



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [CMS Shares Proposed Rule to Alter Healthcare Provider Assessment Policy](#)
- [VDH Encourages Hospital Responses to CDC Maternity Practice, Infant Nutrition Survey by Sept. 10](#)
- [CDC: Data Shows Healthcare-Associated Infections in Hospitals Have Declined](#)
- [U.S. Senate HELP Committee Advances Healthcare Price Transparency Legislation](#)
- [HRSA Accepting Applications for Grants to Support Rural Health Providers](#)
- [HosPAC Launches '100 for 100' New Donor Push, Contributions Help Support Hospital Advocacy](#)

[Events](#)

- [Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for July, August](#)
- [Save the Date for the Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 24 in Richmond](#)
- [Save the Date for Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit in November, Early Registration Starts in August](#)
- [DMAS, DSS to Host Aug. 13 Virtual Town Hall on H.R. 1 Changes Related to Medicaid and Non-Citizens](#)
- [VHHA to Host July 30 Webinar for Rural Health Funding Updates on GME, Remote Monitoring](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features UVA School of Medicine Tobacco Researcher](#)

[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 Meets with Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation During Capitol Hill Visits

- This week, VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** led a team of Association staff members to Washington, D.C. for visits with members of the Virginia congressional delegation. The topic of conversation during those visits included the impacts of H.R. 1 healthcare funding cuts on providers, patients, and the economy. Also discussed were several proposed rules from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** to implement some of the H.R. 1 policy changes related to Medicaid funding through the state directed payment program and provider assessment mechanism. VHHA has expressed serious concern about certain proposed regulatory provisions that would make even deeper cuts to healthcare funding than Congress authorized in H.R. 1. View photos from the visits [here](#).

VHHA Holds Hospital Government Relations Meeting Hosted at Mary Washington Healthcare

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Advocacy Council (VHHAC)** hosted by **Mary Washington Healthcare** in Fredericksburg. The agenda included a presentation on Mary Washington neurologic care, remarks from Mary Washington President and CEO **Dr. Christopher Newman** (a member of the **VHHA Board of Directors**), a reception with state legislators from the area and **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. B. Cameron Webb**, and a session on collaboration between hospitals and local health districts. View photos from the two-day event [here](#). Contact **Julie Dime** at jdime@vhha.com with questions.

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 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 Foundation Provides Virtual 'Office Hour' Sessions for Hospital Members on Rural Health Grants

- The **VHHA Foundation** team is offering virtual consultations to hospital members seeking technical assistance and guidance on pursuing grant funding for graduate medical education and remote patient monitoring projects under the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. Visit this [link](#) to book time for a graduate medical education session and this [link](#) for an appointment on remote patient monitoring.

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 multiple [articles](#) from the [Virginia Mercury](#) as well as coverage from [WVTF](#), [Cardinal News](#), [WRIC](#), [Insurance News Net](#), [MSN](#), [WCAV](#), [WAVY](#), [Rappahannock News](#), [WHRO](#), [Inside NoVa](#), the [Winchester Star](#), [Madison County Magazine](#), and [Yahoo News](#).

News Updates

CMS Shares Proposed Rule to Alter Healthcare Provider Assessment Policy

This week, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) issued a [proposed rule](#) related to changes to the provider tax mechanism that were incorporated in the budget reconciliation package of 2025 known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. The law called for a reduction in the provider tax hold harmless threshold from the current 6 percent to 3.5 percent over several years starting in 2027 for Medicaid expansion states. CMS estimates the proposed rule will reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$246 billion from 2026-2035. Changes in the proposed rule would impact Virginia and many other Medicaid expansion states. In 2018, the Commonwealth established a hospital revenue provider assessment to fund the state share of coverage expansion costs and to draw down federal funding for enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates under the state directed payment program (DPP). CMS previously issued a separate proposed rule to modify DPP rules following the passage of H.R. 1. The public comment period for that proposed rule closed earlier this week. That CMS proposal exceeds the statutory language approved by Congress and would result in even deeper healthcare funding cuts that impact hospitals and public health. The proposed rule would make several other technical, definitional, and interpretive changes to how provider tax programs are allowed to function. Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for 60 days. Read more [here](#).

