



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

Register for Free Healthcare Cybersecurity & Extended Downtime Summit May 28 in Newport News

- Register now for the **Healthcare Cybersecurity & Extended Downtime Summit**, a free in-person event being held at the Newport News Marriott at City Center on Thursday, May 28 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Summit presented by VHHA features expert speakers who will address the evolving cyber threat landscape in healthcare, highlight vulnerabilities in medical devices, and share lessons learned from a recent cyberattack on a Tennessee children's hospital. The program also includes guidance on conducting a functional exercise to test extended downtime plans, along with practical strategies for strengthening personal cyber hygiene that can be applied at home and in the workplace. Visit this [link](#) to register.

VHHA Hosts Annual Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit as a Virtual Event

- This week, VHHA hosted the **2026 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit** on May 19 as a virtual event. "Reimagining the Healthcare Workforce: Innovation, Engagement, and the Future of Work" was the theme of this year's Summit, which explored innovative strategies for hospitals to adapt their practices, focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting team members in a rapidly changing workplace. Up to 5.5 hours of continuing education credits were available to participating physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and towards **American College of Healthcare Executives** certification for the more than 600 professionals who registered for this annual event.

VHHA Concludes Statewide Healthcare Appreciation Tour to Premiere Short Film on Hospital History

- In celebration and recognition of hospitals and their teams, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) recently hosted a series of events in theaters around Virginia from May 11-18 to show a short film produced in honor of **National Nurses Week, National Hospital Week**, and the Association's [100th anniversary](#). The documentary – *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* – 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. This month, free screenings were hosted in Wytheville, Glen Allen, Woodbridge, Woodstock, Hampton, and Roanoke. VHHA hosted free regional screenings with refreshments to show appreciation for healthcare professionals around the Commonwealth. Read more about the project [here](#). View a documentary trailer [here](#), an accompanying program [here](#), and photos

from the premiere events through this [link](#). The full documentary will soon be available on the VHHA website and YouTube channel.

VHHA Hosts Meeting of Healthcare Safety & Security Workgroup

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Healthcare Safety & Security Workgroup**. The workgroup includes hospital safety and security leaders focused on sharing experiences, ideas, and best practices regarding current and future safety, security, violence prevention, and response activities in Virginia hospitals and health systems. Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions about the group.

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 Updates Interactive Virginia Hospital Location Map on Website

- The **VHHA Data Analytics Team** recently published an updated version of the interactive Virginia hospital map tool on the VHHA website. The tool provides summary information about Virginia hospitals and VHHA member organizations throughout the Commonwealth. Access the interactive map [here](#).

News Updates

Governor Spanberger Vetoes Bills on Prescription Drugs, Cannabis Sales, Menopause Protections

This week, **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** issued a series of [legislative vetoes](#), including actions to reject bills pertaining to prescription drug pricing, retail cannabis sales, and legal protection related to menopause and perimenopause. The Governor vetoed [House Bill 483](#) and [Senate Bill 271](#) to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Panel that would conduct data analyses, develop policy recommendations, and identify barriers to strategies to improve prescription drug affordability, enhance price transparency, and strengthen data collection practices. In explaining the decision, the Governor noted that “evidence from other states clearly show that Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDABs) do not achieve this goal” and “are expensive undertakings that other states have either repealed or are considering repealing due to costs and ineffectiveness.” The Governor vetoed the bills after previously offering legislative amendments that the **Virginia General Assembly** rejected. Governor Spanberger also vetoed [House Bill 642](#) and [Senate Bill 542](#) to establish a retail marketplace for cannabis products after the legislature declined to consider a modified version of the bills she proposed. In a statement about the vetoes, the Governor said that Virginia must “incorporate lessons learned by other states and ensure that our regulatory framework is fully prepared to provide strong oversight” of a legal retail market for cannabis,” adding that she is “committed to working with members of the General Assembly, stakeholders, and law enforcement to get this right” heading into next year’s legislative session. The Governor vetoed [House Bill 1173](#) and [Senate Bill 258](#) to add menopause and perimenopause as conditions protected against discrimination under the Virginia Human Rights Act. In a veto explanation,

the Governor stated that existing law already provides protection against workplace discrimination for those conditions, adding that the legislature rejected her amendments to require further study to better understand the implications of the proposed changes. And the Governor vetoed [House Bill 449](#) and [Senate Bill 229](#) to create new processes for class action lawsuits in the Commonwealth after the legislature rejected proposed gubernatorial amendments to those bills. The Governor signed [Senate Bill 199](#) and [House Bill 5](#) to extend paid sick leave to more Virginia workers. The legislation requires employers to provide workers with one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked – up to five paid sick days per year – for full-time and part-time employees.

