



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE 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:

Virginia General Assembly Pivots to Work on State Budget Bills During Final Weeks of Session

- This week at the **Virginia General Assembly** began with what’s known as Budget Sunday when the legislature’s money committees each released their budget bills. After being advanced by the **House Appropriations Committee** and the **Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee**, the two bills are up for approval this week by their respective originating chambers – the **House of Delegates** and the **Virginia Senate**. Those bills are contrasting blueprints for state spending over a two-year period beginning July 1. Out of those two versions, one compromise bill will be negotiated before the session concludes. That process begins once each chamber approves its version. Then, the House and Senate each appoint a small team of negotiators known as budget conferees to create a unified budget bill. The reconciled budget bill, along with other legislation approved by both chambers, will then be sent to the Governor for consideration. In light of shifting federal policy and funding changes under budget reconciliation (H.R. 1 of 2025), many states may take on more fiscal responsibility for some safety net programs. Virginia’s budget proposals seek to address rising costs in healthcare, childcare, housing, and higher education, and include targeted investments to ease financial pressures on families, support workers, and maintain access to essential services. Highlights from the budget bills include several provisions of note for hospitals and health systems. The [House budget](#) has language to allow private hospitals with smaller teaching and training operations to qualify for increased indirect medical education (IME) funding. It also includes language requiring the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)** to carve out 340B pharmacy claims from Medicaid medical assistance programs with a goal of reducing Medicaid costs while preserving savings for uninsured patients. The [Senate budget](#) offers \$11 million for supplemental payments to fund graduate medical education (GME) residency slots and increase the amount for each slot to \$165,000. It also proposes \$5 million for the comprehensive psychiatric emergency program (CPEP) initiative and \$6 million for hospital discharge planning for behavioral health patients. The House bill includes additional financial support for remote patient monitoring of certain individuals with high-risk pregnancies, and for provider reimbursement for anonymous trace evidence kits for victims of strangulation. Both the House (\$79.1 million) and the Senate (\$200 million) propose funding for insurance premium support to help eligible Virginians purchase health coverage through the insurance marketplace now that the federal enhanced premium tax credits have expired. Several items in the budget bills related to healthcare workforce development programs, funding for psychiatric crisis program services, and reimbursement for patient examination services provided by forensic nurses are among the proposed budget amendments VHHA supports. Throughout the process, the **VHHA Government Affairs Team** continues to monitor and engage on proposed bills and budget legislation in support of hospitals and health systems.

VHHA Hosts 15th Annual Virginia Patient Safety Summit, Attracting 2,300-Plus Participants

- This week, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)**, the **VHHA Foundation**, and the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** hosted the annual Virginia Patient Safety Summit. “Safe Care Every Step of the Way: Advancing a Culture of Safety in Healthcare” was the event theme. This year’s event was the 15th Summit, whose origins date to 2011 when VHHA

successfully pursued legislation in the Virginia General Assembly recognizing each Feb. 2 as “Virginia Patient Safety Day.” The 2026 edition of the Summit attracted more than 2,300 registrants for the virtual event, which was presented in collaboration with the **Virginia Nurses Association** and the **Virginia Nurses Foundation**, the **Virginia Pharmacists Association**, the **Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists**, and the **Medical Society of Virginia**. It also coincides with the centennial anniversary of VHHA (1926-2026). Featured speakers at the Summit included keynote remarks from **RaDonda Vaught**, BSN, on the topic of “When Seconds Change Lives: Patient Safety and System Breakdowns;” physician leader, professor, and podcaster **Dr. Kedar S. Mate**, MD, on “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Patient Safety: Promise, Pitfalls and Path Forward;” and **Dr. Thomas H. Lee**, MD, MSc, Chief Medical Officer at Press Ganey and Editor-in-Chief of NEJM Catalyst, on “Building Trust and Social Capital in a Time of Turmoil.” Additional Summit speakers included Planning Committee Chair **Dr. John Harrington**, Vice President of Quality, Safety, and Clinical Integration with **Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters**; **Valley Health** President and CEO **Mark Nantz**, the Chair of the **VHHA Board of Directors**; **Virginia Health and Human Resources Secretary Marvin Figueroa**; and **Inova Fairfax Medical Campus** President **Dr. Steve Narang**, MD, the Chair of the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence Quality and Safety Advisory Council**. During the Summit, **Inova** Chief Nurse Executive **Maureen Sintich**, DNP, MBA, RN, WHNP-BC, NEA-BC, was recognized as the 2026 recipient of the Senior Leader Quality and Safety Award. Hospital team members who received 2025 Virginians Speak Up for Safety Awards from VHHA, as well those who are 2025-2026 VHHA IHI Open School Quality and Safety Scholars, were also acknowledged at the Summit. Read more [here](#).

