



# 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:

### General Assembly Evaluates Healthcare Non-Compete Contract Legislation

- Legislation to prohibit non-compete contracts that apply to healthcare professionals is being considered in the **Virginia General Assembly**. One measure, [Senate Bill 128](#), focused on that subject has been reported out of the **Senate Commerce and Labor Committee** and is advancing in the **Virginia Senate**. The bill is prospective and thus would not apply to non-compete contracts that were agreed to prior to July 1, 2026. Similar legislation ([House Bill 627](#)) is being evaluated in the **House of Delegates**. Legislation ([House Bill 606](#)) to update state law related to medical facility reporting on the value of charity care was broadly approved by the full House of Delegates this week. An amended version of legislation ([Senate Bill 812](#)) that seeks to provide a funding stream for reimbursing providers such as hospitals for conducting forensic examinations on sexual assault survivors has been approved by the **Senate Courts of Justice Committee** and sent to the **Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee** for further evaluation because it has a projected fiscal impact. The VHHA-supported bill also calls for the convening of a stakeholder work group to study the issue and produce a report later this year with recommendations related to the reimbursement process for forensic medical examinations. [Similar legislation](#) has been filed in the House and is awaiting committee consideration. Those measures are among thousands of proposed bills filed for consideration during this year's 60-day session. Throughout the process, the **VHHA Government Affairs Team** is tracking and working on an array of proposed bills and budget amendments in support of hospitals and health systems. Considerable legislative activity is anticipated at the State Capitol over the next few weeks as the legislature approaches its "crossover day," which is the annual deadline on the calendar when bills must clear their originating legislative chamber in order to remain active in the process for the year. This year, crossover day is Feb. 17.

### VHHA Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Unveils New Organizational Logo

- This year, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with several events throughout the year to commemorate a century of service in support of hospitals and public health. That includes a recent event that featured **Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi**, **Virginia General Assembly** members, state officials, hospital and health system executives, and other stakeholders. View a photo gallery of images from the Centennial Celebration event [here](#). During the event, VHHA also unveiled its new logo and organizational colors – the mark incorporates a stylized design of Virginia, the VHHA acronym, and a color palette of blues commonly associated with hospitals. This updated imagery reflects the purpose and direction of the Association. It honors history while embracing a modern, forward-looking vision. The symbolic move of debuting a new logo helps mark the Association's transition into a new century of service, advocacy, and partnership with hospitals and health systems across the Commonwealth in pursuit of a shared goal to make Virginia the

healthiest state in the nation. View the new VHHA logo [here](#). The Virginia Hospital Association was established in 1926 by 13 hospital leaders with a common purpose “to promote the welfare of the people through the development of hospital and outpatient service.” VHHA continues that legacy today by working with 26 health systems representing 117 acute care, children’s, psychiatric, long-term care, rehabilitation, and specialty hospitals that provide essential medical care 24/7/365 to patients and families across Virginia. Read more [here](#).

## **VHHA Report Shows Hospitals Provide \$4.5 Billion in Community Benefit, Have a \$68.8 Billion Economic Impact**

- Virginia hospitals and health systems provided \$4.5 billion in community support to the Commonwealth in 2024 and generated \$68.8 billion in positive economic impact across the state, according to the recently released [2026 Annual Report on Community Benefit](#) from VHHA. Across Virginia, hospitals and health systems provide essential health services and medical treatment to patients and families in need 24/7/365. Their teams of doctors, nurses, technicians, caregivers, and support staff answer the call by prioritizing patient well-being and focusing on sustaining and restoring quality of life through necessary medical interventions. Hospitals provide community support in many ways including \$1.2 billion in government payment shortfalls due to the difference between Medicare reimbursements and the actual cost of care. Hospitals provide \$457 million in charity care, which includes the cost of free and discounted care to serve individuals who cannot afford to pay for care. And acute care Virginia hospitals provided \$650 million to cover the state share of Medicaid expansion costs in 2024, which enabled hundreds of thousands of Virginians to gain health care coverage. In 2024, Virginia hospitals accommodated 4.45 million patient days, accepted more than 813,000 inpatient admissions, and handled 91.6 percent of all voluntary and involuntary behavioral health admissions. View VHHA’s interactive Community Benefit tool [here](#) and read the full report through this [link](#). Read more [here](#).

