

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 Meeting of Board of Directors' Executive Committee

- The **Executive Committee** of the **VHHA Board of Directors** met this week for a discussion of issues of interest and importance to hospitals and health systems, including operational considerations as well as state and federal policy issues.

VHHA Seeks Hospital Staff Input in 2025 Member Feedback Survey

- The **2025 VHHA Member Feedback Survey** is an annual opportunity for individuals who work in VHHA member hospitals and health systems, as well as other stakeholders engaged with the Association, to share their insights and observations about the VHHA, its work, programming, and engagement activities. Survey responses help VHHA improve its service to members. Please take a moment to complete the survey and share feedback about VHHA [here](#).

VHHA Encourages Hospital Staff to Consider Applying for Sorensen Political Leaders Program

- As part of its active partnership with the **Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership** at the **University of Virginia**, VHHA encourages hospital staff and leaders to apply for the 2026 Political Leader Program. Applications are being accepted until Nov. 12. The 2026 cohort program will run from March-December. Visit this [link](#) for more information and to access the program application. In 2020, VHHA [entered into a partnership with Sorensen](#) to support its programming and help identify health care leaders who are strong candidates for the Political Leaders Program. The program draws applicants from across the state and it focuses on Virginia politics and governing, policy issues and solutions, regional needs, ethical servant leadership, and efforts to unite the Commonwealth. This program is primarily focused on individuals who are 10-plus years removed from college. Prospective program applicants from VHHA hospitals or health systems are encouraged to contact VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** at sconnaughton@vhha.com to discuss this opportunity and the ways in which VHHA can support applicants.

VHHA Issues Call for 2026 Patient Safety Summit Poster Abstract Submissions

- Ahead of the **2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit**, VHHA invites staff from member hospitals and health systems to submit poster abstracts showcasing evidence-based quality and safety improvement projects. Submitted abstracts topics may include patient safety, quality improvement, and safety culture; care coordination, patient experience and patient-family engagement; population and community health; and workforce safety and well-being. Abstracts should be 400 words or less and should include tables, graphs, control charts, process maps, or key program drivers. Abstracts should contain data – those that don't will be excluded from consideration – and describe the problem, the intervention, results, and conclusions. The authors of selected abstracts will have the opportunity to record a video slide presentation with VHHA prior to the Summit and those videos will be shared on the online conference platform for attendees to view on-demand during the 2026 Patient Safety Summit, whose theme is "Safe Care, Every Step of the Way: Advancing a Culture of Safety in Healthcare." Submissions will be accepted from Oct. 6, 2025 to Oct. 24, 2025. An e-mail with a submission link will be distributed on Oct. 6. Contact Rachel Pryor at rpryor@vhha.com with questions.

Nominations Open for 2025 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

- VHHA is accepting nominations for the **2025 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards**. The awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia’s hospitals and health systems, and to health care in general through selfless, energetic, and passionate service. Awards are presented in the following categories: the Distinguished Service Award (given to past or present chief executive officers), the Meritorious Service Award (given to non-CEO health care leaders), and the Excellence in Governance Award (given to members of hospital or health system governing bodies). Each award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to Virginia’s hospitals and health systems. The deadline to submit nomination materials is Sept. 26. The nomination form with submission instructions can be accessed through this [link](#). Read more about VHHA awards and see lists of past recipients [here](#).

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 [WTVR](#), [Virginia Business](#), the [Winchester Star](#), the [Lynchburg News & Advance](#), the [Northern Virginia Daily](#), and [News Break](#).

News Updates

Virginia DEQ Shares Guidance on Regulated Medical Waste Packaging and Labeling

The **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality** (DEQ) has shared compliance assistance [guidance](#) regarding the Commonwealth’s [medical waste management regulations](#). The regulations took effect in March 2023 and were [updated](#) through an [amendment](#) this year. The regulations apply to all generators of medical waste who are subject to requirements for general handling, packaging, labeling, storage, reusable container cleaning, spill cleanup, disposal, and recordkeeping. View more information [here](#).

VDH Provides Guidance to Pharmacists on COVID-19 Vaccines

In a recent public statement, the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) advised pharmacists that they may administer the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine two ways: “under the direct authorization of a medical provider” or “following the Virginia Board of Pharmacy’s statewide pharmacy protocols.” The statewide pharmacy protocols permit pharmacists to administer vaccines in accordance with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) immunization schedule. The current [CDC schedule](#) references the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine formulation. It does not yet include the 2025–2026 formulation, which is anticipated to better match strains expected to circulate this season. The CDC **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices** (ACIP) is scheduled to meet [Sept. 18-19, 2025](#). VDH said it anticipates that ACIP will vote on the updated COVID-19 vaccines at that meeting. If approved by the CDC, pharmacists will be able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. In related news, **U.S. Health and Human Services** (HHS) **Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** recently [announced](#) that the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) has approved a new round of COVID-19 vaccine doses for this season for more limited use – specifically among adults 65 and older, children, and adults with a medical condition that puts them at risk for serious illness. Kennedy also said the vaccines would be “available for all patients who choose them after consulting with their doctors.” In the past, CDC has broadly recommended COVID shots for people six months and older.

CMS Letter Provides Guidance on State Directed Payment Policy Under H.R. 1

This week, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) issued a [letter](#) with guidance on Section 71116 of H.R. 1 (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) pertaining to changes in state directed payment (SDP) policy. The reconciliation plan includes changes to SDP policy resulting in annual 10 percent reductions starting in 2028 and continuing until they reach the Medicare upper payment limit. The letter indicates that CMS is preparing a notice of proposed rulemaking in accordance with the law and presidential direction. The letter offers preliminary guidance to aid state planning efforts until a final rule is promulgated as well as information about SDP grandfathering expectations.

