



## December 16th 2020 | CNO & Dean Rounding Report

### Guest Speakers

**Ruby Jason** MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Executive Director | Oregon State Board of Nursing

**Jana Bitton** MPA

Executive Director | Oregon Center for Nursing

**Sofia Aragon** JB, BSN, RN

Executive Director | Washington Center for Nursing

**Paula Meyer** MSN, RN, FRE

Executive Director | Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission | WA  
DOH

**Kim Tucker** PHD, RN

Director of Nursing Programs | Columbia Basin College

#### Focus Areas

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The focus of this week's call was to provide updates and challenges of student placements and the nursing workforce across both Oregon and Washington. With the latest Covid surge and the rush to implement vaccination plans and clinics, everyone is understandably maxed out. This has made it quite challenging to simultaneously balance students placements and clinical experience. What we have learned:

### Exemptions vs Emergency Authorizations

#### How to Navigate

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**Ruby Jason, Executive Director OSBN** has provided guidance for Oregon specifically detailing the circumstances, fees and processes between license exemptions and emergency authorizations. **[Get the detailed presentation here.](#)** A valuable resource as it details where to start. Of note, yes, the authorizations can be used for non-covid staffing. Of note: the scuttlebutt that RNs would be "working under my license" are false and Jason details reference in the presentation.

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**Clinical Placements**

## Nursing Pipeline at Risk, a Shared Challenge

**Jana Bitton with OCN** shared how the weekly Friday Huddles have been invaluable in bringing together Nurse and Healthcare leaders from across the state for weekly updates and discussion. Earlier this year OCN conducted a survey on the “Clinical Placement for Nursing Students in an Era of Pandemic” which provided some key insights on the challenges we are all facing. This report reveals:

*“... that the pandemic has not so much created new problems in clinical education, but exposed and exacerbated old ones. For decades, these issues have created barriers to the expansion of nursing programs, tensions between and among nursing programs and healthcare agencies, and questions about the appropriate preparation for clinical readiness. Despite the advent of consortiums, advanced clinical placement databases, and alternative models such as the dedicated education unit (DEU), the deep partnerships, mutual benefit, and full acceptance of nursing students as functional members of the healthcare team have yet to fully emerge.”*

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**Next Steps?**

Given that the study concludes that there is need for change, and there is an urgency that is both unique and systemic, what will our Senior Nurse Leaders do to craft a shared vision to overcome these challenges? It's not a matter of if it will be a problem, it's the vulnerability of not knowing how much longer we can sustain with our pipeline both degraded and constrained. Certainly Oregon and the Portland metro area is not exclusive. **The OCN report is available here.**

## Self-care Takes a Front Seat

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**Amplifying Resiliency**

**Sofia Aragon with WCN** shared highlights from the 12/3 Year of the Nurse presentation from UW-Seattle in partnership with the HCA and WCN. Sofia also shared information that has been distributed to nurses across the state on how the demand of nurses has been impacted by changes with Education, Training and the shift to Simulation education.

Also be sure to check out the videos available from WCN on self-care - or better stated - the “avoidance of self-neglect”. The series of video’s could easily be shared with teams, there are seven total, are short (5-6 minutes) and well worth sharing! **Find WCNs intro and series here and share with your teams.**

Nurse Techs? Yes!

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## Innovation in Practice

**Paula Meyer from the WA State Nursing Commission and Kim Tucker (DON at Columbia Basin College, Trish-Cities)** shared the innovative ways that they have teamed up with Kadlec Hospital for several years using Nurse Techs. WA state has long had legislation authorizing the use of Nurse Techs and the program at Kadlec highlights just how important a role they have played during this pandemic. From supplying opportunities for nurse students to gain meaningful employment and experience to fulfilling staffing needs, Nurse Techs are an innovative solution.

If you have more questions about the RCW and using Nurse Techs, let us know and we will connect you with Nurse Leaders who can share their experience. Get the **[WA State legislative details here.](#)**

## Do you know what NWONL offers your Nurse Leaders?

More often we are hearing how NWONL's deep reach and network had been the key to advancement and effectiveness for our members... we specifically focus on this unique role as our mission is to bring nurse leaders to the center of driving changes in healthcare. Beyond our reach via councils, boards and affiliations did you know NWONL has positioned to be the CE provider of choice for Northwest Nurse leaders? With content is driven by both thought leadership of our members and supported by evidence based practice. It means that your CE is relevant and immediately impactful. Thought that may be of of interest...

Check NWONL's homepage for what's happening: [Updates and Events](#).

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