



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE 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.

FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [Governor Spanberger Appoints Several Health and Human Resources Agency Officials](#)
- [CMS Issues Hospital Inpatient, Long-Term Care PPS Proposed Rules](#)
- [VDH, VHHA Announce the Release of Virginia's Plan for Well-Being](#)
- [VHHA to Host May 4 Webinar Providing General Assembly Legislative and Budget Update](#)

[Events](#)

- [Register for the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 22 in Richmond](#)
- [Register for the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, a Virtual Event on May 19](#)
- [Register for VASHRM Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond](#)
- [Register for IHI Open School Quality & Patient Safety Certificate Program](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features Life Saving Bon Secours Nurse Leader](#)

[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 systems. In the past week, these are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

VHHA Elects Officers for 2026-2027 Term on Board of Directors, Hosts Event for New Hospital Leaders

- During its annual Spring Meeting this week, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) **Board of Directors** unanimously elected three distinguished hospital leaders to serve as Board officers for the 2026-2027 term, which overlaps with the 100th anniversary of VHHA. **HCA Healthcare Capital Division** President [Dr. William Lunn](#) is the new Board Chair, **Riverside Health** President and CEO [Dr. Michael J. "Mike" Dacey](#) is the new Board Vice Chair, and **Bon Secours Mercy Health** State President of Virginia [Michael "Mike" Lutes](#) is the new Board Secretary-Treasurer. The VHHA Board of Directors features hospital and health system leaders from across the Commonwealth. Other Board officers include **Valley Health** President and CEO **Mark Nantz** as the Immediate Past Chair and VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton**. VHHA Board officers are elected to 12-month terms. In addition to the Board officers, VHHA's Executive Committee includes **Sentara Health** Executive Vice President for Acute and Post-Acute Care [Eric Conley](#), **Inova Fairfax Medical Campus** President and Inova Pediatric Service Line President [Dr. Steve Narang](#), and **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters** President and CEO [Amy Sampson](#). Also this week, VHHA hosted its annual New Hospital Executive Orientation session for hospital leaders as well as a **Member Appreciation Centennial Celebration** that featured **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger**. Read more [here](#) and view photos through this [link](#).

VHHA Invites Hospital Staff to Free Documentary Screenings Honoring Hospitals and Patients

- In celebration and recognition of hospitals and their teams, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) is inviting hospital leaders and staff to join us as guests at a series of free screenings of a new documentary being premiered around the Commonwealth in May. *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* is a new documentary produced by VHHA that highlights the positive economic and public health impact of hospitals, their evolving work, and their history in Virginia as told through the stories of Virginia patients and providers. VHHA is hosting the free regional screenings in recognition of **National Hospital Week** and the Association's 100th anniversary. VHHA encourages hospital leaders, team members, and community partners to attend one of the screenings in their home region. Documentary showings will be held on Monday, May 11 at The Millwald Theatre in Wytheville (Southwest Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); Tuesday, May 12 at The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen (Central Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); Wednesday, May 13 at the Alamo Drafthouse Woodbridge (Northern Virginia, RSVP [here](#)); Thursday, May 14 at the Woodstock Community Theater (Shenandoah Valley, RSVP [here](#)); Friday, May 15 at The American Theatre in Hampton (Hampton Roads, RSVP [here](#)); and Monday, May 18 at The Grandin Theatre in Roanoke (RSVP [here](#)). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for all showings with screenings at 6:30 p.m. It is free to attend the screenings and refreshments will be provided. Guests are strongly encouraged to RSVP. Visit this [link](#) for more details.

VHHA Hosts Meeting of Payor Advisory Committee

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Payor Advisory Committee**. The Committee is a forum for hospital payor relations and revenue cycle leaders to discuss priority issues and ongoing

payor-related challenges. Contact **Carrie Monger** at cmonger@vhha.com to inquire about the committee.

VHHA Hosts Meetings of the Hospital Physician and Nurse Leaders

- This week, VHHA hosted a pair of virtual meetings with Chief Nursing Officers and Nurse Leaders and with Chief Medical Officers and Physician Leaders to provide them with a recap of healthcare-related legislative developments from the **Virginia General Assembly** this year. Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions about these groups.