CMS Issues Proposed Rule on Changes to Medicaid Managed Care State Directed Payments

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [proposed rule](#) that would modify Medicaid state-directed payment policies and establish new requirements for certain fee-for-service supplemental payments. The proposed rule follows the 2025 passage of H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation legislation that changed Medicaid funding and policy. The proposed rule would extend limits on total payment rates for all state directed payments across service categories and facilities. It would generally link payment levels to Medicare rates and phase out certain payment categories over time. Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for 30 days. Read more [here](#).

White House Announces Trump Rx Expansion to Include More Generic Medications

This week, the **White House** and **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** [announced](#) an expansion of the [TrumpRx.gov](#) platform to provide more price transparency and choice on generic medications that millions of Americans use each day. The site now features more than 600 generic medications and provides users with information to help understand the most competitive cash prices of medications without insurance middlemen as a way to compare against co-pays offered by insurance companies. Through tools provided by the portal, patients can compare the best cash prices available at local pharmacies and through delivery options offered by various private pharmacy programs. Generic drugs and prices will be listed separately from the discounts on high-cost branded medications negotiated under the Administration's Most-Favored-Nation drug price agreements.

CMS Issues Final Rule on 2027 Health Insurance Marketplace Standards

This week, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) issued a [final rule](#) establishing standards for health insurance marketplaces, including the issuers and brokers who support marketplace enrollees. The final rule allows for the certification of non-network health plans as qualified health plans in plan year 2027 for state-based marketplaces and plan year 2028 for the federally facilitated marketplace. The final rule also expands access to catastrophic health plans and repeals standardized plan options. Read more [here](#). In a related development, a recent [KFF analysis](#) projects that “average monthly effectuated ACA Marketplace enrollment could fall to about 17.5 million people in 2026 and could be as low as 16.5 million people, down from 22.3 million people in 2025.” This development follows the 2025 expiration of the enhanced premium tax credit subsidies that helped eligible Americans defray the cost of purchasing coverage.

CMS Directs Hospital Labs to Report Data by July 31

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently advised independent laboratories, physician office laboratories, and hospital outreach laboratories that meet the definition of an

applicable laboratory under the [clinical laboratory fee schedule](#) that they must report data by July 31 based on an updated data collection period of Jan. 1-June 30, 2025. This includes applicable HCPCS codes, associated private payor rates, and volume data. Read more [here](#).

Virginia Among the States Suing Federal DOE Over Healthcare Student Loan Rules

Virginia is [among](#) a group of 25 states and the District of Columbia that are pursuing [litigation](#) against the **U.S. Department of Education** (DOE) to challenge a new [federal rule](#) that limits the student loan borrowing amount for people seeking certain degrees, including healthcare roles such as nursing, physician assistants, physical therapy, social work, and other health professions. Under the rule, borrowers in the “professional student” category that includes certain designated professional degree programs (pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, theology, and clinical psychology) would be eligible for up to \$50,000 in federal loans annually, with a \$200,000 aggregate limit. Borrowers defined as a “graduate student” under the rule would be capped at \$20,500 in federal student loans annually, with a \$100,000 aggregate limit. The lower borrowing limit would apply to degree programs for nursing, physician assistants, physical therapy, social work, and other health professions. The final rule comes as a result of H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation legislation of 2025 that among other things reduced funding for federal student loans. The new rule takes effect on July 1.

VDH Pairs with Virginia Hepatitis Coalition on Public Awareness Effort

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) recently [announced](#) it has joined with the [Virginia Hepatitis Coalition \(VHC\)](#) to highlight hepatitis and the danger it poses to the public during May, which is Hepatitis Awareness Month. Hepatitis is an infection of the liver that when left untreated can cause serious health complications including liver cancer and even death. The most common types of the disease are hepatitis A, B, and C. In 2024, Virginia had [more than 1,500 new cases of hepatitis B](#). A vaccine is available as protection against hepatitis A and B. There were also more than [4,000 new hepatitis C cases](#) in 2024. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

During Mental Health Awareness Month, VDH Launches ‘Beyond the Blues’ Campaign

May is [Mental Health Awareness Month](#). In honor of Maternal Mental Health Month, the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH), in partnership with the **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services** (DBHDS), recently [announced](#) the launch of *Beyond the Blues*, a statewide public awareness campaign designed to help Virginians better understand perinatal and postpartum depression and maternal mental health.