## **News Updates**

### **Congress Brokers a Funding Deal to End the Partial Government Shutdown**

This week, the **U.S. Congress** approved a \$1.2 trillion funding package to end a partial government shutdown that began last Saturday when an extension deal wasn’t reached by Jan. 30. The approved legislative package includes funding for many federal government agencies for the remainder of the fiscal year. The package only extends funding for the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** until Feb. 13, leaving lawmakers with an approaching deadline to negotiate a deal. DHS oversees agencies including the **U.S. Secret Service**, the **U.S. Coast Guard**, the **Transportation Safety Administration**, the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency**, and the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**, among others. Their operations could be impacted if a deal to extend funding isn’t achieved. **U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** and **U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CPB)** also fall under DHS authority. Controversy over recent immigration enforcement actions by those agencies has been in the spotlight, though a significant tranche of ICE funding was allocated last year under the budget reconciliation package. The previous Jan. 30 deadline was established last year when **Congress** and the **White House** reached a November deal on a continuing resolution to end a five-week government shutdown that began Oct. 1. Healthcare policy was a sticking point in deliberations during that shutdown, with some Democrats insisting on revisiting Medicaid policy and funding changes made in the

One Big Beautiful Bill Act budget reconciliation package last year as well as action to extend expiring enhanced premium tax credits to help individuals purchase ACA marketplace insurance plans. Those policy questions were not directly addressed in the short-term funding measure approved to end the shutdown.

### **Organizations Appeal for Blood Donations Amid Supply Shortages**

Several leading blood donation and storage organizations are asking the public to make appointments to donate blood amid a national supply shortage. A [joint statement](#) to that effect has been issued by the **Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB)**, **America's Blood Centers**, and the **American Red Cross**. Blood donations help save lives. Visit [AABB](#), [America's Blood Centers](#), or the [American Red Cross](#) online to schedule an appointment to donate.

### **CMS Proposed Rule Would Revise Conditions of Coverage for Organ Procurement Organizations**

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is accepting public comments through March 31 on a [proposed rule](#) to revise Conditions for Coverage for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) to clarify outstanding procedural questions and enable OPOs to make better informed decisions to achieve high performance resulting in the successful procurement, distribution, and transplantation of more life-saving organs.

### **HHS Announces Behavioral Health Program for Homeless in Alignment with White House Directive**

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has [announced](#) a \$100 million investment to establish the Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-based Treatment and Supports (STREETS) Initiative focused on targeted outreach, psychiatric care, medical stabilization, and crisis intervention for homeless individuals experiencing addiction to promote long-term recovery and independence. That announcement follows a recent [executive order](#) issued by **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** focused on combating substance use disorder and supporting addiction recovery.

### **KFF Survey: Public Ranks Health Insurance Prior Authorization Before Care as Top System 'Burden'**

A recent [public opinion survey from KFF](#) shows that the public cites health insurance company "prior authorization review" before accessing medical tests, procedures, and medication as their top concern regarding the healthcare delivery system, with 34 percent of people calling it the "single biggest burden" to receiving health services. Read more [here](#). Another recent [KFF analysis](#) found that Medicare Advantage insurers made nearly 53 million prior authorization determinations in 2024.

### **WHO: India Confirms Two Cases of Highly Fatal Nipah Virus**

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recently [shared](#) that two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus have been documented in the West Bengal state of India. The two cases involve healthcare workers at a private hospital. The WHO notes that Nipah virus is a serious but rare zoonotic disease transmitted to humans through infected animals (such as bats), or food contaminated with saliva, urine, and excreta of infected animals. It can also be transmitted directly from person to person through close contact with an infected person. There is no current vaccine for the virus, which can cause symptoms including acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis in individuals who contract the disease. Other symptoms may include fever, headaches, myalgia (muscle pain), vomiting and sore throat, dizziness,

drowsiness, altered consciousness, and neurological signs that indicate acute encephalitis. Encephalitis and seizures occur in severe cases, progressing to coma within 24 to 48 hours. The case fatality rate in previous Nipah virus outbreaks in several Asian nations has ranged from 40-75 percent.

### **CMS Offers Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization Program Opportunity**

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** offers healthcare organizations a no-cost opportunity to enhance care quality for Medicare beneficiaries through the **CMS Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO)** program. QIN-QIO is the nation's largest federal healthcare quality improvement initiative that partners with thousands of hospitals, nursing homes, physician practices, and patient advocates to improve care quality, patient safety, and health outcomes. Program participants receive direct technical assistance and advanced data analytics, tailored, evidence-based intervention recommendations, customized training, and access to quality improvement tools. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

### **DBHDS, VDH Urge Virginians to Care for their Mental Health During the Winter**

With winter weather impacting travel and mobility in ways that can lead to isolation and loneliness, the **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)** and the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** this week offered guidance to the public on being mindful of mental health and wellness. In a joint statement, the agencies noted that shorter days and cold temperatures can reduce "opportunities for outdoor activities" which "can lead to feelings of isolation and seasonal depression." That statement advises that people "experiencing thoughts of suicide, mental distress, substance use disorder, or need emotional support" can call or text [988](#), which is a free, three-digit calling code for mental health crisis in Virginia. People who access this service can receive immediate help from a trained crisis worker 24/7. Read more [here](#).

