

# 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. Questions and content submissions may be sent to [jtwalker@vhha.com](mailto:jtwalker@vhha.com).

## FEATURED CONTENT

### [VHHA in Action](#)

### [News Updates](#)

- [Virginia Hosting Rural Health Transformation Listening Tour, CMS Shares Program Guidance](#)
- [Virginia Health Department Confirms Latest Measles Case in Hampton Roads](#)
- [HHS Final Rule Seeks to Provide Public with Real-Time Access to Drug Price Information](#)
- [CDC Names Acting Director in Place of Ousted Agency Head](#)
- [FDA Approves COVID-19 Vaccines for Limited Use, Rescinds Broad Vaccine EUA](#)

### [Events](#)

- [UVA Schools of Medicine, Nursing to Host Sept. 10 Medical Center Hour Program Open to Public](#)
- [HHS, ASPR Project ECHO to Host Sept. 9 Session on Rural Facility Preparedness](#)
- [ChartSpan to Host Sept. 11 Webinar on Implementing Enterprise Care Management Program](#)
- [Register for VHHA 2025 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 25](#)
- [Register for Sept. 17 In-Person Workshop on Clinician Satisfaction, Patient Experience](#)
- [Register for Sept. 19 Webinar on 'Locums with Purpose: Shifting Strategy and Controlling Costs'](#)

### [Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features VHC Health Physician on Lung Cancer Detection](#)

### [Around the State](#)

## 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:

### **Virginia Hospital Leaders Named to Virginia 500 Power List for 2025-2026**

- Several Virginia hospital leaders are among those honored on the new Virginia 500 list that recognizes some of the most powerful and influential leaders in business, government, politics

and education in the Commonwealth. This is the sixth annual edition of the list published by *Virginia Business*. In the [“Health Care, Biotech, and Pharmaceuticals” category](#), the following hospital leaders have been named to the list: [Steve Arner](#), President and CEO of **Carilion Clinic**; [Dr. Mike Dacey](#), CEO of **Riverside Health**, [Pat Davis-Hagens](#), Market President for **Bon Secours – Hampton Roads**; [Reese Jackson](#), President and CEO of **Chesapeake Regional Healthcare**; [Dr. J. Stephen Jones](#), President and CEO of **Inova**; [Dr. J. Scott Just](#), CEO of **UVA Physicians Group**; [Dr. Marlon Levy](#), CEO of **VCU Health System** and Senior Vice President of **VCU Health Sciences**; [Dr. William Lunn](#), President of **HCA Healthcare Capital Division**; [Mike Lutes](#), Market President for **Bon Secours – Richmond**; [Mary N. Mannix](#), President and CEO of **Augusta Health**; [Dennis Matheis](#), President and CEO of **Sentara Health**; [Mark Nantz](#), President and CEO of **Valley Health System**; [Dr. Christopher Newman](#), President and CEO of **Mary Washington Healthcare**; [Dr. Mitchell Rosner](#), Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs at **UVA Health**; [Amy Sampson](#), President and CEO of **Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters**; [Erik Shannon](#), CEO of **UVA Community Health**; and [Richard Tugman](#), President and CEO of **Centra Health**. Arner, Dacey, Jackson, Lunn, Lutes, Mannix, Nantz, Newman, Sampson, Shannon, and Tugman are members of the **VHHA Board of Directors**. VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** has also been named to the Virginia 500 list.

#### **VHHA Seeking Hospital Project Submissions for Virginia Rural Health Plan Initiative**

- VHHA is seeking proposals from hospital members to submit to the state as a consolidated proposal in pursuit of funding through the federal **Rural Health Transformation Program**. Submissions should be shared with VHHA by Monday as the Commonwealth is seeking proposals by Sept. 15, which aligns with the target date for when the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** are expected to release the application form. The program has been established under H.R. 1. to distribute \$50 billion in funding to mitigate the impact of Medicaid spending reductions in rural areas. From 2026-2030, \$10 billion in funding will be allocated each year. States must apply, and be approved, for program funding. Half of the program funds will be distributed equally among approved states. The other half is competitive and will be allocated by CMS based on several factors. CMS requires states to submit a single application for competitive and non-competitive funding. The Commonwealth and CMS are particularly interested in proposals focused on chronic disease prevention and management, payment to health care providers, consumer-facing technology for chronic diseases, rural care delivery technology adoption, rural workforce recruitment and retention, IT improvements, adjusting rural care delivery systems and service lines, behavioral health services, innovative care and payment models, and other CMS-approved activities to promote rural health care. Hospital proposals should be sent to **Julie Dime** at [jdime@vhha.com](mailto:jdime@vhha.com).

