



# 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:

#### **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](mailto:cmonger@vhha.com) to inquire about the Committee.

#### **VHHA Hosts Meeting of Hospital Government Relations Leaders**

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Advocacy Council** (VHHAC). The agenda covered the VHHA response to a recent report published by the [Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care](#) that includes a list of several rural hospitals the analysis deems to be at risk for closure, as well as updates on state work group on topics such as 340B, forensic nursing, and Medicaid sustainability, among other items. Contact **Julie Dime** at [jdime@vhha.com](mailto:jdime@vhha.com) with questions.

#### **VHHA Hosts Meeting of Workforce Steering Committee**

- VHHA recently hosted a meeting of the **Workforce Steering Committee** that brings together hospital leaders for meaningful discussion around healthcare workforce development strategies. The recent meeting agenda included a presentation on hospital workforce engagement, a discussion on healthcare registered apprenticeships, and more. Contact **Sharon Alexander** at [salexander@vhha.com](mailto:salexander@vhha.com) with questions about the Committee.

#### **Watch Video Recap of 2026 Virginia Emergency Preparedness Summit**

- A video recap of the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** held in April at The Westin-Richmond can be viewed online [here](#). "The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with Emerging Global Threats" was the theme for the Summit hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) and the **VHHA Foundation**. During the Summit, an audience of more than 250 attendees engaged with Summit programming 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, and supply chain management during disasters. Participants were also eligible to earn continuing education credits. Read more about the event [here](#), view the program brochure at this [link](#), and see an event photo gallery [here](#).

#### **View VHHA Webinar Recording 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. VHHA recently hosted a webinar to 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). View a webinar recording [here](#).

#### **View VHEMP Webinar Recording of National Weather Service Briefing 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 regional healthcare coalitions – recently hosted a webinar featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service (NWS)**. The briefing focused on the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. View a webinar recording [here](#).

#### **View VHHA Documentary on Hospital Stories, Healthcare History Across the Commonwealth**

- The new short film VHHA produced to honor healthcare professionals during the Association's [100<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) is now available online. *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* is the documentary title and the film can be viewed online [here](#). Last month, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** hosted a series of events in theaters around Virginia to show the short film 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. Free film screening events were hosted May 11-18 in Wytheville, Glen Allen, Woodbridge, Woodstock, Hampton, and Roanoke during **National Nurses Week** and **National Hospital Week**. Read more about the project [here](#). View a documentary trailer [here](#), an accompanying program [here](#), and photos from the premiere events through this [link](#).

#### **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 Virginian-Pilot](#), [The Enterprise](#), [Radio Free Hub City](#), the [Virginia Scope](#), the [Northern Virginia Daily](#), and [Medscape](#).

## **News Updates**

#### **Virginia House Select Committee on Advancing Rural, Small Town Health Care Meets in Richmond**

This week, the **Virginia House Select Committee on Advancing Rural and Small Town Health Care** held a meeting in Richmond whose [agenda](#) focused on priority issues and an overview of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program established under H.R. 1 of 2025. The Select Committee was established in 2024 by **Virginia House of Delegates Speaker Don Scott** “to study challenges faced by rural counties and small towns in accessing quality health care, including workforce issues, staffing shortages, lack of broadband access, and travel/transportation issues; to evaluate the evolving impacts of federal health care policy changes, hospital and clinic closures, workforce shortages, and patient displacement.” This

week's meeting comes in the wake of a recent report from the [Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care](#) that features a list of several rural hospitals the analysis deems to be at risk for closure.

### **After Delay, Legislature Appears Close to a State Budget Deal Ahead of July 1 Deadline**

Late this week, leaders in the **Virginia General Assembly** [announced](#) they had reached agreement on a framework for the new state budget covering a two-year period that begins July 1. The two principals who announced the deal – **Virginia House Appropriations Committee Chair Delegate Luke Torian** and **Virginia Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Chair Senator Louise Lucas** – indicated that additional details on the compromise would be shared Friday. This breakthrough following months of negotiations after the legislature adjourned in March without approving a budget bill to fund state government operations for the state fiscal year 2026-2028 budget period. Differing views in the House and Senate on tax incentives for data centers have been a key sticking point in the budget stalemate to this point. The **Virginia Senate** is now scheduled to convene in Richmond on June 22 to consider the conference report on House Bill 30, the budget bill. The **Virginia House of Delegates** was initially slated to return to Richmond June 18 for work on the budget but that was cancelled as budget negotiations continue. Once the House and Senate approve a compromise budget bill, the measure will be sent to **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger**. The Governor is expected to promptly sign the legislation given the limited time until the start of the fiscal year to provide certainty to state agencies, local governments, and stakeholders across the Commonwealth.

### **CMS Accepting Public Comments on Final Rule for Oversight of Hospital Accreditation Organizations**

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [final rule](#) pertaining to oversight of accreditation organizations that ensure that hospitals and healthcare providers comply with Medicare Conditions of Participation. The final rule intends to strengthen the oversight of Medicare national accrediting organizations by addressing conflicts of interest, establishing consistent standards, processes, and definitions, and updating validation and performance standards systems. The final rule also revises the psychiatric hospital survey process, adds a limitation on terminated deemed providers and suppliers when reentering the program, and provides technical corrections for end-stage renal disease facilities and transplant programs. Public comments on the final rule are being accepted. The regulations take effect on June 16, 2027. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

### **CMS Shares 'Budget Neutrality' Guidance on State Medicaid Demonstration Programs**

New guidance from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) on budget neutrality standards for Medicaid 1115 demonstration waivers informs states that the agency plans to offer a proposed rule on "consistent oversight and clear budget neutrality requirements for proposed demonstration projects." Section 1115 of the Social Security Act grants the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are likely to promote the objectives of the Medicaid program. The waivers allow states to test new ways of delivering and paying for healthcare services in Medicaid and CHIP, beyond what is required by federal statute. As of Jan. 1, 2027, CMS will not approve new demonstrations, demonstration renewals, or demonstration amendments unless the CMS Chief Actuary certifies that the demonstration project is not expected to increase federal spending compared to the state's Medicaid program without the demonstration. Read more [here](#).

