



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 Holds Hospital Government Relations Committee Meeting

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Advocacy Council** (VHHAC) that brings together hospital and health system government relations professionals for discussion and collaboration on healthcare public policy issues. Contact **Julie Dime** at jdime@vhha.com with questions.

View Recording of Just Culture Executive Briefing Webinar with ECRI

- VHHA recently partnered with **ECRI** to host a [webinar briefing](#) for hospital executives and leaders about the core tenets of Just Culture and efforts toward organization-wide adoption of its principles by addressing the leadership alignment gap that most commonly undermines frontline training efforts. Register for 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 organizations [here](#).

Submit Rural Health Transformation Project Funding Applications to VHHA Foundation by Sept. 15

- The **VHHA Foundation** is accepting applications from healthcare organizations seeking **Rural Health Transformation Program** project funding support for proposals on [remote patient monitoring](#) and [graduate medical education](#) initiatives. The VHHA Foundation is partnering on the **Virginia Rural Health Transformation** work 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.

Register for the 2026 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit in November

- Register today 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.

Submit Nominations for the 2026 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards, Deadline is Sept. 18

- VHHA is accepting nominations for the **2026 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards**, which will be presented at the **2026 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit** in November. 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 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 [Axios Richmond](#), the [Virginia Mercury](#), [WCAV](#), and the [Henrico Citizen](#).

News Updates

Governor Spanberger Issues Executive Order on Protecting Healthcare, Safety Net Services

This week, **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** issued an [executive order](#) directing applicable state agencies to take action to mitigate the impact of funding and policy changes in H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation package of 2025 known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The Governor's order directs the **Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources** to protect healthcare coverage and food assistance for as many eligible Virginians as possible. More than 1.8 million Virginians are enrolled in Medicaid and nearly 800,000 Virginians are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The order details a state approach to limiting the impacts of H.R. 1 by preventing gaps in coverage, improving statewide coordination, promoting economic mobility, keeping Virginia families safe and healthy, and prioritizing affordability. H.R. 1 cuts nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid funding over a decade. It is estimated that as many as 300,000 Virginians may lose health coverage and that Virginia hospitals face \$35 billion in funding losses over a decade as a result of H.R. 1 policy changes. Those cuts threaten public health, patient access to care, long-term hospital stability, the economy, and insurance costs for working families and businesses.

Insurers Seek Increase in Individual, Small Business Affordable Care Act Plan Rates for 2027

Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) [documents](#) show that health insurers offering individual and small group coverage plans through the Affordable Care Act insurance marketplace are seeking rate increases for plan year 2027 compared to 2026. The average per member, per month rate increase

request is 16.7 percent for individual coverage plans. The average of requested increases in the small group market is 11.7 percent. Rates increased significantly for 2026 plans compared to 2025 plans in response to the expiration of federal enhanced premium tax credits that helped income-eligible plan purchasers defray the cost of coverage. This year, about 370,000 Virginians enrolled in marketplace coverage, a decline from nearly 389,000 last year. Read more [here](#).

CDC Data: U.S. Cyclospora Cases Surpass 17,000, Far Exceeding 2025 Cases

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently [reported](#) that the agency has received reports of 17,180 laboratory-confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis from May 1-Aug. 24. Cases have been documented in 48 states (including Virginia) and Washington, D.C. Among the 2026 cases, there have been 922 related hospitalizations and two deaths. Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal infection caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. Most cases in the United States occur in the spring and summer. The cyclosporiasis season is May 1 through August 31. The U.S. had far fewer seasonal cases in 2025 – 1,180 cases were reported between May 1 and Aug. 31 last year.

VHCF Accepting Applications on RHT Funding for Provider Interoperability, Productivity 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 and provider productivity 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. The provider productivity sub-initiative under the RHT framework is designed to support adoption of digital productivity tools, including AI-enabled decision-support, documentation, and workflow automation, to reduce administrative burden, ease provider burnout, and allow rural clinicians to focus more of their valuable time on patient care. Read more details about the application process at this [link](#). The provider interoperability application deadline is Aug. 31. The provider productivity application deadline is Sept. 14.

State Health Agencies to Host Town Halls on New Medicaid Work Requirements

New Medicaid work requirements are coming to Virginia in four 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 Office of the Health and Human Resources Secretary**, the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services** (DMAS), and the **Virginia Department of Social Services** (DSS) are hosting a series of 13 in-person town hall meetings on the

coming changes in communities across the Commonwealth during September and October. Visit this [link](#) for location information and registration details. DMAS has also 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. Recent [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. 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.