#### **Nominations Being Accepted for 2025 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards**

- VHHA is pleased to announce that nominations for the **2025 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards** are now being accepted. 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 Staff Attends Valley Health Event Featuring Governor, Lieutenant Governor**

- This week, VHHA staff attended an event at **Valley Health Winchester Medical Center** hosted to provide state leaders including **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Commissioner Nelson Smith, state Senator Timmy French, and Delegate Bill Wiley** with a tour and overview of recent community behavioral health investments. That includes the one-year anniversary of the Valley Health EmPATH unit and the formal launch of the Special Conservator of the Peace (SCOP) program. View event photos [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 [Cardinal News](#), the [Virginia Mercury](#), [WDBJ](#), [WSET](#), [News From The States](#), the [Pinnacle Gazette](#), the [Prince William Times](#), and [WVVA](#).

## **News Updates**

### **Virginia Hosting Rural Health Transformation Listening Tour, CMS Shares Program Guidance**

The **Commonwealth of Virginia** plans to host a series of listening tour sessions in communities across the state to gather stakeholder input regarding the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. The program has been established under H.R. 1. to distribute \$50 billion in funding to mitigate the impact of Medicaid spending reductions in rural areas. From 2026-2030, \$10 billion in funding will be allocated each year. States must apply, and be approved, for program funding. Half of the program funds will be distributed equally among approved states. The other half is competitive and will be allocated by CMS based on several factors. Visit this [link](#) to access listening tour location and registration information. The listening sessions are part of a broader effort by **Governor Glenn Youngkin**, who 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.” State 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. VHHA is working with its members to consolidate funding proposals and submit them to the state. In related news, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** has [indicated](#) that applications for funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program will be available by mid-September and introductory webinars are slated for later in the month. The anticipated application submission deadline is November and federal funding decisions will be made by Dec. 31.

### **Virginia Health Department Confirms Latest Measles Case in Hampton Roads**

This week, the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** and the **Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS)** [confirmed](#) a measles case in an unvaccinated Hampton Roads pediatric patient. Three previously confirmed measles cases have been [documented](#) in Virginia this year. During the outbreak dating to late January, with more than two-thirds of the cases occurring in children. During the outbreak, 99 people were hospitalized and there were two fatalities among school-aged children. Across the U.S., the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** has [reported](#) 1,431 confirmed measles cases in 42 jurisdictions: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York state, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. A total of 18 measles cases were reported among international visitors to the U.S. There have been 35 outbreaks reported in 2025, with 86 percent of confirmed cases (1,231 of 1,431) being outbreak associated. For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported in 2024 and 69 percent of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated.

### **HHS Final Rule Seeks to Provide Public with Real-Time Access to Drug Price Information**

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has [announced](#) a [final rule](#), effective Oct. 1, intended to afford Americans more insight into drug costs and price comparisons. The final rule specifies that health care providers using certified health IT systems are able to submit prior authorizations electronically, select drugs consistent with a patient's insurance coverage, and exchange electronic prescription information with pharmacies and insurance plans.

### **CDC Names Acting Director in Place of Ousted Agency Head**

**U.S. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill** has been named interim director for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** following the recent departure of **Susan Monarez**, PhD. Monarez was [confirmed](#) by the U.S. Senate in late July and [removed](#) from that post in late August.