VHHA Solutions Partners with Andor Health to Support Providers with Access to Agentic AI Tools

- **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) affiliate [VHHA Solutions](#) has entered into a new strategic partnership with [Andor Health](#)[®], a leader in agentic AI software infrastructure for healthcare. As part of this collaboration, ThinkAndor[®] has been selected as an endorsed platform to support care delivery transformation for hospitals and health systems across the Commonwealth as well as non-acute, senior living, and behavioral health settings. In working with Andor Health through VHHA Solutions, organizations can gain access to a single, unified AI software infrastructure to manage care delivery across the care continuum – from the digital front door and inpatient care to home-based monitoring and post-acute encounters – while ensuring equitable access to high-quality care for rural and underserved communities. Through this partnership, health systems can establish care management programs to align with **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) initiatives including the ACCESS Model as well as Rural Health Transformation Program projects. Andor Health’s agentic AI software infrastructure, ThinkAndor[®], is a turnkey solution for health systems to streamline chronic care programs. Read more [here](#).

Watch Recap Video of Virginia Hospital Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Richmond

- Highlights from the 2026 Virginia Hospital Lobby Day event hosted by VHHA at the State Capitol can be viewed in this [recap video](#). Virginia Hospital Lobby Day is an annual opportunity for representatives from Virginia hospitals and health systems to visit the **Virginia General Assembly** to engage in the public policy process as advocates and share firsthand experience about the healthcare delivery system. This year’s Lobby Day attracted visits from several legislators and representatives from multiple VHHA member health systems. View photos from

Hospital Lobby Day [here](#). Another recent VHHA [highlight video](#) recaps the Jan. 28 Centennial Celebration hosted in Richmond that featured **Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi**, General Assembly members, state officials, hospital and health system executives, and other stakeholders. This year, VHHA is celebrating its milestone 100th anniversary (1926-2026) with a series of events. The Association also debuted a new logo and colors that can be viewed [here](#). View a photo gallery of images from the Centennial Celebration event [here](#) and read more [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 the [Warren County Report](#), [WAVY](#), [Yahoo Finance](#), the [Associated Press](#), and [WVTF](#).

News Updates

Virginia 2026 Measles Case Count Grows as South Carolina Outbreak Continues, U.S. Cases Climb

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) has documented 10 confirmed [cases of measles](#) during the first two months of 2026, doubling the total count of such cases in 2025. The majority of this year's cases so far have been reported in Northern Virginia. The increase in cases during 2026 comes as South Carolina is dealing with a measles outbreak and states across the nation have dealt with elevated cases over the past year. Dating to last year, the current South Carolina measles outbreak sits at 979 confirmed cases as of Feb. 24, according to the **South Carolina Department of Public Health**, which [reports](#) that the majority of cases are concentrated in counties along its northern border. Meanwhile, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently [reported](#) that there have been 982 confirmed measles cases in the U.S. as of Feb. 19, with the majority of those documented in 26 jurisdictions. In 2025, 2,281 confirmed measles cases were reported in the U.S., the most in a year going back several decades.

AHA Seeks Nominations for Next Generation Leaders Fellowship Program

The **American Hospital Association** (AHA) is accepting [nominations](#) of candidates for the [AHA Next Generation Leaders Fellowship](#), a year-long program that pairs Fellows with executive-level mentors and culminates in a capstone project. Ideal candidates include high-potential healthcare leaders and emerging professionals ready to take a next career step as they advance to top leadership roles in the next five to 10 years. Select nominees may qualify for financial support through the [Richard J. Umbdenstock Next Generation Leadership Scholarship](#), which honors President Emeritus Rich Umbdenstock and his legacy of advancing healthcare leadership. The application deadline is March 31, 2026.

