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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 Staff Attends AHA Conference, Meets with Federal and Congressional Leaders in Washington

- This week, leaders from VHHA traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the **American Hospital Association's** (AHA) [Annual Membership Meeting](#) and to meet with members of Congress and officials at the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) regarding health policy issues of importance to member hospitals and health systems including Medicaid funding.

View Recording of VHHA Solutions, Backpack Health Webinar on Pediatric Behavioral Health Capacity

- This week, [VHHA Solutions](#) and its endorsed partner [Backpack Health](#) hosted a webinar focused on addressing Virginia's growing pediatric behavioral health crisis through a hybrid care model. The webinar content highlighted how the Backpack Health approach that combines 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. View a webinar recording [here](#).

View Recording of VHHA Webinar for Hospital Leaders on State Legislative and Budget Updates

- The **VHHA Government Affairs Team** recently 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](#).

VHHA-IHI Open School Quality and Patient Safety Certificate Program Accepting Wait List Applicants

- Due to strong interest in the latest cohort of the [IHI Open School](#) Certificate Program in Quality and Patient Safety offered by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence**, applicants are encouraged to register for the program waiting list and will be notified if openings become available. 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 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 Hosts Hospital Chief Financial Officers Steering Committee Meeting

- This week, VHHA hosted a meeting of the **CFO Steering Committee** whose members include hospital and health system chief financial officers. The agenda covered topics including federal issues including the budget process, proposed rules and regulatory matters, as well as state issues related to Medicaid policy and payor relations. Contact Jay Andrews with questions about the group or participation at jandrews@vhha.com.

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 [WINA](#), [WAVY](#), [VPM](#), the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), the [Virginia Flyover](#), [MSN](#), and [Yahoo](#).

News Updates

White House Issues Executive Orders on Domestic Medication Production, Biological Research

This week, **U.S. President Donald Trump** issued a pair of executive orders focused on [domestic medicine production](#) and improving [biomedical research safety and security](#). The former directs the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** to take a series of steps to streamline “the regulation of manufacturing pharmaceutical products and inputs...to facilitate the restoration of a robust domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing base.” The other order calls for an end to federal funding for “dangerous gain-of-function research conducted by foreign entities in countries of concern” as well as “other life-science research that is occurring in countries of concern or foreign countries where there is not adequate oversight to ensure that the countries are compliant with United States oversight standards and policies.”

CBO Assesses Impact of Medicaid Policy Change, White House Budget Plan Calls for Health Cuts

A recent [analysis](#) by the **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** predicts that federal policy changes resulting in cuts to Medicaid funding could impact state finances, provider sustainability, and access to care. The CBO letter addressed to leaders of the **U.S. Senate Finance Committee** and the **U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee** anticipates states would have to spend more, reduce provider payments, reduce program enrollment, or limit benefits if Congress enacts some of the current Medicaid policy reform ideas that have been proposed. A plan being advanced by Republican leaders in the **U.S. House of Representatives** envisions \$880 billion in spending cuts over 10 years to be identified by the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee with jurisdiction of Medicaid and other health care programs. Meanwhile, the **White House** recently released its [discretionary spending budget](#) conceptual plan for fiscal year 2026 that articulates high-level spending priorities and proposed reductions across a range of health care agencies and programmatic areas. That includes reductions in spending to the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**, the **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)**, and the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**.

Governor Youngkin Takes Final Action on Budget, Legislation from the 2025 Session

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin recently took final action on legislation from the 2025 **General Assembly** session, including the state budget bill. The Governor's action followed the reconvened legislative session in April when state lawmakers gathered to act on hundreds of amendments and vetoes [issued](#) by the Governor. The General Assembly returned 91 pieces of legislation and the state budget to the Governor, who signed 53 bills, issued 37 line item vetoes to the budget, and vetoed 38 bills. That includes signing the budget bill, which includes an amendment to update the Medicaid supplemental payment calculation that is supported by Virginia hospitals. Read more [here](#).

Virginia is Again Ranked Among the Best States for Hospital Patient Safety by the Leapfrog Group

