



Oregon Center for
NURSING

FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

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

DATE: April 14, 2023

All HUDDLERS: Share your experience. Please take this [survey!](#)

Nursing Workforce:

Gero Nurse Exam: An opportunity was shared by the Oregon Health Care Association to increase the number of Oregon nurses completing the Gero Nurse Prep training course from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing (UNMC). Funding through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will provide up to 700 Oregon nurses with a [full scholarship](#) to complete the prep course, which includes paying for the text and testing fees. The training requires 30 virtual hours, and applicants have one year to complete it. Upon completion, nurses have the option of taking the exam.

Endorsement Licensure: Despite the turnaround time for endorsement applications to license approval beginning to improve, organizations report concerns about processing time. At the height of the pandemic, endorsement applications in Oregon were taking upwards of three months in some cases, and now they are estimated to be 30 days or less per the Oregon State Board on Nursing (OSBN). Organizations say they are still feeling the pinch of the lag time, in some instances losing would-be hires to other states. The processing time has improved both from the third-party fingerprint vendors and internal OSBN processes. Just this week, OSBN started a new employee and is asking for grace as the new hire gets onboarded and up to speed. Recommendations given to organizations to help speed up the process were to ensure the correct fingerprint code (located on the license application) is used and to prepare out-of-state applicants for other requirements, such as school records. No lag time has been reported or is anticipated by OSBN for new grad licensing from schools in Oregon.

Communication with OSBN: Huddlers recounted experiences where they were unable to directly communicate with someone outside of the automated system when interfacing with the state licensing process. Barbara Holtry, Interim Executive Director of OSBN, acknowledged the concerns and indicated that they are working on fixes. The last few years have resulted in an influx of applications to be processed for licensure in the state, leaving little room for staff to dedicate time to answer phones without further backlogging the time to process applications. A proposal to add two new staff members to address this need has been submitted. However, budget adjustments require legislative approval. If approved, the staff will likely begin after July this year.

Medical Chaperon Rule: Huddlers discussed concerns over training and application of the [OAR 847-010-0130](#). The new rule from the [Oregon Medical Board](#) requires chaperones for sensitive examinations. Among the concerns was the breadth of staff needing training and the financial impact the training would have on facilities that employ a large number of staff. Huddlers were encouraged to read over the text for license types, procedures, and practice settings.

Announcements:

Two Weeks Left: The extended [grant opportunity](#) for Long-Term Care facilities will close in just two weeks. Hurry and get your applications in! Don't miss out on this funding opportunity of up to \$50,000 for ten projects.

Upcoming Conferences: OCN's [Nurse Wellness conference](#) will be held at the Salem Convention Center on May 23. [ASPE Annual Conference](#) in Portland June 4-7, 2023. NAHN is hosting its [48th Annual Conference](#) in Portland July 11-14, 2023.

**NEXT HUDDLE:
FRIDAY, APR 21, 8 A.M.**

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