

Date: December 6, 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

Legislative Updates: We are preparing for the upcoming legislative session, which will likely include various nursing and workforce-related bills. A bill tracker will be created to monitor these developments. Additionally, there is an upcoming session on December 11th at 8:30 AM where Jana will testify about the nursing workforce. Huddlers interested in these updates are encouraged to watch the recorded testimony and reach out with questions.

OHA Physical Facilities Review: The Oregon Health Authority is reviewing and updating physical environment requirements for healthcare facilities, including hospitals and long-term care. Interested Huddlers are encouraged to participate by reviewing the physical guidelines and providing feedback. Please email jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Discussions: Huddlers discussed the article [More DEI Bans Will Have Dire Side Effects for Public Health](#) and emphasized the importance of maintaining DEI discussions for public health. Despite challenges, Oregon remains committed to DEI initiatives, supported by Former Governor Brown and Governor Kotek. The Oregon Board of Nursing also supports these efforts, ensuring continued momentum in the state. It's crucial to uphold diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging to ensure equitable healthcare access for all communities.

Drugstore Closings: A [recent study](#) found approximately 30% of drugstores across the U.S. have closed, primarily affecting neighborhoods with high Medicaid and Medicare populations. This trend impacts patients' access to prescriptions and healthcare services, especially in vulnerable communities. Huddlers discussed how awareness of this issue is essential for addressing the challenges it poses to patient care and access.

Events & Happenings

House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care legislative meeting: is holding a session on December 11, 2024, at 8:30am and Jana will be testifying!

Also: **Oregon Health Policy Board meets for an educational webinar December 10, 2024 at 8:05am.** This webinar will be about the Oregon Health Care Needs Assessment for 2025.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, December 13, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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