ONA Post-COVID Legislative Planning Session Notes
June 9, 2020

Attendees discussed the following questions:
- How do we avoid a crisis the next time there is a pandemic or natural disaster?
- How do we ensure that public health is a priority in our state?
- How do we ensure that nurses and other health care workers have the equipment they need to do their work?
- How do we maintain the stability and flexibility of the nursing workforce?
- How does nursing emerge as the leader in health care?
- Why should nurses be involved in disaster preparedness planning?
- How can we improve regulation of Oregon’s Hospital Nurse Staffing Law during a pandemic?
- Why is appropriate staffing important during a pandemic?
- How can we better prepare to support our most vulnerable groups during a pandemic?

Attendees identified issues and solutions for the following topics:
- PPE issue: There is a shortage
  - Who needs PPE and what kind?
  - How do we increase the production or keep the supply chains open?
  - How long do the PPE last and is sterilization effective?
- Disaster preparedness issue: Disaster plans and coordination are lacking
  - Are state level plans up to date? Who reviews these, are there regulations and what are their weak points?
  - How are these plans addressing infection prevention and who regulates this?
  - How do local/hospital-specific plans coordinate with larger geographical areas and then the state as a whole?
- Public health and education issue: Not all nurses have education/experience on public health issues.
  - How can we address issues with the under-funding of public health clinics and education?
  - How can nurses be more involved in public health policy decisions?
- Union and professional association strength issue: When there are issues that impact the entire state or large regions, nurses may not be thinking of ONA.
  - What structures can ONA put in place to move more quickly in response to public health crises? Can we create a more specific plan?
  - What other public health issues can union and professional members organize around?
- Racial health disparities issue: Racial bias results in care inequities and poor healthcare outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC).
  - How can training for nurses more effectively address the issues of racial bias in healthcare?
  - How can (white) nurses be more supported in asking questions and having space to work through these issues?
  - How can racial bias be more effectively addressed in nursing curriculums?