

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

You are receiving this e-mail from VHHA because you requested a subscription. For continued delivery of this e-mail version, please add jtwalker@vhha.com to your address book today.

Articles:

1. [VHHA in Action](#)
2. [‘Earn While You Learn’ Nursing Education Training Program Toolkit Available on VHHA Website](#)
3. [Scholarships Available for 2024 Virginia Nurse Leadership Academy](#)
4. [Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center Releases New Infection Prevention Training Materials](#)
5. [Register for Dec. 13 Webinar on New Emergency Department Security Requirements](#)
6. [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features UVA Health Physician, Addiction Researcher](#)
7. [FDA Issues Safety Communication About Anti-Seizure Medication](#)
8. [US, UK Cybersecurity Agencies Share Guidelines for Developing Secure AI Systems](#)
9. [VDH to Host Several Sessions on Mpox Training for Providers in Early 2024](#)
10. [Around the State](#)

1. VHHA in Action

Each day, VHHA actively works on behalf of its members, their employees, and Virginians to advance the interests of Virginia's hospitals and health care systems. In the past week, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** recently participated in an event promoting the importance of access to affordable, quality childcare in Virginia as a quality of life and workforce development concern for many professionals, including health care providers. The “Gotta Have Childcare” initiative is an effort by the **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation** that is seeking an extension of temporary federal funding that expires next year so access to childcare isn't interrupted in a manner that impacts parents' ability to do their jobs. During an event hosted at the **VCU Child Development Center**, Connaughton spoke alongside state **Senator Louise Lucas** of Portsmouth, **Delegate Carrie Coyner** of Chesterfield County, and officials from the **Virginia Economic Development Partnership** and the **Virginia Promise Partnership** in support of developing creative, collaborative solutions to childcare challenges to help keep workers in their jobs and the economy functioning.
- This week, VHHA held the ninth annual **Allied Health Care Summit** that brings together dozens of health care stakeholder organizations for discussion and collaboration on public policy concepts heading into the 2024 **Virginia General Assembly** legislative session.
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is informing consumers, health care providers, and health care facilities that the agency is evaluating the potential for device failures (such as leaks, breakage, and other problems) with plastic syringes manufactured in China. The FDA is collecting and analyzing data to evaluate plastic syringes made in China used for injecting fluids into, or withdrawing fluids from, the body. At this time, the issue does not include glass syringes, pre-filled syringes, or syringes used for oral or topical purposes. The FDA received information

about quality issues associated with several Chinese manufacturers of syringes. The agency is concerned that certain syringes manufactured in China may not provide consistent and adequate quality or performance. Read more [here](#).

- The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center (VIPTC)** at VCU has released a new round of training videos and courses. Featuring fun characters, the videos cover infection prevention and control topics important for any infection prevention professional to know. The latest topics include universal masking, CHG treatment instructions for both the clinical team and patients, and a course module on infection prevention and control strategies for pediatric settings. Access the videos [here](#) or visit the VIPTC [website](#) to learn more.
- The holiday season is a time to be thankful for our blessings. Here at VHHA, we are grateful for the dedicated caregivers and health care professionals who work in hospitals across Virginia to help keep people healthy. VHHA recently shared its 2023 video holiday card. The video is a lighthearted short featuring VHHA staff frolicking in an animated winter wonderland. It is our way of sharing a message of seasonal good cheer to members of the Virginia hospital community and so many other folks across Virginia. We wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year. View the 2023 video holiday card [here](#).
- **U.S. President Joe Biden** recently announced he is giving the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** broadened authority to invest in domestic manufacturing of essential medicines and medical countermeasures under Title III of the Defense Production Act. The announcement was made this week during the inaugural convening of the **White House Council on Supply Chain Resilience**. This strategy includes 30 new actions to strengthen America's supply chains such as a \$35 million HHS investment to domestically produce key starting materials for sterile injectable medicines, the designation of an official to coordinate efforts to strengthen supply chain resilience, as well as a forthcoming **Department of Defense** report on strengthening pharmaceutical supply chain resilience. Read more [here](#).
- **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton, MD**, recently sent a pair of letters to health care providers across the Commonwealth. The most recent relates to a rise in syphilis and congenital syphilis cases and relays information about strengthened Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) screening [recommendations](#) as well as Virginia's syphilis screening [guidelines](#) by locality. The **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** has also launched a new syphilis [website](#) with information and resources. Read the full letter [here](#). Another recent letter provides information and updates on respiratory conditions including influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), as well as the availability of immunizations that offer protection against each of those illnesses. Read that letter [here](#).
- To provide the health care community with timely information on emerging issues, VHHA will host a quarterly public health webinar series for Virginia hospitals and health systems featuring updates provided by VDH officials. Topics covered in this ongoing webinar series may include disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, RSV, and unique pathogens. Additional topics may vary depending on current events. See more information and register for this series through this [link](#).

[Back](#)

2. 'Earn While You Learn' Nursing Education Training Program Toolkit Available on VHHA Website

Developed by **Eileen L. Dohmann, MBA, BSN, RN**, and **Patti Lisk, DACCE, BSN, RN**, the "Earn While You Learn Clinical Education Model" (EWL CEM) is a transformative nurse clinical education model where Academic/Clinical Partnerships enhance students' confidence, clinical judgment, and skills acquisition,

preparing a more practice-ready nurse graduate for employment. EWL CEM accelerates the development of practice-ready nurse graduates, creates a hiring pipeline for hospitals and reduces orientation costs. The nursing students participating in the EWL CEM model work part-time at the clinical facility (12-20 hours per week, when school is in session), receive immersive 12-hour clinical rotations, and work one-on-one with an experienced RN Mentor (preceptor) while receiving a stipend and engaging in regular mentoring meetings to consolidate learning. Access the toolkit [here](#). – Lara D’Antonio

[Back](#)

3. Scholarships Available for 2024 Virginia Nurse Leadership Academy

The **Virginia Nurses Association** (VNA) has 15 grant-supported nursing scholarship opportunities available for participants in the 2024 Virginia Nurse Leadership Academy. The program, which is presented by the Virginia Nurses Foundation with scholarship support from VDH, is accepting 35 total fellows. This is the second year for the Academy, which has already graduated more than 30 accomplished fellows. Read more about the program and apply through this [link](#). The application deadline is Jan. 5.

