



FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

DATE: March 10, 2023

Nursing Workforce:

Nurse Intern. Barbara Holtry, Interim Executive Director of the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), answered Huddler's questions about the Nurse Intern License today. The Nurse Intern license came out of [House Bill 4003](#) and was written into rule through [Division 41](#). The license application is currently available on the OSBN website. To date, there are four individuals licensed as nurse interns. As many organizations expressed looking to hire Nurse Interns during the summer months, OSBN clarified that the nurse intern license expires 30 days after the end of a term or semester. If the student remains enrolled in their nursing program, their program [Dean/designee verifies](#) their good academic standing, and they [reapply](#) prior to licensing expiration, they could work during summer break.

Mask Mandate: The [announcement](#) from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regarding lifting the mask mandate as of April 3, 2023, has many organizations trying to figure out next steps. The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) rules have not been changed, causing organizational concern about competing regulatory requirements. It is anticipated that OSHA will release an update soon; OSHA's current rule is under a Rules Advisory Committee that is meeting next [Wednesday at 9:00 AM](#).

Legislative Update. Close to 5,000 bills were submitted this session. The deadline for work sessions is next week, and not all proposed bills will make it to a work session. Representative Nelson provided an update on [House Bill 2921](#). The bill requires hospitals to file certain reports showing the demographics of hospital's workforces with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) for posting to BOLI's website. Other bills discussed included [House Bill 2697](#), specifically a concern how the bill would impact correction facilities, and [Senate Bill 1076](#) specifically a concern of how the bill would impact discharge planning in rural areas that do not have local homeless shelters. Huddlers may contact the bill sponsors and their representatives to ask questions or provide input on these or any bills introduced.

Financial Cuts. As pandemic funds end, some hospitals and other nurse practice areas struggle to keep afloat financially. Huddlers commented that the costs of travel nurses and other contract services are forcing difficult financial decisions. One Huddler commented, "We are on a 'course' to crisis." School nurses are also hearing of cuts. The [report](#) put out by the Oregon Department of Education was shared to show the distribution of nurses across school districts. A concern shared by Huddlers was that financial decisions to cut nursing staff in any setting threaten the continuity and access to care for the populations being served.

Announcements and Resources:

Conference Postponement. OCN's Conference [Nurse Wellness: An Organizational Imperative](#) is being moved to May 16, 2023, to allow Well-Being grant recipients to attend and continuing education credits to be offered.

CNA Huddle. With support from the Oregon Department of Human Services, OCN offers a limited-duration [CNA Huddle](#) to discuss pipeline, education, recruitment, and retention issues specific to the CNA workforce. Join us next Wednesday at 8 a.m.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, MAR 17, 8 A.M.**

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