



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:

Applications Now Being Accepted for Rural Health Transformation Project Funding Proposals

- This week, the **VHHA Foundation** opened the application process for healthcare organizations to submit **Rural Health Transformation Program** project funding proposals for [remote patient monitoring](#) and [graduate medical education](#) initiatives. The VHHA Foundation is partnering with Virginia Rural Health Transformation to administer grant funding for several key initiatives that are part of the broader transformation framework. The remote patient monitoring program is intended to support continuous care technologies that help rural providers extend care beyond traditional clinical settings. The graduate medical education effort is focused on the expansion of rural residency slots in high-priority specialties to strengthen Virginia's rural physician workforce pipeline and help health systems recruit, train, and retain physicians who are prepared to serve rural communities. The application deadline for project funding is Sept. 15 and awards will be announced by Oct. 30. Visit the [VHHA Foundation online](#) for more program information. That website also features a recording of a recent [webinar](#) on the Rural Health Transformation work. VHHA Foundation staff are also available to provide technical assistance and guidance to hospital staff pursuing grant funding for graduate medical education and remote patient monitoring projects. Visit this [link](#) to book time for a graduate medical education session and this [link](#) for an appointment on remote patient monitoring.

Registration is Open for 2026 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit in November

- Registration is now open for the **2026 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, whose theme is "100 Years Strong: Honoring Our Past. Shaping the Future." The Summit will be held Nov. 4-6 at The Omni Homestead Resort as part of the continuing celebration of the 100th anniversary of VHHA this year. For more than 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. This year's Summit brings together VHHA and hospital officials from across the Commonwealth to celebrate a century of service, honor the leaders who have shaped healthcare in Virginia, and look ahead to the next 100 years. Visit this [link](#) to register.

Nominations are Open for the 2026 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

- VHHA is pleased to announce that nominations for the **2026 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards** are now being accepted. The awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia's hospitals and health systems, and to healthcare in general through selfless, energetic, and passionate service. Awards are presented in the following categories: the Distinguished Service Award (given to past or present chief executive officers), the Meritorious Service Award (given to non-CEO healthcare leaders), and the Excellence in Governance Award (given to

members of hospital or health system governing bodies). Each award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to Virginia's hospitals and health systems. The deadline to submit nomination materials is Sept. 18. The nomination form with submission instructions can be accessed through this [link](#). Read more about VHHA awards and see lists of past recipients [here](#).

VHHA Hosts In-Person Meeting of Virginia CMO, Physician Leaders Forum

- VHHA recently hosted an in-person meeting of the **Virginia CMO and Physician Leaders Forum** at its offices in Glen Allen, VA. The meeting agenda focused on leading efforts in healthcare organizations to apply artificial intelligence technology in appropriate clinical uses cases, governance and security management planning, and change management. Other topics included a discussion of strategies for physician leaders to effectively engage in legislative advocacy, and the development of tactics for effectively managing common physician leader issues such as financial pressures, leadership development, and addressing the role of advanced practice providers. Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions about the group.

VHHA Shares 2026-2027 Membership Directory

- VHHA recently issued the **2026-2027 Membership Directory**, an annual publication that features summary listing information about Virginia hospitals and health systems, VHHA program areas and staff, VHHA Solutions partners, and more. Access the VHHA 2026-2027 Membership Directory [here](#).

View VHHA Webinar Recording Previewing Virginia Child Care Cost-Sharing Pilot Program

- VHHA, in partnership with the **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation**, recently hosted a webinar focused on upcoming opportunities for hospitals to establish public-private partnerships to support childcare in their communities. During the **Virginia General Assembly 2026** legislative session, legislation was approved to establish the Employee Child Care Assistance Pilot Program and \$25 million in state funding is available to support public-private childcare partnership pilots for Virginia employers participating in a cost-share model. This webinar explored how hospitals can become early adopters of a public-private model in which the state, employers, and families share the cost of childcare to increase childcare access and improve affordability. View a webinar recording [here](#).

Support HosPAC During '100 for 100' Donor Push, Contributions Help Support Hospital Advocacy

- In Virginia, the start of July each year 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 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.