VHEMP, VHHA Host Pediatric Pandemic Network Virtual Exercise

- This week, a virtual table-top exercise was held as part of the Pediatric Pandemic Network series in which the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** is participating. The exercise was facilitated by the **VHHA Emergency Preparedness Department**. It focused on the scenario for a response to an infectious disease surge that involves pre-hospital, hospital, and interagency partners.

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 [Cardinal News](#) and the [Staunton News Leader](#).

News Updates

Governor Spanberger Appoints Several Health and Human Resources Agency Officials

This week, **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** announced key appointments to several state agencies related to public health and human services. They include **Eric Raff** as Director of the **Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, **Kristin Zagar** as Chief Deputy Commissioner for the **Virginia Department of Social Services**, and **Matthew Ahern** as Chief Operating Officer for the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**.

CMS Issues Hospital Inpatient, Long-Term Care PPS Proposed Rule

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued [proposed rules](#) pertaining to Medicare rates for hospital inpatient prospective payment systems (IPPS) for acute care hospitals and long-term care hospitals, among other policy changes. The IPPS proposal calls for a net 2.4 percent increase in Medicare IPPS for fiscal year 2027, compared with FY 2026, for hospitals that use electronic health records and submit quality measure data. That update reflects a 3.2 percent hospital market basket increase and a productivity cut of 0.8 percent. The agency also recently issued a [proposed rule](#) to establish electronic standards for drug prior authorizations. CMS also recently issued proposed rules that would update Medicare payment policies and rates for [inpatient psychiatric facilities \(IPF\)](#), [inpatient rehabilitation facilities \(IRF\)](#), and [skilled nursing facilities \(SNF\)](#) under the prospective payment system (PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2027. The agency also issued proposed rules to [update Medicare hospice](#)

[payments](#) and the aggregate cap amount for FY 2027, and to implement new [hospice oversight and transparency standards](#).

VDH, VHHA Announce the Release of Virginia’s Plan for Well-Being

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) and the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) [recently announced](#) the release of the next State Health Improvement Plan, also known as the [Virginia Plan for Well-Being](#) (VPfWB). The plan is part of the **Partnering for a Healthy Virginia Collaborative** (PHV) and serves as a comprehensive data and community-driven roadmap to improve health outcomes, advance equity, and ensure that Virginians live in conditions that allow them to thrive. This second version of the VPfWB builds on best-practice models across states. The 2025–2029 VPfWB focuses on six key priority areas identified through statewide data assessment and community input: infant mortality, firearm-related deaths, obesity, mental health, drug overdose and substance use disorder, and housing, transportation, and economic stability.

VHHA to Host May 4 Webinar Providing General Assembly Legislative and Budget Update

Virginia hospital leaders are invited to join a webinar hosted by the **VHHA Government Relations Team** on May 4 at noon to provide a recap of legislative developments from the 2026 **Virginia General Assembly** that hospitals and health systems need to know. This presentation will offer comprehensive analysis of significant legislative and budgetary changes impacting hospitals and health systems across the Commonwealth. It will also feature a preview of the upcoming election cycle as well as Virginia’s evolving political landscape and how those developments may shape future healthcare policy. Visit this [link](#) to register for the webinar.

Events

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 22 in Richmond

Register now for the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit**, which is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at The Westin-Richmond. “The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with Emerging Global Threats” is the theme for the Summit being hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) and the **VHHA Foundation**. Summit programming will feature local, state, and national speakers sharing insights on topics related to strengthening the Commonwealth’s preparedness for threats to the healthcare delivery system including cyber-attacks, outpatient center safety and preparedness, continuing operations during a water interruption, department level business continuity, tracking costs during disasters, and supply chain management during disasters. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, a Virtual Event on May 19

Register for the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit**, which is scheduled to be held May 19 as a virtual event. “Reimagining the Healthcare Workforce: Innovation, Engagement, and the Future of Work” is the theme of this year’s Summit, which will explore innovative strategies for hospitals to adapt their practices, focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting team members in a rapidly changing workplace. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for VASHRM Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** is hosting its 2026 Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond. “Risk at the Crossroads: Navigating a Changing Healthcare Landscape” is the theme for the conference whose agenda includes a legislative update, clinical event debriefing and analysis, AI in clinical risk, service animals in healthcare settings, standardizing documentation of workplace violence risk, litigation risks, defense against malpractice claims, and more. Register through this [link](#).

