospital both currently employ nurses who split their FTE as faculty. Employment agreements such as this can be a good alternative for nurses who no longer desire to be in direct care full-time. The facility is able to retain the nurse while also helping to increase its future pipeline. One thing mentioned for organizations looking to adopt this model was education institutions can not pay the same wage equivalents to nurses in practice, but they can enter contracts to pay faculty wages to the facility. Other opportunities may be to seek Department of Labor grants that are specifically looking to improve nursing education capacity. OCN will be having conversations about grant proposals for this purpose. Anyone interested in participating in those conversations should [email Jana Bitton](#).

Announcements:

Celebrate Oregon's Nurse Preceptors. [Join us September 15](#) to celebrate Nursing Professional Development Week and learn who will be the 2022 Oregon Outstanding Nurse Preceptor awardees.

Grant Reviewers Needed. Future Ready Oregon is looking for individuals to [volunteer to review grants](#) for their first round of funding.

Nurses on Boards. The National Nursing Coalition is seeking nurses to [nominate](#) for federal boards, committees and councils.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, SEP 9, 8 A.M.**

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