News Updates

President Trump Issues Order on Revised Childhood Vaccination Schedules

This week, **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** issued an [executive order](#) related to revised federal recommendations for childhood immunizations. The directive groups vaccines in three categories: immunizations recommended for all children, those recommended for certain high-risk groups, and those based on shared clinical decision-making. In all, 11 vaccines including those for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) are recommended for all children. Those for RSV and hepatitis variants, among others, are recommended for high-risk populations, and vaccines for hepatitis variants, the flu, and COVID-19 are listed in the shared clinical decision-making category. The order also notes that the MMR vaccine "should be administered in three separate single-disease shots once such products are domestically available and that, to the maximum extent feasible, all childhood immunizations should be administered at separate medical visits." The President's order follows action earlier this year when the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** in January announced revisions to its recommended childhood immunization schedule in response to an earlier presidential [directive](#) that instructed relevant federal authorities to review the practices of other developed nations. Following the most recent presidential order, the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** issued a statement reaffirming its position that vaccines are an "essential tool in protecting the health of children, their families, and their communities. The statement also noted that the federal order "does not change vaccine recommendations or [school immunization requirements](#) in Virginia," where "VDH continues to recommend that children are vaccinated in accordance with the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) 2026 Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#)."

Access DMAS Resources with Details on New Medicaid Work Requirements Starting in 2027

New Medicaid work requirements are coming to Virginia in less than five months. As of January 2027, certain adult Medicaid enrollees will be required to take part in a community engagement activity such as working a job or participating in an educational or training program to remain eligible for Medicaid coverage. Adults ages 19-64 who are in the Medicaid expansion population will be expected to spend at least 80 hours each month working a job, participating in a work training program, actively engaged in an educational or career training program, or doing community service under the new federal standard. That requirement is among several meaningful changes to Medicaid policy established in federal law last year. Another federal Medicaid policy change will require adults in the expansion population to have their coverage eligibility re-evaluated more frequently – every six months rather than annually. These federal policy changes have implications for hospitals and health systems that care for Medicaid enrollees who are subject to the new federal work requirements. To inform providers and Medicaid-eligible adults likely to be impacted by the new rules, the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance**

Services (DMAS) has posted [resources](#) online about the Medicaid work requirements. The Medicaid work rules do not apply to enrolled children under 18 or adults older than 65, pregnant women and recently postpartum mothers, parents and caregivers to young children or a person with a disability, and individuals with certain disabilities. The latest [state data](#) shows that more than 535,000 Virginians are in the state Medicaid expansion population. Of those, nearly 111,000 are deemed “caretaker adults.” Another 424,000 expansion enrollees are not in that category. Total Medicaid and FAMIS enrollment in Virginia exceeds 1.77 million people. VHHA is actively engaged with state agencies and officials in the work to prepare for the impact of coming Medicaid policy changes, including work requirements.

FDA Approves mRNA Flu Vaccine for Older Adults

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently [approved](#) mFLUSIVA, a new mRNA vaccine against seasonal influenza for adults 50 and older. The vaccine is expected to be available for eligible populations for the 2026-2027 respiratory virus season. Read more from **Moderna**, the drug manufacturer, [here](#).

CMS Final Rule Halts Federal Medicaid, CHIP Funding for Gender Procedures in Children

This week, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) [announced](#) that it will end the use of federal Medicaid and CHIP funds that pay for “sex-rejecting” gender care and procedures for children under a [final rule](#) set to take effect Oct. 13. The agency defined such procedures as those involving the use of “puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical operations.” Under the final rule, federal Medicaid and CHIP funding will be available for a tapering-off period of up to six months from the effective date of the final rule for children currently on hormone therapy. CMS noted that the “rule does not affect coverage of mental health services. Medicaid’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) provisions continue to ensure comprehensive coverage of mental health services for eligible children, and CHIP continues to require coverage of necessary mental health services in accordance with federal law.”

HHS Issues Proposed Rule on Food Ingredient Oversight, Seeks New Processed Food Definition

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) recently [announced](#) actions to modernize federal oversight of food ingredients and establish a stronger scientific foundation for future nutrition policy. The actions include a [proposed rule](#) requiring food manufacturers to notify the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) when they conclude that the use of a substance added to human or animal food is generally recognized as safe (GRAS). Working alongside the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** (USDA), HHS submitted for final review the first proposed federal definition of ultra-processed foods (UPF). These initiatives are part of the broader Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative.

