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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 Forums with Candidates for Statewide Elected Office

- This week, VHHA hosted candidate forums with several of the nominees seeking statewide office in this year's elections when voters will select a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. The forums featured **Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears**, the Republican nominee for governor, former **Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger**, the Democratic nominee for governor, and state **Senator Ghazala Hashmi**, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor. The forums were held at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA and moderated by **VHHA**

Board Chair Mark Nantz, the President and CEO of **Valley Health**. Hospital leaders and other key health care stakeholders and advocates were among those in the audience for the forums that provided candidates with an opportunity to share their governing philosophies and views on health policy. View event photos [here](#).

VHHA Participates in Rural Health Transformation Stakeholder Meeting

- This week, VHHA staff participated in a stakeholder meeting regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program established under H.R. 1. The federal program has been established to distribute \$50 billion in funding to mitigate the impact of Medicaid spending reductions in rural areas. **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin** recently issued [Executive Directive 12](#) on the Rural Health Transformation Program that calls on key state officials to work with stakeholders such as health care providers to leverage funding acquired to “support quality access to health care in rural Virginia.” In Virginia, government agencies including the **Office of Health and Human Resources Secretary**, the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, and the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)** are collaborating on the state’s rural health transformation strategy. During the meeting, there was discussion of proposal solicitation for projects to benefit rural health providers and patients in key areas including chronic disease prevention and management, sustainable access, workforce development, innovative care models and technology innovation. Funding applications to the federal government are expected to be submitted by November. State officials plan to hold 12 listening sessions in rural communities around Virginia during September to gather feedback and input. Questions and feedback can also be submitted to ruraltransformation@governor.virginia.gov.

VHEMP Hosts Webinar on Healthcare Cybersecurity, Extended Downtime Assessments

- The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** recently hosted a webinar to share results from the Healthcare Cybersecurity Assessment and Extended Downtime Healthcare Delivery Assessment, which were conducted in May and June of 2025. Questions about the webinar content may be directed to preparedness@vhha.com.

News Updates

New Analysis Projects State-by-State Health Coverage Impacts Under H.R. 1

A recent KFF analysis takes the **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** updated [estimates](#) on coverage losses under [H.R. 1](#) (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) and allocates them across states. CBO projects that 10 million more people will be without health insurance in 2034 under the law due to policy changes that apply to Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace, and other relevant policy action. With the potential impact of expiring enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace enrollees, the CBO estimate on uninsured Americans by 2034 climbs to more than 14 million in 2034. In the Commonwealth, the analysis forecasts 350,000 more Virginians could become uninsured under the various health policy changes, possibly resulting in a 4 percent increase in the uninsured rate.

National CMS Effort Focused on Removing Ineligible Immigrants from Medicaid, CHIP Programs

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently [launched](#) an oversight initiative to ensure that Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or have appropriate immigration status. As part of this push, CMS will provide states with monthly enrollment reports identifying individuals whose citizenship or immigration status could not be confirmed through federal databases. States will be responsible for reviewing cases, verifying citizenship or immigration status, requesting additional documentation, and taking necessary action steps.

HHS, CMS Establish Healthcare Advisory Committee on Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Financing

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently announced the formation of the Healthcare Advisory Committee as well as a nomination process to identify 15 appointed committee members who will be charged with delivering recommendations on improving care financing and delivery across Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS is accepting nominations for advisory committee members. Candidates with qualifications in chronic disease prevention and management, federally administered health care financing, and delivery system reform are encouraged to apply. View more nomination information [here](#). The submission deadline is Sept. 22.

