

Date: November 22, 2024



Oregon Center for
N U R S I N G

FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

Reminder: Next week is Thanksgiving! Due to the holidays, there will be no Friday Huddle on Friday, November 29. We look forward to seeing you back for our regularly scheduled event on Friday, December 6.

Nursing Workforce

Grant Application Reviewers Needed: The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon Health Policy Board, seeks application reviewers for its [HOWTO Grant Program](#). The grant program supports training initiatives that “address identified local health care workforce shortages and expand the diversity of the health professional workforce.” Learn more and [apply to volunteer through this application](#).

Avian Influenza Confirmed in Oregon: According to OHA, the first human case of avian influenza has been confirmed in Clackamas County, linked to a [commercial poultry operation](#). Community members are advised to avoid handling sick or dead birds or animals and their droppings or litter. Read the [official announcement from OHA here](#).

Behavioral Paraprofessional Training Webinar: Join the [Bureau of Health Workforce](#) for a [webinar about developing and growing](#) a behavioral health paraprofessional training and education program. The free event is scheduled for December 17 at 9 a.m.

Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations: Huddlers discussed news that an Idaho Health Department has [discontinued COVID-19 vaccinations for residents in six counties](#) bordering Oregon. This is the first occurrence of vaccination restrictions that Huddlers have heard about nationwide. Huddlers also raised concerns about accessing vaccinations in private clinics and pharmacies but not community clinics—particularly individuals on Medicare and Medicaid who do not have the financial means to pay for vaccinations out of pocket. Resources exist to help Idaho residents locate COVID-19 vaccines, including a search tool and organizations supporting marginalized community members to access essential care.

Recruiting Healthcare Workers in Competitive Communities: A [new psychiatric hospital is planned to open](#) in the Eugene area—a collaboration between PeaceHealth and Lane County. Huddlers explored how the opening of new facilities impacts already existing healthcare providers in the community, as some health workers seek employment with the newly established facility. Staff recruitment and retention are essential for facilities. Huddlers discussed strategies such as loan forgiveness and repayment programs, job shadowing opportunities, clinical placement for nursing students, meet-and-greets with local nursing programs, and incentivized referral programs.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, December 6, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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