

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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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, these are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

VHHA Hosts Webinar Providing State Legislative, Budget Updates for Hospital Leaders

- This week, the **VHHA Government Affairs Team** hosted a webinar to provide a recap of the 2025 **Virginia General Assembly** session, including a briefing on policy and budget developments of concern to Virginia hospitals and health systems. The session also featured a

preview of Virginia's upcoming election cycle and a discussion of the evolving political landscape and how those changes could shape and impact health care policy. View a webinar recording [here](#).

Registration Open for VHHA-IHI Open School Quality and Patient Safety Certificate Program

- Registration is open for the latest cohort of the [IHI Open School](#) Certificate Program in Quality and Patient Safety offered by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence**. Since the first offering in 2021, hundreds of participants have completed the 13 required courses and have been recognized at the annual **Virginia Patient Safety Summit**. Now in its fourth year, Virginia health care professionals looking to gain quality and patient safety improvement knowledge are invited to register to join the IHI Open School courses to earn a certificate in quality and safety. Content is delivered through narrative, video, and interactive discussion. There are 13 core courses to earn Basic Quality and Safety Certificate (17.75 CE credits available for the 13 courses) and [more than 30 courses](#) available in total for Continuing Education and Specialty Board Certification. The courses offer a dynamic learning environment for health care professionals of all levels and are available as self-paced online modules that are estimated to take 13-22 hours to complete. Those who register will be contacted by e-mail before June 1, 2025, with instructions about how to log in. Participants will have access to all courses from June 1, 2025-May 30, 2026. Those who complete the certificate by Jan. 31, 2026 will be recognized during the 2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit. The VHHA group rate cost to enroll is \$199 (\$399 without the group rate). Team members from Virginia rural hospitals participating in the Flex grant are encouraged to contact rpryor@vhha.com for pre-approval before registering. Questions can also be directed to kburnette@vhha.com. Register to participate through this [link](#).

VHHA in the News

- VHHA actively engages with the news media to share public messaging and coordinate member media appearances to showcase the important work done by Virginia hospitals. That work is reflected in recent coverage from [Virginia Business](#), [WVTF](#), [WMRA](#), and [WHRO](#).

News Updates

U.S. Senate Committee Chairman Calls for 340B Drug Pricing Program Reform

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, MD, a Louisiana Republican who Chairs the **Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee**, recently issued a [report](#) regarding the 340B Drug Pricing Program which takes the position that Congress should take steps to reform program. The 340B Drug Pricing Program was established by Congress in 1992 to require drug manufacturers participating in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program to provide outpatient drugs at reduced prices to certain health care facilities or programs such as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grantees, and certain hospitals, such as children's hospitals, critical access hospitals, and disproportionate share hospitals. The issuance of the report follows a previous program investigation commissioned by Senator Cassidy.

CDC Documents Nearly 900 Confirmed Measles Cases Across 30 States

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recently [shared](#) that 884 confirmed measles cases have been reported so far this year. The cases are spread across 30 U.S. jurisdictions: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. There have been 11 outbreaks (defined as three or more related cases) in 2025, with 93 percent of confirmed cases (820 of 884) deemed outbreak-associated. Last year, there were 16 reported outbreaks and 69 percent of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated. Measles is a highly contagious febrile rash illness that can spread by airborne means. Its symptoms usually appear in two stages: first, an infected person may develop a fever of greater than 101 degrees and experience a runny nose, watery red eyes, and a cough from 7-14 days after being exposed; second is the appearance of a skin rash that can start 3-5 days after symptoms begin. People with measles are contagious from four days before the rash appears through four days after the rash appears. The CDC continues to [cite](#) childhood vaccination as a means to protect against measles and its complications.

ACOG Issues Updated Guidance on Prenatal Care

The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AGOC)** Committee on Clinical Consensus – Obstetrics recently developed [new guidance](#) on “tailored prenatal care delivery for pregnant individuals.” The guidance offers a “transformative approach to the provision of prenatal care in three key areas: addressing unmet social needs, frequency of prenatal visits and monitoring, and incorporation of telemedicine and alternative care modalities.” It is intended to guide maternity care professionals in the use of new prenatal care delivery models. According to ACOG, the guidance has been endorsed by the **American College of Nurse-Midwives**; the **Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology**; the **Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses**; the **National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health**; and the **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine**.

Virginia Works to Host Apprenticeship Accelerator Workshop in Collaboration with VHHA

Virginia Works is hosting an upcoming workshop for hospital leaders to provide insight on establishing the basic components of a customizable Registered Apprenticeship program for three high-demand hospital roles (registered nurse, imaging tech, surgical tech). The workshop, which is being conducted in partnership with VHHA, will be held on May 20 from 10 a.m.-2p.m. at the VHHA Conference Center in Glen Allen, VA. Lunch will be provided for participants. This workshop is ideal for human resources and workforce development leaders and clinical and hospital leaders. Registrants will be sent a pre-survey ahead of the workshop. Register through this [link](#). Please direct questions to VHHA Director of Workforce Initiatives Sharon Alexander at salexander@vhha.com.

