

Date: July 21, 2023



Oregon Center for
NURSING

FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Nursing Workforce

New OSBN Executive Director: Join OCN in welcoming Rachel Prusak, MSN, APRN FNP-C as the new executive director at the Oregon State Board of Nursing. Rachel's first day in her new role was Thursday, July 20, 2023. Welcome, Rachel!

St. Alphonsus in Ontario Nationally Ranked: St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Ontario was ranked as the most socially responsible hospital in Oregon and #9 nationally by the [Lown Institute Hospitals Index](#).

Birth Center at St. Alphonsus in Baker City: The [birth center](#) at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City is slated to close on July 30. Senator Merkley's and Senator Wyden's offices are urging St. Alphonsus to keep the birth center open for six months while seeking long-term solutions to stabilize operations at the birth center. Kathleen Cathey, from Sen. Wyden's office, said their offices are working with various federal and state partners to offer financial and staffing resources to St. Alphonsus to keep the birth center operating beyond July 30. Some of the solutions being offered include gathering financial support from local area employers, streamlining the RN licensing process, and deploying nurses from the federal United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Mental Health and Addiction: A recent [report](#) by researchers at Texas A&M University, School of Public Health indicate Mental Health and Addiction are the two most important Healthy People 2030 health priorities for rural communities across the country. In past reports, Health Care Access and Quality was the top priority, but dropped to the third most important priority in this most recent finding.

Nursing Education

SANE Scholarships: OCN is [calling for applications](#) to become a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) through the SANE Scholarship Program, a multi-state HRSA-funded grant to increase the number of SANE nurses practicing in Oregon.

Transition to Practice Conference: Inspired by past Friday Huddle conversations, the Oregon Center for Nursing is planning a conference around the transition to practice for new nursing graduates and residency programs. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 2024 in partnership with PeaceHealth. OCN is seeking volunteers for the conference planning committee, including educators and professionals from long-term care and rural facilities. To get involved, please contact Jana Bitton at Jana.Bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org.

Scholarship Opportunities for NP Students: The Nurse Practitioners of Oregon (NPO) is calling for applications for its [annual scholarship program](#) open to current NP students across Oregon. Applications are due by August 15.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, July 28, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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