Events

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

Register now 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](#).

Join VHHA Foundation for Sept. 17 Webinar on Sustaining Hospital Peer Recovery Specialists

Peer recovery specialists (PRS) are important members of hospital teams who meet patients with substance use disorders in hospital emergency departments. They work with interdisciplinary teams, guiding patients on a self-directed journey, offering recovery resources and support and improving outcomes. An upcoming **VHHA Foundation** webinar will provide hospital teams with insights on sustaining those roles for daily effectiveness and long-term impact. The webinar content will clarify the role of PRSs, cover the process of billing reimbursement through the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)**, and offer additional funding opportunity suggestions. The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. Register [here](#).

Register for Upcoming Webinars in MDRO Private Laboratory Education Series

In collaboration with the **Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group**, the **Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services** is providing a three-part webinar series intended for clinical microbiology laboratory testing personnel to provide education and improve understanding of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). The first webinar in the series on the “Importance of Identification for Diagnosis and Treatment” was held this week. Future webinars are scheduled for [Sept. 20](#) at 1 p.m. on “Best Practices for Interpretation and Reporting” and [Nov. 16](#) at 1 p.m. on the “Importance of Surveillance and the Role of Public Health.”

Register for APIC-VA Educational Conference Oct. 15-16 in Lynchburg

The **Virginia Chapter of APIC** (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) is hosting the 51st Annual APIC Virginia Conference Oct. 15-16 in Lynchburg. The conference theme is “Moving Mountains: Influencing the Future of Infection Prevention.” Register for the conference and see event details [here](#). APIC-VA is a multi-disciplinary voluntary organization committed to mentorship of members, support of best practices, and ultimately, improvement of the quality of healthcare. Its members include nurses, physicians, technologists, public health administrators, military personnel, and others involved in infection control and epidemiology.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features DARS Commissioner on the Agency and its Work

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Nedra Moncrief-Craig, PhD**, Commissioner of the **Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services** (DARS). She joins us for a conversation about the work of DARS in support of individuals with physical and behavioral health service needs while navigating the current shifting federal policy environment, and much 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



Gilmore



Paradise



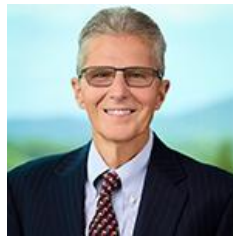
Davis

Three **Chesapeake Hospital Authority** Board Members were recently elected to leadership roles. **Dee Gilmore** has been named Chair, **David Paradise** has been named Vice Chair, and **Doug Davis, Esq.**, has been named Secretary/Treasurer. Gilmore was appointed to the Authority Board in

January 2021. She has served as Chair since 2025 and was Vice Chair from 2023 to 2025. She has an extensive background in management and is a long-time resident of Chesapeake. Gilmore served as the top advisor to former U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes, and as his Chief of Staff she managed the budget, staff, and operations. Gilmore also served four years on the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors. Paradise was appointed to the Authority Board in January 2023. He has served as Vice Chair since 2025 and was Secretary from 2024 to 2025. He is the Senior Vice President of the Virginia Division of Dollar Bank, where he also serves as Chair of the Virginia Division Advisory Board. Davis was appointed to the Authority Board in January 2023. He is the managing partner of Davis Law Group, P.C. and a long-time resident of Chesapeake. Read more [here](#).



Caldwell



Neely

The **Ballad Health Board of Directors** recently elected **Jerry Caldwell**, president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway, and **Eddie Neely**, recently retired chief financial officer of K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City), as its newest members, adding two accomplished business leaders with deep roots in the Appalachian Highlands. Caldwell succeeds board member **Scott Niswonger**, while Neely succeeds **David Lester**, both of whom are concluding long, distinguished terms of service. Read more [here](#).



Andria Davis, Director of Strategic Sourcing, Contracting and Value Analysis at **VCU Health**, has been named to the People to Watch in Contracting list by The Journal of Healthcare Contracting. As Director of Strategic Sourcing, Contracting and Value Analysis at VCU Health, Davis traces much of her leadership approach to early experiences managing end-to-end supply chain operations at a small community hospital and later overseeing operations at a large academic health system. In 2012, she earned her Master of Business Administration and received her Certified Materials & Resource Professional (CMRP) certificate in 2016. She started at VCU Health in February 2022 and was previously at Onslow Memorial Hospital, an affiliate of UNC Health, for eight years. Read more [here](#).