VDH Encourages Hospital Responses to CDC Maternity Practice, Infant Nutrition Survey by Sept. 10

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is encouraging Virginia hospitals to participate in the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey. The survey helps hospitals assess what they can do to foster a breastfeeding-friendly environment. Survey questions focus on specific parts of the hospital maternity care that affect how babies are fed, such as breastfeeding, using formula to feed healthy newborns, and feeding routines. The survey deadline is Sept. 10. At present, 38 percent of Virginia hospitals have responded to the survey. The survey is administered by a CDC contractor, Abt Global, which contacts hospitals by e-mail and phone. Read more about the survey [here](#). Questions may be directed to mPINC@cdc.gov.

CDC: Data Shows Healthcare-Associated Infections in Hospitals Have Declined

Data recently released by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) shows a reduction in healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in U.S. hospitals. The rate of hospital patients with at least one HAI on a given day was roughly 1 in 28 hospitalized patients in 2023, compared to a rate of 1 in 31 patients in 2015. The CDC notes that “even after accounting for differences in the patients included in the two surveys, patients in the 2023 survey were less likely to experience HAI than patients in the survey conducted in 2015.” Read more [here](#).

U.S. Senate HELP Committee Advances Healthcare Price Transparency Legislation

This week, the **U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee** (HELP) advanced legislation to broaden healthcare price transparency standards. Provisions in the [Patients Deserve Price Tags Act](#) would apply updated price transparency rules to hospital services, clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, imaging services, ambulatory surgical center services, and health plans. The legislation would require hospitals to post “plain language” information about prices and services. Under existing federal standards, hospitals and health plans are already subject to certain price transparency standards. Independent evaluations have consistently ranked Virginia among the states with the highest rates of meeting the [technical requirements](#) for hospital price transparency rules. VHHA and its members have also worked with lawmakers to [enact consumer-friendly health reform laws](#) that protect patients from surprise medical bills, enable patients to request good faith price estimates for healthcare services, promote price transparency, and limit aggressive medical debt collection.

HRSA Accepting Applications for Grants to Support Rural Health Providers

Through Aug. 6, applications are being accepted for [grants](#) under the Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program under the **Health Resources and Services Administration** (HRSA). As many as 20 grant awards worth up to \$250,000 may be awarded through the program, whose thrust is to “strengthen the quality improvement culture in small rural healthcare facilities by building capacity to effectively collect and use clinical data while implementing evidence-based approaches to improve health care quality with a particular focus on improving chronic disease outcomes.”

HosPAC Launches ‘100 for 100’ New Donor Push, Contributions Help Support Hospital Advocacy

The start of July coincides with the effective date of several new state laws that apply to hospitals, healthcare providers, and the communities they serve. From workforce development and reimbursement policies to regulatory changes and public health initiatives, decisions made in Richmond influence how hospitals deliver care, support staff, and meet patient needs. Sustained advocacy efforts that reflect the voice of hospitals are a critical part of the process. The work of **HosPAC**, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association’s political action committee, helps advance that engagement. In honor of the VHHA centennial anniversary in 2026, HosPAC has launched the “100 for 100 Campaign” with a goal of welcoming 100 new donors as the Association celebrates 100 years of leadership, partnership, and advocacy on behalf of Virginia’s hospitals. That proud legacy is a foundation to build a strong future in the next century. Each first-time contribution represents another voice supporting Virginia hospitals and health systems at the **Virginia General Assembly**. Growing the community of hospital advocates strengthens HosPAC’s ability to build relationships with policymakers and ensures that hospitals have a strong, unified voice on healthcare advocacy. Read more about the campaign [here](#)

and visit this link to contribute [today](#). Questions about HosPAC can be directed to **Hannah Coley** at hcoley@vhha.com.

Events

Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for July, August

[State law](#) requires hospitals, health clinics, and independent laboratories to report patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease to the Virginia Statewide Sickle Cell Disease (SSCD) Registry. The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is now expanding statewide implementation of the registry and has informed healthcare providers of the obligation to begin consistently reporting applicable patient data by August 2026, including eligible cases dating back to July 1, 2024. VDH has scheduled informational webinars on [July 27](#) and [Aug. 6](#), with each starting at 4 p.m. Virtual technical assistance sessions will be hosted on [Aug. 11](#) at 4 p.m., [Aug. 19](#) at noon, and [Aug. 27](#) at 4 p.m. Questions regarding the registry or reporting requirements can be directed to sicklecellregistry@vdh.virginia.gov.

