



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 Solutions Enters Strategic Partnership with Opex Technologies

- **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) affiliate [VHHA Solutions](#) has entered into a new strategic partnership with [Opex Technologies](#), a leading trusted advisor firm that supports organizations through business technology transformation projects. Opex Technologies has more than two decades of experience in providing technology strategic leadership services across enterprise organizations, mid-market and growth stage companies, and private equity firms. Opex Technologies offers market expertise to support organizations in making data-informed decisions on information technology services, solutions, and providers across the lifecycle of managing technology transformation projects from needs assessment, through procurement, and implementation. In working with Opex Technologies through VHHA Solutions, organizations across industry sectors can access experienced guidance on technology solutions spanning business functional areas including artificial intelligence solutions, expense management, network configurations, communications, cloud and data storage needs, cybersecurity, customer experience, software development, and more. Read more [here](#).

VHHA Hosts In-Person Meeting of Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation Forum

- VHHA recently hosted an in-person meeting of the **Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation Forum** for hospital representatives. The meeting agenda included updates on preparing for 2027 federal final rules impacting providers, financial and payor updates, information on survey and accreditation updates, and more. Contact **Abraham Segres** at asegres@vhha.com with questions about the group.

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 [Politico](#), [WVIR](#), [WRIC](#), [Yahoo News](#), [WDBJ](#), and [Herndon Patch](#).

News Updates

Virginia Health Department Investigates Possible Measles Exposure in Northern Virginia

In a recent advisory, the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) [disclosed](#) that the agency has been notified of a confirmed measles case involving an out-of-state resident who traveled through Northern Virginia on Aug. 16 while infectious. The potential exposure sites include a hotel, coffee shop, convenience store, and a barber shop in Reston. Across Virginia, there have been 179 measles cases in 2026, with five percent of cases resulting in hospitalization, according to VDH. In May, VDH declared a measles outbreak in Buckingham County that was expanded to include Cumberland County in June. VDH declared an end to the outbreak in August after a 42-day period with no new cases documented.

Nationwide, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) [reports](#) that there have been 2,903 confirmed measles cases in the U.S. in 2026 as of Aug. 27, with the vast majority of those cases reported in 47 jurisdictions including Virginia. In 2025, the U.S. had 2,289 confirmed measles cases. Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles symptoms include a cough, runny nose, rash, and sometimes red, itchy eyes. Measles is preventable through an available vaccine.

President, CMS Announce \$122 Million in Rural Health Transformation Funds for Virginia

The **Administration of President Donald J. Trump** and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS), recently [announced](#) that Virginia is receiving \$122 million in first year federal **Rural Health Transformation Program** funding to support healthcare programs promoting care access, workforce needs, and innovation. The Rural Health Transformation Program was established last year as part of the H.R. 1 budget reconciliation package, which also includes significant health policy changes and funding reductions, in an effort to mitigate impacts on rural healthcare. It has \$50 billion in funding to be disbursed among states over five years. Virginia's first year award is \$189 million. The **VHHA Foundation** is an implementation partner on several Rural Health Transformation initiatives.

Trump Administration Announces Deals with Additional Drug Manufacturers on Lower Prices

This week, **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** announced nine new agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to lower prescription drug prices for Americans in line with the lowest prices paid by other developed nations, which is known as the most-favored-nation (MFN) price. So far, the Trump Administration has announced deals with 26 drug manufacturers. Read more [here](#).

DHS Proposed Rule Seeks Additional Six Figure Fee for H-1B Visas

The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** (DHS) is accepting public comments on a proposed rule to establish a \$103,265 fee "for all H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, which would be imposed in addition to all other applicable fees or payments." The proposed fee would be separate from existing H-1B fees, such as the \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visas established last year in a [presidential proclamation](#). [Legislation](#) has been filed in Congress to exempt physicians and healthcare workers from the fee. Earlier this year, a DHS [final rule](#) took effect to modify the H-1B non-immigrant visa process to implement a weighted selection process in lieu of the previous lottery system for selecting visa recipients. Public comments on the recent proposed rule are being accepted through Sept. 24. Read more [here](#).

