



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Nursing

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TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Ruby R. Jason, Executive Director, Oregon State Board of Nursing

DATE: July 15, 2022

SUBJECT: **Public Listening Session: Barriers to Becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in Oregon**

On August 22, 2022, the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) staff will host a virtual listening session to identify potential and real barriers to becoming a CNA in Oregon. The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA) identified minimum federal standards that must be met for a state to certify a CNA to work in licensed nursing facilities. Over the years, Oregon has led the way in adding curriculum to the CNA education to accommodate the changing needs of the patient population in these facilities, including the creation of a CNA2 certification for work within acute care. These curriculum changes, as well as other changes to requirements over time, may have inadvertently prevented some potential CNAs from achieving certification.

The Nurse Practice Act exists to assure the public that the practitioner caring for them has met the requirements for entry into the profession and demonstrate continued competency. These regulations should have a foundation in research and evidence. At present, no evidence exists regarding a specific number of education hours or specific competency validation tests resulting in greater patient safety than other methods.

At this time of unique staffing challenges for health care facilities, the Board has directed Board staff to solicit community feedback regarding the current education and competency validation rules in Oregon. While the Board must continue to comply with Federal OBRA requirements, DHS rules, and its own jurisdictional authority, the Board seeks suggestions how to reduce barriers and possibly encourage a larger pool of perspective CNA applicants.

This public listening session is open to any member of the public interested in either listening or contributing to the session. Information gathered in this listening session will be presented to the Board during the November 17, 2022 public meeting.

Comments will be limited to 5 minutes for everyone. If there are several representatives from a specific group or organization, please have one individual comment for the group.

This listening session can be accessed on August 22, 2022, beginning at 10 am. There is no registration requirement for this listening session. The moderator for the event will call on those indicating, through the raised hand feature of the Teams platform, they wish to comment.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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Meeting ID: 274 772 058 508

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