### **HHS Inspector General Reports Highlight Medicare Advantage Plan Prior Authorization Denials**

The **Office of the Inspector General (OIG)** for the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** recently issued two reports focused on prior authorization coverage denials by Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations. One [report](#) found that the three largest MA organizations (**UnitedHealth, Humana, and CVS Health**) had higher rates of coverage denials relative to other MA organizations in 2024. Overall, MA organizations overturned 36 percent of long-term care hospital coverage denials and 43 percent of inpatient rehabilitation facility denials as a result of appeals. Another [report](#) found that 95 percent of skilled nursing facility denials were overturned on appeal.

## Events

### AHA to Host June 23 Webinar on Leveraging EMS Data to Support the Work of Rural Hospital Teams

In rural communities, EMS is often the first – and sometimes only – point of clinical contact. Critical patient information gathered in the field doesn't always reach hospital teams in time to inform care. Delays in data exchange can limit a hospital's ability to prepare for incoming patients, especially when staffing and resources are already stretched thin. In an upcoming webinar scheduled for June 23 at 1 p.m. ET, a panel of hospital leaders will share insights on how their organizations are strengthening real-time data exchange to improve handoffs, support faster clinical decision-making and make the most of limited capacity. Panelists will share practical approaches to integrating EMS data into hospital workflows – from pre-arrival alerts and patient matching to post-encounter feedback loops – helping providers deliver more coordinated, efficient and informed care. The webinar is being moderated by the **American Hospital Association (AHA)**. Register [here](#).

## Podcast

### VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Glaucoma Specialist, Author

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Surbhi Bansal**, a glaucoma specialist at **VCU Health**, who joins us for a conversation about her professional journey as well as the process of becoming an author and working on her recently published novel: "Do Not Follow." 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](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com).



## Around the State



*Levine*



*Rosner*



*Arner*

**Steve Arner**, President and CEO of **Carilion Clinic**; **Alan Levine**, Chairman and President and CEO of **Ballad Health**; and **Dr. Mitchell H. Rosner**, MD, CEO of **UVA Health** and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs at the University of Virginia; have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2026 list of great leaders in healthcare. Read more [here](#).



**Tammy Snyder**, MPH, who has extensive experience leading large academic and community health systems, has been named Chief Executive Officer of **UVA Health University Medical Center**. Snyder will assume leadership of the medical center on Aug. 3 from **Kathy Baker**, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, who has been serving as interim chief executive officer in addition to her role as chief nursing officer. Snyder brings more than 15 years of experience guiding large-scale patient care operations, quality and safety initiatives and operational improvements. Snyder now serves as senior vice president of system operations for Rochester Regional Health, a nine-hospital health system in upstate New York that includes a network of outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, urgent care centers, senior care facilities, behavioral healthcare services and laboratory services. She previously served as president and chief operating officer of Rochester General Hospital, Rochester Regional Health's flagship hospital, where she led operations, strategic execution, quality, patient safety and workplace culture across an organization of approximately 8,000 employees with a \$2 billion operating budget. Before joining Rochester Regional, Snyder served as chief administrative officer for the Department of Medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine. Snyder earned a bachelor's degree in health policy and administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree of public health in health policy and administration from Yale University's School of Public Health. Read more [here](#).

**Dr. John McHugh** has been appointed as Director of the MHA and MSHA programs at the **VCU Department of Health Administration**. A nationally respected scholar, award-winning educator, experienced healthcare consultant, and former program leader at Columbia University, Dr. McHugh brings an exceptional blend of academic, leadership, and industry expertise to this role. Prior to joining VCU, he led the management programs at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and spent more than a decade advising hospitals and health systems at Navigant Consulting (now Guidehouse). He earned his PhD from Brown University, his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, and dual degrees through the University of Pennsylvania's Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology. He brings a rare combination of research excellence, teaching distinction, business acumen, and real-world healthcare experience to the role.







**Angela Wasserzug** has been promoted from her role as Director of Corporate and Payer Strategies to Vice President of Strategy for **Sentara Health**. She previously held positions at Humana as a Finance Manager of Medicare, Manager, Financial Consultant, and Provider Consultant. Wasserzug earned her BS in Accounting from the University of Louisville and her MS in Strategic Finance at Indiana University Southeast.

**Joe Gage**, Chief Administrative Officer of **Bon Secours Mercy Health**, has been named Chair of The **Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA)** Board of Trustees for the 2026–2027 term. As Chair, Gage will help guide strategic priorities, advocacy, and mission-driven leadership for the nation’s largest association of Catholic health ministries – strengthening the collective voice of organizations serving millions of people each year. With more than 30 years of experience, Gage has dedicated his career to helping people and organizations reach their full potential. He previously served as chief human resources officer for Mercy Health, where he led strategic workforce initiatives. Before joining the ministry, he served in human resources, labor relations, and in-house counsel roles at Tenet Healthcare, Levi Strauss & Co., Delta Air Lines, and BNSF Railway. He has served on the CHA board since 2022 and is passionate about building scalable systems that enable mission-minded people to collaborate and deliver excellent, compassionate care.