U.S. Physician with Virginia Ties Among Those Exposed to Ebola During Medical Mission Work

Recent [news accounts](#) indicate that a physician from Richmond, VA who has volunteered with a medical mission organization in Africa has tested positive for Ebola virus. Two other medical mission volunteers also involved in patient care at a hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where an Ebola outbreak has occurred are reportedly asymptomatic. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) indicates it “is working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Department of State to move the patient to Germany for treatment and care. In addition to being a shorter flight time, Germany has previous experience caring for Ebola patients.” As of May 18, the CDC reports there are 11 confirmed Ebola cases and 336 suspected cases, including 88 deaths, in DRC as well as two confirmed cases (one death) in

Uganda among people who traveled from DRC. No further spread has been reported. Read more [here](#). In a related development, the **World Health Organization** (WHO) has [declared](#) a public health emergency in response to the outbreak.

Virginia Health Care Foundation 30th Annual Profile of Uninsured Reports Increased Rate

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** (VHCF) recently published its 30th annual [Profile of Virginia's Uninsured](#), which tracks the uninsured rate among non-elderly adults in the Commonwealth. This year's report shows an increase in Virginia's uninsured population – from the historic low rate of 7.6 percent in 2023 to 8.1 percent in 2024. That represents a change from 530,000 to 573,000 non-elderly uninsured Virginia adults. VHCF notes that Virginia's experience mirrors national trends tied to the resumption of regular Medicaid renewals during the unwinding period following the conclusion of COVID-19 continuous coverage requirements. The report may also serve as a baseline for monitoring future changes in uninsured rates as the effects of Medicaid policy changes and funding reductions under H.R. 1 of 2025 take effect in the coming years. The VHCF report is published annually in collaboration with the **Urban Institute**, which analyzes the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey and CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data in compiling the document.

VAFCC to Host 2026 Virtual Summit on Professional Development Training June 8-12

The **Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics** (VAFCC) is hosting a Virtual Summit June 8-12 focused on professional development training for grant strategy, trauma-informed care, diabetes technology, and workplace well-being. The program is affordable, flexible, and convenient. Registration for non-member organizations is \$100 for an entire team. View the full program agenda and register [here](#).

Events

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. Please contact **Rachel Pryor** with questions at rpryor@vhha.com.

VHHA to Host June 11 Webinar on VDH Guidance for Optimizing MDRO Flags in EDCC

Patient transfers involve dozens of critical safety elements in a single handoff moment. A patient's infection status – including pending laboratory results, known colonization or active infection with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), and the transmission-based precautions currently in place – is among the most critical information to convey. Non-disclosure of such details can lead to potential exposures for healthcare workers and patients, resulting in costly contact investigations for hospitals. A webinar being hosted at 10 a.m. on June 11 will provide information on two layers of protection to prevent such miscommunication: the new MDRO Communications Guide from the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) and optimizing the use of the MDRO flags in the Emergency Department Care Coordination System (EDCC). Register for the webinar [here](#).

VHEMP to Host June 12 Webinar Briefing with National Weather Service on 2026 Hurricane Season

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program** (VHEMP) – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH), the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA), and the four regional healthcare coalitions – is hosting a one-hour webinar on June 12 at noon featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service** (NWS). The briefing will focus on the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. Register for the event [here](#).