Virginia's standing as one of the top states in the nation for patient safety in hospital settings has again been affirmed in the Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade rankings. The Commonwealth is a top five state in the [Spring 2025 state rankings](#) that are based on the share of hospitals in each state that earn "A" grades. Overall, 47.1% of Virginia hospitals received an "A" grade. The Hospital Safety Grade program assigns letter grades to nearly 3,000 general acute care hospitals across the nation based on data from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**, the Leapfrog Group, and other sources. In the latest rankings, 31 of 69 Virginia private general acute care hospitals received an "A" grade, placing the Commonwealth fifth among states in the nation. Prior to the current Spring 2025 rankings, Virginia ranked second in the [Fall 2024](#), [Spring 2024](#), [Fall 2023](#), [Fall 2022](#), and the [Spring 2022](#) periods. The Commonwealth has regularly been a high-achieving state in the bi-annual Leapfrog ratings: Virginia was [first overall in the Fall 2021 rankings](#), fourth in Spring 2021, sixth in Fall 2020, third in Fall 2019, second in Spring 2019, third in Fall 2018, and fifth in Spring 2018. These health systems have hospitals that earned A grades in the most recent cycle: **Augusta Health, Carilion Clinic, Centra, HCA Virginia, Inova, Lifepoint Health, Mary Washington Healthcare, Riverside Health, Sentara Health, UVA Health, Valley Health, and VCU Health**. Read more [here](#).

Celebrating National Nurses Week 2025

This week is **National Nurses Week 2025** (May 6-12). National Nurses Week is an opportunity to celebrate the important work and compassionate care provided by nurses to support patients and public health. The **American Nurses Association (ANA)** [indicates](#) that one of the earliest organized observances of National Nurses Week was in October of 1954. Two decades later, the **White House** created a National Nurse Week designation and then-**U.S. President Richard Nixon** issued a corresponding proclamation. The **U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** [reports](#) there are more than 3.3 million registered nurses in the U.S. and the **Virginia Department of Health Professions** [indicates](#) more than 109,600 registered nurses are working in the Commonwealth. During National Nurses Week, VHHA salutes the hard-working, dedicated nurses who are essential to the function of the health care delivery system.

Events

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

VHHA will host the **2025 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit** next week as a virtual event. The 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. There is still time to register through this [link](#). View the Summit program agenda [here](#).

VONL to Host May 16 Spring Nurse Leader Workshop in Richmond

The **Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders** (VONL) is hosting a daylong 2025 Spring Nurse Leader Workshop on May 16 in Glen Allen, VA. The focus of the workshop will be on conveying professional ownership to team members to instill trust in their abilities, which can help improve communication process flow for tasks and projects, and lead to developing a feedback system to address challenges that arise. Group registration options are available for this event. Contact VONLstaff@gmail.com for more information. Register through this [link](#).

Register for May 20 Webinar on Building a Hospital ED Bridge Program

Officials from **Carilion Clinic** will lead an upcoming webinar being hosted in collaboration with VHHA. “Saving Lives is What We Do: The Why’s and How’s for Building an ED Bridge at Your Hospital” is the theme for the webinar that will be hosted May 20 at noon and led by **Cheri Hartman**, PhD, and **Dr. David Hartman** of Carilion Clinic. This webinar and other presentations in the series are part of a statewide effort to expand emergency department adoption of best practices in the treatment of opioid use disorder and to continue progress in getting patients evidence-based treatment. The webinar is continuing medical education-based addiction treatment training that can count toward 8-hours of required education when a physician or ACP renews DEA registration. The webinar is free to attend, but pre-registration is required. Register for the webinar through this [link](#). Registrants will receive a unique e-mail invitation that should not be shared with others. This series is presented with funding from the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services** (DMAS) via the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA).

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, workforce development, 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.

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](#).

Registration is Open for June 4 In-Person Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network Summit

Registration is open for the 2025 **Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network (VCCRN)** Summit, scheduled for June 4 at The Westin – Richmond. “Generating Impact Through Research and Collaboration” is the theme for this in-person event presented by VCCRN as an opportunity to network and build relationships with clinical researchers, health care institutions, and life science industry leaders from across Virginia. Visit this [link](#) for more details and registration.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Nurse Leader, Expert on AI Workforce Planning Strategy

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dani Bowie**, DNP, RN, NE-BC, Senior Vice President for Solution Design and Workforce AI with **Aya Healthcare**. This conversation highlights her career journey from bedside care to health care workforce technology advocate, health care staffing, her role as a featured speaker at the upcoming **2025 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit**, 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](#), [TuneIn](#), [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 Sundays 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 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State

Terry Sievers, MS, RN, Senior Vice President of Quality with **Riverside Health**, has been selected as a 2025 Baldrige Executive Fellow. The prestigious national program, administered by the **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**, brings together senior decision makers from across industries to collaborate, learn from one another, and study best practices in operational and strategic excellence. Read more [here](#).





Wythe Physician Practices, an affiliate of **Wythe County Community Hospital**, will open a new clinic on June 2, 2025. The clinic will be led by Family Nurse Practitioner **Crystal Lowder-Tibbs**, who graduated from Wytheville Community College as a registered nurse, completed her bachelor of nursing degree at Liberty University, and obtained her nurse practitioner's license from Walden University. Read more [here](#).