### **Governor Spanberger Names DMAS and DHP Directors, DARS Commissioner**

**Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** has tapped **Steve Ford** as Director of the state **Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)**, **David Brown** as Director of the state **Department of Health Professions (DHP)**, and **Nedra Moncrief-Craig** as Commissioner of the state **Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)**. Brown previously served as DHP Director from 2014-2022. DHP has oversight of the licensure for trained health professionals as well as several state health regulatory boards. In past roles, he worked for former **Virginia Delegate David Toscano** and served on **Charlottesville City Council**. Ford, who has been named to oversee the Commonwealth's Medicaid program, most recently served as Senior Vice President of Policy and Reimbursement with the **Virginia Health Care Association-Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)**. Past roles include posts with DMAS, VHHA, and **Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)**. The work of DARS is focused on the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. Moncrief-Craig is an experienced behavioral health leader who most recently served as System Director of Behavioral Health for **Sentara Health**. Her past roles include work with the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

## **Events**

**Register for the 2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit on February 26**

Register now for the **2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit**, which will be held as a free virtual event on Feb. 26, 2026. The Summit will highlight innovative work in Virginia and across the nation to advance a culture of safety and continuous improvement in healthcare with a focus on how shared values and behaviors can minimize errors, improve outcomes, and enhance the overall quality and experience of care. Beginning in 2026, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** will require all U.S. hospitals participating in Medicare or Medicaid to attest to patient safety structural measures that assess strategies to strengthen systems for safety, including leadership commitment to eliminating preventable harm, supporting a culture of safety and learning in health systems, accountability and transparency, and patient and family engagement. Register through this [link](#). The **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** is hosting this event in partnership with the **Virginia Nurses Association** and the **Virginia Nurses Foundation**, the **Medical Society of Virginia**, the **Virginia Pharmacists Association**, and the **Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists**.

## Podcast

### VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features HCA Virginia Breast Surgeon, Physician Leader

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Ruth Felsen**, Medical Director of Breast Surgery at **CJW Medical Center**. In recognition of World Cancer Day, she joins us for a conversation about the breast cancer continuum of care from risk assessment and screening through diagnosis, treatment planning, and prevention strategies. 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



Conley



Lundy



Rhodes-Vivour



Walker

Leaders from **Sentara Health** and **VHC Health** have been named recipients of the [Virginia Black Business Leaders Award for 2026](#) by *Virginia Business* magazine. Award recipients include Sentara Executive Vice President of Acute and Post-Acute Care [Eric Conley](#) (a **VHHA Board of Directors** member), Sentara Vice President of Health Impact and Engagement [Iris Lundy](#), and VHC Health Associate Vice President for Acute Care Nursing [Sarita Rhodes-Vivour](#). VHHA Vice President of Communications [Julian Walker](#) was also named an awardee.



**Ashley Quick**, PMP, CSM, has been named Senior Director of Carilion Direct and Central Ambulatory Operations at **Carilion Clinic**. She previously served as Interim Senior Director for Carilion Direct Ambulatory Governance. Quick has also served in positions at Carilion Clinic including Senior Project Consultant, Senior Operations Analyst, Clinic Manager, and Practice Support Consultant. She earned her bachelor's degree in finance at Radford University.

The **American Hospital Association (AHA)** Committee on Behavioral Health has named **Dr. Robert L. Trestman**, PhD, MD, as an AHA Board Liaison. Dr. Trestman is the Chair of Psychiatry at **Carilion Clinic**. The committee advises the AHA on policy and advocacy and provides a forum for strategic discussion of issues important to behavioral health providers and the field. Read more [here](#).



*Madsen*



*Williams*

**Greg Madsen**, President of **Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital**, and **Kristie Williams**, MSN, RN, President of **Carilion Giles Community Hospital**, have been named to the [list](#) of 103 critical access hospital presidents and CEOs to know by *Becker's Hospital Review*.

**Mandy Sinclair** has joined the **VCU Health** Human Resources Team as Associate Vice President of Employee Relations. Sinclair brings more than 20 years of human resources leadership experience to her new role. In her most recent role, Sinclair served as senior director of employee relations for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Prior to Memorial Sloan Kettering, she served as human resources director for ICF International, and human resources generalist and compensation specialist for Media General. She earned her bachelor of science degree in human resource management at Virginia Commonwealth University. Read more [here](#).