Register for June 18 Webinar on AI-Native Clinical Services for CMS Rural Health Transformation

Hospital, medical, and healthcare information technology leaders are featured presenters during an upcoming June 18 webinar on how AI-native clinical services can support a new model for rural care delivery that scales intelligently across large and geographically dispersed populations. Featured webinar speakers include former U.S. Chief Technology Officer **Aneesh Chopra**, **Microsoft** Global Chief Medical Officer **Dr. David C. Rhew**, **Ballad Health** Chief Operating Officer **Eric Deaton**, and **Andor Health** Chief Growth Officer **Noel Khirsukhani**. The webinar will feature real-world examples from rural Tennessee and other states on strategies to improve care access and outcomes for high-risk populations, including Medicare and Medicaid dual-eligible patients, while helping clinical teams operate more efficiently without additional headcount. The webinar is scheduled for June 18 at 1 p.m. CT. Register [here](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Threat Assessment Director on Staff, Patient Safety

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Ed Markowski**, Director of Threat Assessment at the **University of Virginia**, who joins us for a conversation about his work, the application of behavioral health threat assessment and management concepts to keep staff and patients safe, an FBI and AHA report on that topic, 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](#), [Tuneln](#), [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 pcfpcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Dacey



Davis-Hagens



Sampson

Dr. Mike Dacey, President and CEO of **Riverside Health**; **Pat Davis-Hagens**, President of **Bon Secours Hampton Roads**; and **Amy Sampson**, President and CEO of **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**; have been named to the [Inside Business Power List 2026](#). Inside Business creates its annual Power List to highlight the people who are

influencing the economy in Hampton Roads, whether they be decision-makers, public and private sector individuals, nonprofit leaders, or those who work behind the scenes.



Inova and **Valley Health** have been named to the [2026 list of 15 Top Health Systems](#) by **Modern Healthcare** with support from **Premier**. To determine the list of top hospitals, researchers evaluated 336 health systems and 2716 hospitals that are members of health systems. Research conducted is based on Medicare cost reports, Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MEDPAR) data, and measure data from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** Care Compare website. As part of the analysis Modern Healthcare and Premier also presented a list of the Top 100 hospitals for 2026. Included on that list are **Inova Alexandria Hospital** in the "large community hospital" category, and **Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital** and **LewisGale Hospital – Montgomery (HCA Virginia)** in the "small community hospital" category.

Chris Accashian, Chief Operating Officer of the **Bon Secours Richmond Market**, has received the **VCU Department of Health Administration** Outstanding Alumnus Award. Since joining the ministry in 2016, Accashian has also served as the president of **Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center** and **Bon Secours Rappahannock General Hospital**. He earned a master of health administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, a Medline Scholar, and chapter president of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Virginia. **Ryan LaMura**, Chief Operating Officer at **HCA Healthcare** Florida Capital Hospital, has received the VCU Department of Health Administration Young Alumni of the Year Award. LaMura has held positions at HCA Florida Ocala Hospital and Wellstar Health System. LaMura previously served as a Health Policy and Quality Intern at VHHA.



Accashian



LaMura



Lori Hicks, Director of Community Impact and Population Health at **Bath Community Hospital**, was named Staff Member of the Year at the **Bath County Chamber of Commerce** Annual Dinner. Hicks has called Bath County home since 1999. She completed her hospitality management courses at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, now known as Mountain Gateway Community College, and enjoyed a successful career in conference sales within the resort industry for more than 20 years.

Dawn Baumgartner, Leader of Risk Management at **Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center**, has been elected Board President of the **Virginia Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)**. Baumgartner has been part of Bon Secours for 18 years and has previously held positions as Manager of Risk and Insurance, Interim Manager of Clinical Operations, and House Nursing Supervisor.



Clark



Mayo

Sovah Health recently announced that **Christopher Clark**, Clinical Informatics Pharmacist at **Sovah Health – Martinsville**, and **Venee Mayo**, Market CME and Wellness Director at **Sovah Health – Danville**, have been recognized as 2026 Mercy Award winners. The Mercy Award recognizes one employee from each Lifepoint Health facility who profoundly touches the lives of others and best represents the spirit and values on which the company was founded. Clark received nine nominations recognizing his dedication to

patient care, mentorship, and collaboration. Colleagues described him as a trusted resource who consistently goes above and beyond to improve patient outcomes and support fellow team members. Nominations highlighted his compassionate approach to helping patients and families, mentoring pharmacy students, and working closely with providers and staff to improve care processes and ensure patients receive the highest level of support. Mayo was recognized for her uplifting leadership style, commitment to employee wellness, and passion for serving the community. Her nomination highlighted her ability to foster teamwork, empower others, and create meaningful connections throughout the organization. In addition to her work at Sovah Health, Mayo is actively involved in the community through organizations and volunteer efforts including Southside Virginia SHRM, Danville Social Services, the Cancer Society, and the Board of Elections.