VHCF Seeks Request for Applications on RHT Funding for Provider Interoperability Projects

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** (VHCF), a key implementation partner in Virginia’s Rural Health Transformation (RHT) efforts, has [launched a request for applications](#) (RFA) for provider interoperability project funding. Health information technology is reshaping care delivery by enabling providers to coordinate seamlessly across settings, safeguard patient data, and spend less time on administrative tasks and more time with patients. Yet many rural providers in Virginia lack the digital infrastructure to fully participate in this connected system. The provider interoperability sub-initiative under the RHT

framework is designed to close that gap and represents a promising strategy to strengthen healthcare delivery for rural Virginians. Read more details about the application process at this [link](#).

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. 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.

Events

Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for 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 virtual technical assistance sessions on [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.

Register Now for the Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 24 in Richmond

Registration is open for the **2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit**, which 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 healthcare 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. Register for the Summit [here](#).

VHHA to Host In-Person Just Culture Workshop in Partnership with ECRI on Sept. 22

VHHA, in partnership with ECRI, invites hospital leaders to register to attend an in-person workshop at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA on Sept. 22 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) focused on implementing Just Culture principles across their organizations. By fostering an environment where team members feel empowered to speak up, learn from mistakes, and contribute openly, leaders can strengthen patient safety and workforce engagement. This one-day, in-person course equips healthcare leaders and professionals across roles with the foundational knowledge and practical tools needed to implement and sustain Just Culture principles within their organizations. Workshop attendees will receive all course materials, lunch, and be eligible to complete the Managers and Influencers course exam asynchronously following completion of the program. View registration details [here](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Riverside Emergency Physician on Simulation Training

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features a conversation with **Dr. John Alex**, an emergency physician with **Riverside Health**, who joins us for a conversation about his military service, his work in medicine, and simulation education. 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 pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Cline



Flattery



Madsen



Mannix



Shannon



Williams

Carl Cline, President of **Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital**; **William "Bill" Flattery**, President of **Carilion New River Valley Medical Center**; **Greg Madsen**, Vice President and Administrator of **Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital**; **Mary Mannix**, President and CEO at **Augusta Health**; **Erik Shannon**, CEO of **UVA Community Health**; and **Kristie Williams**, Vice President and Administrator of **Carilion Giles Community Hospital** and **Carilion Tazewell Community Hospital**; have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* [list](#) of 240 community hospital CEOs to know.



Christopher Cullom is the new Chief Operating Officer at **Carilion Clinic**. Cullom will be the first person to serve as COO at Carilion Clinic since **Steve Arner** became President and CEO in 2024. Arner first stepped into the COO role in 2012. Since 2023, Cullom has served as COO at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, part of Jefferson Health, a Philadelphia-based network of 33 hospitals and physician practices. In that role, he oversaw Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Jefferson Methodist Hospital, and Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience. Cullom previously

served as president of the South Region of Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic, a Pennsylvania-based regional health system. In 2019, he was named president of Mercy Catholic Medical Center, part of the Trinity system. In that role, he oversaw the Mercy Fitzgerald Campus and the Mercy Philadelphia Campus. A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Cullom earned a master's degree in health administration and an MBA at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The **UVA School of Medicine** has named Dr. Nassima Ait-Daoud Tiouririne, MD, a nationally recognized physician-scientist and academic leader, to chair the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences. Dr. Ait-Daoud Tiouririne has held numerous leadership roles at **UVA Health**, including interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, vice chair for clinical affairs, medical director of ambulatory psychiatry, director of the Center for Leading Edge Addiction Recovery (CLEAR) and program director of the addiction medicine fellowship. She also previously served as program director of the general psychiatry residency and has played a central role in advancing clinical care, education and faculty development across the department. Dr. Ait-Daoud Tiouririne joined UVA after completing a National Institutes of Health-funded fellowship in addiction research at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She earned her medical degree from the University of Algiers and completed residencies in psychiatry in Algeria and at UVA Health. Read more [here](#).



Joseph Wilkins, President of **Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center**, and his wife, **Tonya Parris-Wilkins**, have received the MLK Service Award from the **YMCA of Greater Richmond**. The award recognizes community members who embody the spirit and values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to justice and equality.