Events

Register for the 2025 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, a Virtual Event on May 13

VHHA’s **2025 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit** will explore innovative strategies for hospitals to adapt their practices, focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting team members in a rapidly changing workplace. Sessions will delve into engaging and retaining a multi-generational

workforce, building flexibility to meet evolving needs, fostering internal mobility and career development, and adopting cutting-edge models to address workforce challenges. Additional topics include advancing virtual nursing, leveraging artificial intelligence for workforce planning, and refocusing leadership approaches to empower teams. Register through this [link](#) and view the program agenda [here](#).

Register for May 6 Webinar from AblePay on Addressing Health Care Affordability Gap

[AblePay Health](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, is hosting a webinar on May 6 at noon focused on how providers across the nation are addressing the health care affordability gap for organizations and patients. This presentation will showcase how the AblePay solution can boost revenue while enhancing overall patient experience. Real-world provider case studies offer valuable insights into how this program positively transforms patient payment behavior. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Register for May 7 VIPTC Diagnostic Stewardship Webinar

The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center (VIPTC)** is hosting a free webinar on May 7 at noon on diagnostic stewardship. This webinar will feature **Dr. Daniel J. Morgan**, Chief of Epidemiology at the VA Maryland Healthcare System, Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Director of the Center for Innovation in Diagnosis. Its content will explore how diagnostic practices can improve patient care and support antimicrobial stewardship, as well as the risks of medical overuse, the role of diagnostic decisions in driving antibiotic use, practical examples of stewardship in action, and how infection prevention teams can champion diagnostic stewardship to enhance safety and outcomes across health care settings. Visit this [link](#) to register.

VHHA Solutions, Backpack Health to Host May 7 Webinar on Pediatric Behavioral Health Capacity

[VHHA Solutions](#) and its endorsed partner [Backpack Health](#) will host a May 7 webinar focused on addressing Virginia's growing pediatric behavioral health crisis through a hybrid care model. The webinar content will highlight how the Backpack Health approach that combining digital tools with human-centered care can help health systems expand access, reduce provider burnout, and deliver effective interventions sooner. That includes how technology can augment pediatric behavioral health services, scalable solutions to workforce shortages, and strategies to reduce unnecessary emergency department visits. Register for the [webinar](#) scheduled for May 7 at noon to learn how tech-enabled care can support children, families, and providers across the Commonwealth.

VHEMP to Host May 28 Webinar on 2025 Hurricane Season

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)**, and the four regional healthcare coalitions – will host a free webinar briefing on May 28 at noon featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service (NWS)**, that will focus on the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. Register through this [link](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Valley Health President and CEO, VHHA Board Chair

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Mark Nantz**, the President and CEO of **Valley Health**, a Winchester, VA-based health system, and the newly elected Chair of the **VHHA Board of Directors**. The conversation covers his career journey, thoughts on health care leadership and public health, how his personal story of adoption and early financial challenges shapes his approach to the ministry of care, 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](#), [Stitcher](#), [Tuneln](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), and the [World Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State

HCA Virginia has [announced](#) **Becki Lawhorne** is the new Chief Nursing Officer at **StoneSprings Hospital Center** in Northern Virginia. Lawhorne was most recently assistant chief nursing officer at Reston Hospital Center, where she played a significant role in developing the neonatal transport team, launching the manager mentorship program and supporting multiple unit expansions. Prior to that, she was director of women's and children's services at StoneSprings Hospital Center. Lawhorne earned an undergraduate degree in nursing from James Madison University and a Master of Science degree in nursing from Walden University.



Sentara Health has named Elwood Bernard "Bernie" Boone III, MHA, FACHE, as President of **Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital**, effective June 2. Boone has served as President of **Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital** since 2012. He earned a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Morehouse College. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Read more [here](#).

Gina M. Cronin, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer for **Children's National Hospital**; **Deborah Dover**, Chief Human Resource Officer and Senior Vice President of Talent Engagement for **Ballad Health**; **Terri Feely**, Chief People Officer for **Inova**; **Kristin King**, Chief Human Resource Officer for **VCU Health**; **Dave Marks**, Vice President of Human Resources at **Inova**; **Elizabeth Savage**, Chief Human Resource Officer for **Valley Health**; and **Becky Sawyer**, Executive Vice President

and Chief People Officer at **Sentara Health**, have been named to the 99 hospital and health system CHROs and chief people officers to know for 2025 list by [*Becker's Hospital Review*](#).



Nick Chuquin, MSHA, FACHE, President of **Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital**, has been named Chair of the Advisory Board for **Eastern Shore Community College**.