### **FDA Approves COVID-19 Vaccines for Limited Use, Rescinds Broad Vaccine EUA**

**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 use among adults 65 and older, children, and adults with a medical condition that puts them at risk for serious illness. In an [online statement](#), Kennedy also said "emergency use authorizations for COVID vaccines, once used to justify broad mandates on the general public during the Biden administration, are now rescinded." The most recent FDA approvals apply to Moderna (six months and older, Pfizer (six and older), and Novavax (12 and older). Kennedy said "These vaccines are available for all patients who choose them after consulting with their doctors." Prior to this recent FDA approval, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** had broadly recommended COVID shots for people six months and older.

## **Events**

**UVA Schools of Medicine, Nursing to Host Sept. 10 Medical Center Hour Program Open to Public**

The **UVA School of Medicine** and **School of Nursing** are hosting an hourlong session Sept. 10 at noon on the topic of “The Leader’s Role in Generating Operational Excellence.” The event is open to the public and will have an in-person component at the Leonard Sandridge Auditorium (McKim Hall) on the UVA campus and be available as a virtual broadcast through this [link](#). The session will feature **Michael N. Bundy**, MBA, Senior Advisor with **Value Capture**, and explore how consistent execution of routine clinical practices — such as infection prevention bundles, timely lab follow-up, and hourly rounding — directly improves patient safety and outcomes. This Medical Center Hour is free and open to the public. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

#### **HHS, ASPR Project ECHO to Host Sept. 9 Session on Rural Facility Preparedness**

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR)** is hosting an upcoming session of the Project ECHO Clinical Readiness Rounds program on Sept. 9 at noon. The program shares clinical challenges and successes in preparing for and responding to disasters from all threats to foster peer-to-peer learning networks. The title of the next session is “Rural and Resource-Limited Facility Preparedness: Collaboration and Mutual Aid.” Rural and resource-limited communities face unique and significant challenges before, during, and after disasters. During the presentation, experts will share promising practices for preparedness and response for clinicians working with limited resources. Visit this [link](#) for more information and registration.

#### **ChartSpan to Host Sept. 11 Webinar on Implementing Enterprise Care Management Program**

[ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, is hosting a webinar on Sept. 11 at noon featuring insights from **Main Line Health** on implementing an enterprise care management program. During the webinar, officials from Main Line Health and ChartSpan will share insights on how they partnered to successfully launch care management and improve health outcomes for thousands of Medicare patients. Register for the webinar [here](#).

#### **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’

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](#).

## Podcast

### VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VHC Health Physician on Lung Cancer Detection

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Luis Dominguez**, a board-certified internist from **VHC Health** in Arlington. Dr. Dominguez specializes in chronic disease management, organ compromise and failure, medical complexity, mental health, and migraines. He joins us for a conversation about his work, as well as recent advancements in early detection and treatment of lung cancer. 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](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com).



## Around the State



**Theresa H. Dix**, MSN, RN, CPPS, has been named the new Chief Executive Officer of **Wythe County Community Hospital (WCCH)**, a **Lifepoint Health** facility, effective Sept. 15. Dix began her career at WCCH in 1983 caring for patients as a charge nurse in the ICU/CCU. After more than two decades of bedside service, she moved into leadership in 2007, holding positions such as director of surgical services, interim medical-surgical director, and house supervisor. In 2011, she became chief nursing officer, a role she held until 2019 when she spent several years at Wilson Medical Center in North Carolina. She returned to WCCH in 2022 to continue serving as CNO. Read more [here](#).

**Valley Health** has promoted **Mary Roxer** to Chief Human Resources Officer, effective Sept. 1. Roxer was selected following a nationwide search. She joined Valley Health in 2015 and has served in various positions including manager for total rewards, VHS director, total rewards and human resources compliance, and vice president, total rewards and HR operations. Read more [here](#).



**UVA Health** has been named to the *Forbes* [list of America's Best Employers for Women 2025](#). To create this eighth annual list, *Forbes* partnered with market research firm Statista to survey more than 140,000 women working at companies with at least 1,000 employees in the United States. Read more [here](#).

**Augusta Health, Ballard Health, Carilion Clinic, Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Inova, Mary Washington Healthcare, Riverside Health, Sentara Health, UVA Health, Valley Health, VCU Health, and VHC Health** have been named to the *Forbes* list of [America's Best-In-State Employers 2025](#).