

**Date: December 13, 2024**



# FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

## Nursing Workforce

**Legislative Updates:** OCN Executive director Jana Bitton attended and spoke at the recent House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care. The highlights of this meeting included a presentation on universal healthcare in Oregon, testimony by George Gilchrist, and [OCN's nursing workforce vacancy crisis presentation](#). Huddlers discussed the importance of meeting with legislators and the value of expertise and knowledge in influencing legislative discussions.

**Misinformation and Communication Strategies:** [The FDA released a report](#) on combating misinformation, emphasizing the importance of proactive communication.

**Behavioral Health Worker Safety Discussions:** Huddlers discussed concerns about behavioral health worker safety and the need for better medication management for patients in the corrections system. This discussion highlights the need for participation in care and future collaboration from legislators.

**Regulation and Overregulation:** Huddlers discussed heavy regulation in long-term care, which may hinder quality of care due to administrative burden. It is noted that overregulation in healthcare systems has led, in some cases, to staff shortages and increased risks. These challenges emphasize the need to reassess and update regulations to ensure they protect public safety without causing undue administrative burdens. Huddlers highlight a need for balance between compliance and patient care quality.

**Nurse Advocacy:** Engaging with lawmakers is crucial to lobbying efforts and influencing policies that benefits healthcare staff and patients. Sharing personal anecdotes with legislators and getting involved with lawmakers and their staff is a great way to get started. The [Legislator Lookup Tool](#) is available to find your local representatives.

## Events & Happenings

[NurseLearn is holding a conference](#) in Salem on March 21, 2025

OHA-PHD [Facility Planning Hearing](#) is being held December 16, 2024

Also: See [OCN's 2024 Community Impact Report](#)

### Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, December 20, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

### Find OCN Online

[www.oregoncenterfornursing.org](http://www.oregoncenterfornursing.org)