Register for IHI Open School Quality & Patient Safety Certificate Program

The **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** is again offering hospital team members the opportunity to participate in the **Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety**. Through the online learning modules available, program participants have one year to complete 13 core courses (from a menu of more than 30) to earn a Basic Quality & Safety Certificate. Those courses take an estimated 13-22 hours to complete, and 17.75 continuing education credits are available for the 13 courses. The [courses](#) offer a dynamic learning environment for healthcare professionals of all levels. IHI is an independent not-for-profit organization and a leading innovator, convener, partner, and driver of results in health and healthcare improvement worldwide. Its online courses are created by world-renowned faculty in quality improvement, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person- and family-centered care, and leadership. Content is delivered through narrative, video, and interactive discussion. Access to courses will be available from June 1, 2026-May 30, 2027. Healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, hospital managers, quality, safety, risk management, patient experience, and population health staff and leaders are encouraged to apply for the program. The cost is \$199 to participate or \$399 without the VHHA group rate. The VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence will host a May 14 informational webinar about the IHI Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety program for 2026-2027. Register for the webinar [here](#). Please contact **Rachel Pryor** with questions at rpryor@vhha.com.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Life Saving Bon Secours Nurse Leader

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Alyssa Leimberger**, Magnet Program and Nursing Professional Practice Manager at **Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital**. She joins us for a conversation about her background, the importance of CPR, a holiday miracle when she helped to save a life, 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](#), [Podcast Health](#), and the [World Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air Sundays at 10 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



Sentara Health has named two new members to its Board of Directors, **Dr. Nancy Baganoff** and **Thomas Hasty III**.

Baganoff is a certified public accountant and academic leader with extensive experience in education, accounting information systems, and public service. She earned her doctorate in accounting from The George Washington University. She has served as dean of the business schools at

the University of Richmond and Old Dominion University and taught at American University and Miami University. She is currently a professor at the University of Richmond. Hasty is a founding member of TowneBank, as well as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Risk Officer. He has more than 25 years of leadership in banking and financial services and is recognized for his regulatory compliance expertise. He previously held executive roles at BB&T. He obtained a bachelor of science degree from Hampton University. Read more [here](#).



HCA Healthcare recently announced that **Dr. Jennifer Bocker**, MD, MBA, FACS, will serve as Division Chief Medical Officer for its Capital Division, effective May 1. Dr. Bocker is an experienced physician executive, currently serving as Associate Chief Medical Officer for the HCA Healthcare North Texas Division. Dr. Bocker joined HCA Healthcare in 2022 as chief medical officer of HCA Florida Sarasota Doctors' Hospital. A board-certified general surgeon, Dr. Bocker is specialty trained in Level I trauma surgery and head and neck surgical oncology. She earned her medical

degree from Northwestern University School of Medicine, completed her general surgery residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center, and completed fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She also holds a master of business administration degree in healthcare administration from the University of Colorado. Read more [here](#).

Theresa Sievers, MS, RN, Senior Vice President of Quality at **Riverside Health**, has successfully completed the **Baldrige Executive Fellows Program**. This highly selective, national program brings together senior executives from across industries to study the highest-performing organizations in the country and apply those insights to advance strategy, leadership, and results. Sievers joined Riverside Health in December 2018 as Senior Vice President of Quality. She holds a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree from Boston University, as well as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate from Simmons College.



Eddie Thomas, a longtime **Lee County Community Hospital** facility member and one of the longest-tenured team members with **Ballad Health**, has been honored by the Virginia General Assembly for 50 years of service to public health and the Southwest Virginia community. Thomas was recognized with a formal resolution passed by the **Virginia House of Delegates** and the **Virginia Senate** that was introduced by **Sen. Todd Pillion** and **Del. Terry Kilgore**. The resolution commends Thomas for his decades of commitment, leadership and impact. The recognition comes as Thomas recently retired from the hospital following a career that began in 1975 at what was then Lee Regional Medical Center. Read more [here](#).