HRSA Requests Feedback on Potential 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program

The **Health Resources and Services Administration** (HRSA) under the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) recently [issued a request for information](#) (RFI) regarding a potential new 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program. March 19 is the deadline for interested parties to submit information responsive to an extensive list of questions posed by the agency. The RFI seeks to gather input regarding

“the potential use of rebates to effectuate the ceiling price under the 340B Program, including the standards and procedures that should govern the approval of manufacturer rebate plans and the impacts on all stakeholders.” This action follows a recent move by HHS to pull back on plans to implement a proposed 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program following a federal legal challenge and subsequent judicial decisions that did not favor the government’s position. The latest development is an indication HHS may not have fully abandoned pursuit of the rebate pilot program model.

VHWDVA Accepting Applications for Summer Student Leadership Program

Through April 3, the **Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority** (VHWDVA) is accepting applications for its Student Leadership Program, which is a two-week fellowship that exposes students to opportunities in healthcare leadership. During the program spanning June 1-June 12, participants will engage with “healthcare leaders and policymakers to gain a deeper understanding of the complex problems facing Virginia’s health professionals and the delivery of healthcare services.” Program activities cover a wide range of topics and include guest lectures, informative panels, group policy projects, local tours, and social mixers. It is on-site in Richmond. Free housing is provided as are several meals and group activities. Participating student fellows will receive a stipend of \$1,200 to cover additional expenses. Visit this [link](#) to learn more and apply.

CMS Proposes Updating Regulations on ACA Health Insurance Plan Offerings

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently [announced](#) proposed regulations to rescind certain limitations on the type of health insurance plans that can be offered through Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces. The regulations would withdraw previous restrictions on plan types and allow insurers to offer short-term catastrophic plans as well as low-deductible plans with higher maximum out-of-pocket limits, among other changes to plan design rules. A fact sheet about the Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters proposal for plan year 2027 can be read [here](#).

Events

Join March 12 Webinar on CMS ACCESS Model Presented by VHHA Solutions Partner ChartSpan

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) is currently [accepting applications](#) for the ACCESS (Advancing Chronic Care with Effective, Scalable Solutions) Model. This new voluntary program is designed to expand access to technology-supported care for Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions. This new program model has inspired questions. To support healthcare officials, **VHHA Solutions** endorsed partner **ChartSpan** is hosting a free webinar whose content will address common questions about care management models. Webinar topics will include information about the ACCESS Model, how it differs from other Medicare programs such as chronic care management (CCM) and advance primary care management (APCM), compliance requirements for each program, financial assessments for the various models, and more. The webinar is scheduled for March 12 at noon ET. Register [here](#).

Register for Virginia Medical-Legal Partnership Coalition Kickoff Webinar on March 25

VCU Health is inviting interested individuals to attend an inaugural webinar launching Virginia’s first statewide Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Coalition. MLPs integrate civil legal services into healthcare

settings to address health-harming legal needs – from unsafe housing and benefit denials to family instability and employment issues. MLPs improve patient health, reduce healthcare costs, and advance patient health and well-being. [VCU Health](#) has embraced this model and is helping to build a statewide movement to expand MLPs across the Commonwealth. The webinar is ideal for organizations with an MLP, those that are exploring the model, or just learning about it. The webinar is scheduled for March 25 at 1 p.m. ET. Visit this [link](#) to register. Questions may be directed to mlp@vcuhealth.org.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Prince William Medical Center Cardiologist

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Ara Maranian**, an interventional cardiologist at **UVA Health Prince William Medical Center** in Manassas. He joins us for a conversation about his work, heart health, cardiac catheterization and STEMI, 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 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



Dr. Reid Adams, MD, who has served as Chief Medical Officer at **UVA Health University Medical Center** since April 2020, has been named the inaugural Chief Medical Officer for **UVA Health**. In that role, Adams will serve as the senior physician for the entire health system, which includes four hospitals across Charlottesville, Culpeper, and Northern Virginia, along with a statewide network of outpatient clinics. Dr. Adams will begin his new role March 1. He earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from UVA, completed a surgical residency at University Medical Center, and completed his fellowship training in hepatobiliary, pancreatic, and transplant surgery at the University of Toronto before joining the **UVA School of Medicine** faculty in 1995. His national leadership roles have included serving as president of the Society for Clinical Surgery and the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Read more [here](#).

Kristie Finney has been named President of **Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital** (RSMH) after serving as the hospital's interim president since November. Finney is a lifelong Onancock resident and longtime leader RSMH. She previously served as Senior Director of Quality and Laboratory Services, where she played a pivotal role in driving measurable improvements in patient safety, care coordination, and overall hospital performance. Read more [here](#).