Federal Trade Commission Seeks to Vacate Non-Compete Rule, Solicits Public Comment

The **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC) recently [voted in favor of a planned course of action to vacate](#) a previous [final rule](#) banning arrangements prohibiting workers from pursuing employment after a contract with an employer ends. The Commission is also taking steps to halt litigation pertaining to the rule. In a related development, the FTC issued a request for public comment to assess the scope and extent of “employer noncompete agreements, as well as to gather information to inform possible future enforcement actions.” The current public comment deadline is Nov. 3. Read more [here](#).

HHS Announces Guidance on ‘Catastrophic Coverage’ Health Plan Access

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) recently [announced](#) guidance regarding access to catastrophic coverage plans for consumers who are ineligible for advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) or cost-sharing reductions (CSRs). Under the guidance, consumers may qualify for a hardship exemption to purchase a catastrophic plan on or off the exchange if they are determined or expect to be ineligible for APTC or CSRs based on their projected annual household income. The enhanced premium tax credits available to help eligible people in purchasing health coverage are set to expire at the end of this year if they aren’t renewed by Congress. In that scenario, those incentives would not be available for 2026 plans, which some models suggest could lead to significant coverage losses.

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](#).

CDC to Host mPINC Hospital Report Webinar on Sept. 18

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) is hosting a Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) webinar to highlight how hospital staff have used the mPINC hospital report to improve practices and policies on infant nutrition and care within a hospital. The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. Register through this [link](#). Questions may be directed to mPINC@cdc.gov.

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

Register 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](#).

Premier to Host Sept. 19 Webinar on Health System Resilience

VHHA Solutions endorsed partner **Premier** is hosting a Sept. 19 webinar to present hospital leaders with revenue resilience, smarter consolidation, and targeted growth strategies for adapting to H.R. 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) and related developments including Medicaid funding cuts, expiring ACA subsidies, and rising uninsured rates that drive uncompensated care, margin erosion, and service line consolidation. The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. Register through this [link](#).

Register for APIC-VA Educational Conference Oct. 1-2

The **Virginia Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology** (APIC-VA) is hosting its 50th annual conference Oct. 1-2 at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa Short Pump. APIC-VA members include nurses, physicians, technologists, public health administrators, military personnel, and others involved in infection control and epidemiology. It is a multi-disciplinary voluntary organization committed to mentorship of members, support of best practices, and ultimately, improvement of the quality of health care throughout the continuum of varied practices. Learn more about the organization [here](#) and view the conference program agenda as well as exhibitor and registration information through this [link](#).

Register for the VONL Virtual Fall Conference on Oct. 3

Nurse leaders from across the Commonwealth are coming together for the virtual **VONL Fall Conference** scheduled for Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The theme for the event is “Humanity and Innovation – Leading the Future of Compassionate, Accountable Care.” The theme represents a concept at the heart of modern nursing leadership – balancing cutting-edge innovation with the timeless commitment to compassionate care. The conference is being hosted as a virtual event with the intent of expanding access to nurse leaders for whom travel and time commitments associated with in-person events can be

an impediment to participation. Register through this [link](#) and contact VONLstaff@gmail.com with any event questions.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Speaker and Recovery Advocate Tom Farley

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Tom Farley**, an author, speaker, and advocate for mental health and addiction treatment who will deliver keynote remarks at the **2025 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit** scheduled for Sept. 25 in Richmond. The conversation covers the story of Tom Farley's recovery and advocacy, his work to share the lessons and legacy of his departed brother, actor and comedian **Chris Farley**, and it previews his remarks at the Behavioral Health Summit. 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 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



Teresa L. "Terrie" Edwards, MHA, FACHE, has been selected as Interim CEO of **UVA Health University Medical Center**. She spent many years at **Sentara Health**, most recently as senior vice president and regional president of its Eastern Division. Edwards also acted as interim president for acute and post-acute care delivery across the Sentara system between 2023 and 2024. Prior to joining Sentara, she was an executive vice president and administrator at **Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center**. She earned an undergraduate degree from James Madison University and a master's degree in health administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Read more [here](#).

Dr. Georgia McIntosh, MD, has been promoted to Chief Quality and Safety Officer (CQSO) for **VCU Medical Center**. The CQSO is responsible for quality, safety, quality reporting compliance, infection prevention, and performance improvement-related activities for VCU Medical Center. In this role, McIntosh will continue to lead VCU Medical Center activities that support the goal of being nationally recognized for providing safe care for all patients. She previously served as interim CQSO, associate CQSO, and the associate chair of quality and safety for



the Department of Internal Medicine. She has also served as a clinical instructor and has been an associate professor in the Department of General Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine since 2017. Read more [here](#).



VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital has named **Dr. Mary-Margaret Lewis**, MD, MBA, as its Chief Medical Officer, effective Oct. 12. She most recently served as critical care medical director at **VHC Health**. Lewis earned her master's degree in business administration from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. She completed her residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in pulmonary, sleep and critical care medicine at Georgetown University. Read more [here](#).

Carla Eanes, MBA, has transitioned to Assistant Administrator for **Wythe County Community Hospital** (WCCH). She began her career at WCCH in 2018 as a registrar before moving into leadership roles including Patient Access Supervisor and her current role as Director of Medical Staff Credentialing and Executive Assistant. Read more [here](#).