CDC Director Removed from Post One Month After Receiving Senate Confirmation

Susan Monarez, PhD, who the U.S. Senate [confirmed](#) as **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) in July, has been removed from her post, according to a **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) [statement](#) this week indicating she is “no longer director.” Her attorneys initially disputed that [saying](#) she “has neither resigned nor yet been fired” though the White House has since indicated she has been removed with the support of the President. In response, three top CDC leaders – Chief Medical Officer **Debra Houry**, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases **Demetre Daskalakis**, and National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Director **Daniel Jernigan** – also [reportedly](#) resigned. Monarez, of Wisconsin, is a health scientist and longtime civil servant. She was the first CDC director to be confirmed by the Senate under a law passed in 2023, and the first to serve in the role without a medical degree [in more than 70](#) years, according to published reports.

Events

Register for VHHA 2025 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 25

Register now for the **2025 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit** scheduled for Sept. 25 as an in-person event at The Westin – Richmond. “Community: Building an Accessible System of Care Across the Continuum” is the theme for the event that will feature innovative behavioral health models, patient-centered strategies, an overview of the expansion of the crisis system across the state, and the opportunity to learn about advances in technology that can improve behavioral health resources. The Summit programming lineup includes keynote remarks on compassionate behavioral health and addiction care as well as sessions on emergency department innovations in behavioral health access, the role of AI in enhancing care, crisis services, autism care, primary care integration, employee engagement, and law enforcement community relationships. View the program agenda [here](#) and register through this [link](#).

Register for Sept. 17 In-Person Workshop on Clinician Satisfaction, Patient Experience

Register now for an upcoming in-person workshop called “Beyond Burnout: Bridging Patient Experience and Clinician Engagement for Sustainable Healthcare Excellence.” The workshop is scheduled for Sept. 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. It will be facilitated by **Stacy Palmer**, Senior Vice President and COO at **The Beryl Institute**. Event programming will focus on providing actionable insights on creating a culture that elevates patient and provider voices, mitigates burnout, and drives system-wide transformation. Register through this [link](#).

Register for Sept. 19 Webinar on ‘Locums with Purpose: Shifting Strategy and Controlling Costs’

Registration is open for an upcoming webinar featuring [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, [Qualivis](#), that will explore how locum tenens can be used as a strategic lever for financial and clinical stability during a time of heightened economic pressure. The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 19 at noon. Register through this [link](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Chesapeake Regional Nurse Recruitment Efforts

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Kimberly Green**, Director of Acute Care Services at **Chesapeake Regional Healthcare**. Earlier this year, she joined the podcast to discuss Chesapeake Regional’s innovative Nurse Draft Day workforce recruitment program. On this episode, we highlight an upcoming workforce event at Chesapeake for neurology nurses called Brunch and Brainwaves, 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 Sundays at 9 a.m. on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



During the 43rd Annual VCU Faculty Convocation, **Jason A. Carlyon**, PhD, professor in the **VCU Department of Microbiology and Immunology**, received the Distinguished Scholarship Award. **Krista L. Donohoe**, PharmD, a professor at the **VCU School of Pharmacy**, received the Distinguished Teaching Award. **Dr. Kenneth A. Ellenbogen**, MD, the Kimmerling Professor in the **VCU Department of Internal Medicine** and Director of Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing at the **Pauley Heart Center**, received the University Award of Excellence. And **Dr. Susan G. Kornstein**, MD, a professor in the **VCU Department of Psychiatry** and the **Department of OB-GYN**, received the Distinguished Service Award. Read more [here](#).

The **Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants (VAPA)** has [honored](#) **Dr. Daniel Graf** and **Grace Jordan**, PA, with the Physician/PA Partnership of the Year Award for their work with the **Sentara Health Comprehensive Epilepsy Center**. The [award](#) is presented to a physician-PA team that exemplifies the unique working relationship essential for providing exceptional health care to patients and the community through a partnership that displays evidence of collaboration, trust, collegiality, and mutual respect.



David Vaamonde, VHHA Vice President of Data Analytics, has been [selected](#) as a Board Member for **Rx Partnership**, an organization that works with 29 clinic partners throughout Virginia to tackle medication access challenges in the Commonwealth by using an innovative model that helps reduce the cost of prescription medication for partner clinics to benefit vulnerable patient populations.