

Date: February 2, 2024



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

Nurse Vacancies in Oregon: Today's conversation explored the state of nursing position vacancies. Community-based care struggles to fill nurse roles in long-term care and similar facilities. KP reports low turnover for ambulatory care, while there are consistent hiring needs for acute care. PeaceHealth agreed, sharing that ED, OR, and ICU roles remain available. Caregivers and CNA positions also remain largely unfilled across the state. In the education space, specific nurse educator roles, particularly those with experience in specialty areas of practice, are a challenge to fill.

Why the Nursing Workforce is Exhausted: Huddlers also discussed the nursing workforce's exhaustion and recovery process. Many agree that nursing professionals are still healing from the COVID-19 pandemic. One Huddler pointed out that exhaustion comes from the lack of progress toward solving workforce solutions despite the continued conversations. In addition, Huddlers discussed the many aspects of nursing that can cause a sense of isolation, which compounds exhaustion and frustration. Programs like the [Oregon Wellness Program](#) provide free, accessible mental health services.

Oregon Legislative Session Starting: The 2024 Oregon legislative session begins on Monday, February 5. This year's short session already includes [several nursing-related and healthcare-focused bills](#). OCN is actively monitoring these bills and will have a public Legislative Tracker available soon.

Oregon Nurse Staffing Law: Facilities and healthcare systems working to prepare for the June implementation of new nurse staffing regulations can reference a [new fact sheet from the Oregon Health Authority](#). OSBN reminds Huddlers that the Board has no regulatory authority over nurse staffing and encourages the public to contact OHA or ONA for questions.

Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program: Eligible nursing professionals are invited to apply for the [2024 Nurse Corps Loan Repayment](#). The program pays up to 85% of unpaid nursing education debt in exchange for work in a Critical Shortage Facility in Oregon. This year's deadline is March 7.

Events and Happenings

Oregon Nursing Practice Transitions Conference: Registration for OCN's 2024 conference, hosted in partnership with PeaceHealth, is open now! Hear from keynote speakers [such as Dr. Patricia Benner and Dr. Dan Weberg](#). Early bird pricing saves you \$50 on registration. Ticket prices will increase on February 15, 2024. [Visit the official event website to reserve your tickets today.](#)

Nurse Educator Webinars with NurseLearn: Nursing educators and program directors were [invited to NurseLearn's upcoming webinar](#). Learn how nursing schools can receive free support with curriculum mapping, clinical placement, and competency development for community-based care (CBC). Informational webinars are scheduled for February 7 and February 8.

Oregon Nurses Foundation Brunch: Join the Oregon Nurses Foundation for its annual fundraising brunch on Sunday, February 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, Oregon. [Tickets are available for purchase online.](#)

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, February 9, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

Find OCN Online:

www.oregoncenterfornursing.org