[Back](#)

4. Registration Open for 2024 Regional Human Trafficking Summit (Feb. 7-8) in Richmond

Registration is now open for the fourth annual Regional Human Trafficking Summit hosted by the **Regional Interdisciplinary Collaborative Working to Disrupt Human Trafficking** (RIC), a multi-state non-profit group that brings together academics, advocates, caregivers, clinicians, law enforcement, survivors, and other stakeholders who are working to end human trafficking. The theme of the Summit, which is scheduled for Feb. 7-8, 2024 at the VCU School of Medicine, is “Expanding Community Partnerships to Address Human Trafficking.” Registration is available through this [link](#) (the early bird rate ends Jan. 5, 2024) and information about sponsorship opportunities is available [here](#).

[Back](#)

5. Register for Dec. 13 Webinar on New Emergency Department Security Requirements

Earlier this year, the **Virginia General Assembly** changed state law to require each hospital with an emergency department to establish an ED security plan for the emergency department. That requirement includes a provision calling for at least one off-duty law-enforcement officer or trained security personnel to be present in the ED at all times as deemed necessary and appropriate based on a security risk assessment. To support members in complying with this requirement, VHHA is hosting a webinar on Dec. 13 at noon about the law. During the webinar, VHHA staff and a representative from the **Hancock Daniel** health care law firm will share information and address questions related to the new law and discuss steps Virginia hospitals can take to ensure compliance. Register for the webinar [here](#).

[Back](#)

6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Physician, Addiction Researcher

The latest episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features an interview with **Dr. Nassima Ait-Daoud Tiourine**, the director of the **UVA Center for Leading Edge Addiction Research**, for a

conversation about her work to support individuals with substance use disorder, research and clinical trials on addiction, and more. Listen to the episode [here](#) and hear past episodes through this [link](#). Podcast episodes are also available through these podcast apps and networks: [Apple Podcast](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Saturday at noon and Sunday at 10 a.m. on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpcast@vhha.com.
– Salinna Lor

[Back](#)

7. FDA Issues Safety Communication About Anti-Seizure Medication

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently [issued a drug safety communication](#) warning that certain anti-seizure medicines such as levetiracetam (Keppra, Keppra XR, Elepsia XR, and Spritam) and clobazam (Onfi and Sympazan), can cause a rare but serious reaction that can be life-threatening if not diagnosed and treated. The condition, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms, may start as a rash, but can quickly progress, resulting in injury to internal organs, the need for hospitalization, and even death. As a result, the agency is requiring warnings about this risk to be added to the [prescribing information](#) and patient [medication guides](#) for these medicines.

[Back](#)

8. US, UK Cybersecurity Agencies Share Guidelines for Developing Secure AI Systems

The **U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA) and the **UK National Cyber Security Centre** (NCSC) recently announced the release of [Guidelines for Secure AI System Development](#). Supported by 23 domestic and international cybersecurity organizations, the publication marks a significant step in addressing the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure. The guidelines, which complement the [U.S. Voluntary Commitments on Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI](#), provide key recommendations for AI system development and emphasize the importance of adhering to [Secure by Design](#) principles. The approach prioritizes ownership of security outcomes for customers, embraces radical transparency and accountability, and establishes organizational structures where secure design is a top priority. The guidelines apply to all types of AI systems, not just frontier models and provide suggestions and mitigations to help data scientists, developers, managers, decision-makers, and risk owners make informed decisions about the secure design, model development, system development, deployment, and operation of their machine learning AI systems. Read more [here](#).

[Back](#)

9. VDH to Host Several Sessions on Mpox Training for Providers in Early 2024

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is hosting a series of educational training sessions for health care providers regarding updated information and lessons learned from the 2022-2023 Mpox outbreak. The sessions will highlight the epidemiology of the outbreak and the risk of reemergence, prevention and control strategies, and vaccination and communication strategies. Four sessions are scheduled and each will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Fairfax VDOT on Jan.

23, Double Tree Hotel Charlottesville on Jan. 31, Wytheville Community College on Feb. 8, and the Hyatt Place Chesapeake on Feb. 14. Information about continuing education credit available to participants can be viewed online [here](#). Registration is required through this [link](#).

[Back](#)

10. Around the State

Lisa Sprinkel, Vice President of **Carilion Clinic Home Health and Hospice**, has been selected to also serve as Vice President of **Carilion Mental Health**. Lisa has served as Interim Vice President since May 1. She began her nursing career as a diploma graduate from Roanoke Memorial Hospital's School of Professional Nursing, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mary Baldwin University and a master's degree in nursing administration from Jefferson College of Health Sciences.

Roberta Tinch, MHA, FACHE, President and Administrator of Musculoskeletal Services at **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital**, and **Hannah Adams**, RN, Critical Care Unit Supervisor at **Inova Fairfax Hospital**, have been named 2023 Heroines of Washington Finalists by the **March of Dimes**. – Salinna Lor

[Back](#)