Save the Date for the Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 24 in Richmond

The **2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit** is scheduled for Sept. 24 at The Westin-Richmond. The theme for this year's Summit is "Innovating with Purpose: Building a Resilient Behavioral Health System." The annual Summit is a daylong event that brings together providers, patient advocates, administrators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to explore practical strategies for strengthening behavioral health care across the Commonwealth. Summit sessions will focus on topics including behavioral health treatment, workforce and wellbeing initiatives, patient and staff safety, crisis response, and innovative approaches to care delivery. Additional details and registration information will be available soon.

Save the Date for Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit in November, Early Registration Starts in August

As VHHA continues to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year, plans are underway for the **2026 Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit**, whose theme is "100 Years Strong: Honoring Our Past. Shaping the Future." For a century, Virginia's hospitals and health systems have served as the heartbeat of communities, providing compassionate care and leading through times of challenge and opportunity. From Nov. 4-6 at The Omni Homestead Resort, VHHA and hospital officials from across the Commonwealth will gather to celebrate a century of service, honor the leaders who have shaped healthcare in Virginia, and look ahead to the next 100 years. Mark your calendar today. Early registration opens Aug. 6.

DMAS, DSS to Host Aug. 13 Virtual Town Hall on H.R. 1 Changes Related to Medicaid and Non-Citizens

The **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services** (DMAS) and the **Virginia Department of Social Services** (DSS) are hosting a virtual town hall at noon on Aug. 13 regarding changes to Medicaid under H.R. 1 of 2025 that may impact non-citizens. H.R. 1 is the budget reconciliation package of 2025 known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. It cuts nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid funding over a decade and makes changes to enrollment and eligibility standards. The upcoming virtual session will provide an overview of the changes that will take effect in October 2026, which include updates related to non-citizen eligibility, what these changes may mean for Medicaid members, and where to find additional information and resources. Use this [link](#) to join the virtual session.

VHHA to Host July 30 Webinar for Rural Health Funding Updates on GME, Remote Monitoring

On July 30, the **VHHA Foundation** will host a webinar focused on what hospitals need to know about applying for Rural Health Transformation Program funding for graduate medical education (GME) and remote patient monitoring projects. During the session, hospital participants will meet VHHA Foundation staff members with subject matter expertise who can share insight about program particulars such as timing, eligibility rules, and funding. Webinar participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn about other priority funding areas for Virginia's allocation through the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. Visit this [link](#) to register for the webinar scheduled for July 30 at 10 a.m. A webinar recording will be available to registrants following the event.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA School of Medicine Tobacco Researcher

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features a conversation with **Melissa Little**, PhD, Director of the Center for Nicotine and Tobacco Research at the **UVA School of Medicine**. She joins us for a conversation about her work, attitudes towards smoking among Gen Z, how those trends may inform tobacco prevention efforts, 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



Bansal



Carter



Mannix



Riley-Brown



Sampson



Segal



Tinch

Dr. Rina Bansal, MD, President of **Inova Alexandria Hospital** and Senior Vice President at **Inova**; **Lisa Carter**, President of **Ballad Health Southern Region**; **Mary Mannix**, President and CEO at **Augusta Health**; **Amy Sampson**, President and CEO at **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**; **Michelle Riley-Brown**, President and CEO at **Children's National Hospital**; **Rebecca Segal**, President and CEO of **Fauquier Health**; and **Roberta Tinch**, President of **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital** and Vice President and Administrator of **Inova Medicine Service Line**; have been named to the [list](#) of 236 women hospital and health system presidents and CEOs to know by *Becker's Hospital Review*.



Dr. Christine Isaacs, MD, has been appointed as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the **VCU School of Medicine**. With more than 25 years of experience at VCU, Dr. Isaacs has been in the role on an interim basis since January 2026. She previously served as interim chair from January 2022 to May 2023 when **Dr. David Chelmow**, MD, assumed interim dean duties during that period. Dr. Isaacs maintains an active clinical practice in all areas of obstetrics and gynecology, with special interests in natural childbirth, reproductive health, treatment of sexual dysfunction and contraceptive choices. She is also active in many national organizations, serves as an ABOG board examiner, and is an editor of Contemporary OB/GYN Journal.