CMS Shares Fact Sheet on Medicare Part D Claims Data 340B Repository

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently shared a fact sheet with key information for covered entities, third-party administrators, and other contracted partners that participate in the Medicare Part D Claims Data 340B Repository. The data repository was established as part of the Medicare Part D Inflation Rebate Program under the calendar year 2026 physician fee schedule final rule. The 340B repository will open for submissions on Oct. 1. View the fact sheet [here](#).

AHA 2027 Dick Davidson NOVA Award Application Period Open Through Oct. 8

The **American Hospital Association** (AHA) is now [accepting applications](#) for the 2027 Dick Davidson NOVA Award, which recognizes hospital achievements in improving community health status in collaboration with other community stakeholders. Five winning organizations will be recognized at the 2027 AHA Healthier Together Conference, May 4-6, in Anaheim, CA. The application deadline is Oct. 8.

VHCF Accepting Applications on RHT Funding for Provider Productivity Projects

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** (VHCF), a key implementation partner in Virginia's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) efforts, is accepting [applications](#) for 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 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 productivity application deadline is Sept. 14.

State Health Agencies Hosting 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](#).

VDH to Host C. Auris Prevention Webinar on Sept. 10

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) has scheduled a webinar for Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. on "Advancing Candida auris Prevention in Virginia: Insights, Resources, and Real-World Success." The one-hour webinar presentation will include an overview of Virginia's most recent *Candida auris* data and newly updated prevention resources. The session is designed for infection prevention and control professionals working in healthcare facilities and public health roles. Register for the webinar [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 in August. 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 VHHA Data Director on Rising Uninsured ED Visits

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Andre Tolleris**, VHHA Director of Data Analytics, for a conversation about leveraging hospital and healthcare data to provide actionable insights that member organizations can operationalize, VHHA data tools, and the public health implications from the findings of a recent VHHA analysis showing that hospital emergency department visits among self-pay/uninsured patients are rising across Virginia. 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



Arner



Connaughton



Dacey



Davis-Hagens



Jones



Just



Levy



Lunn



Lutes



Mannix



Matheis



Nantz



Newman



Rosner



Sampson



Shannon



Tugman

Hospital leaders from across Virginia have been recognized on the 2026-2027 *Virginia Business Power 500* [list](#). They are: **Steve Arner**, President and CEO of **Carilion Clinic**; **Sean T. Connaughton**, President and CEO of the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association**; **Dr. Michael J. Dacey**, President and CEO of **Riverside Health**; **Pat Davis-Hagens**, Market President of **Bon Secours Hampton Roads**; **Dr. Stephen J. Jones**, President and CEO of **Inova**; **Dr. J. Scott Just**, CEO of **UVA Physicians Group**; **Dr. Marlon Levy**, CEO of **VCU Health**; **Dr. William Lunn**, President of **HCA Capital Division**; **Michael Lutes**, State President of Virginia for **Bon Secours Mercy Health**; **Mary N. Mannix**, President and CEO of **Augusta Health**; **Dennis Matheis**, President and CEO of **Sentara Health**; **Mark Nantz**, President and CEO of **Valley Health**; **Dr. Christopher Newman**, President and CEO of **Mary Washington Healthcare**; **Dr. Mitchell Rosner**, CEO of **UVA Health**; **Amy Sampson**, President and CEO of **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**; **Erik Shannon**, CEO of **UVA Community Health**; and **Richard Tugman**, President and CEO of **Centra Health**.



Luke



Lynch



Runyan



Schmidt



Talreja



Tchiblakian

Adam Luke, Associate Vice President, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Services at **Riverside Health**; **Dr. Petra Lynch**, an interventional cardiologist with **Sentara Health**; **Donna Runyan**, Chief Human Resources Officer at **Chesapeake Regional Healthcare**; **Dr. Craig Schmidt**, Chief Operating Officer at **Bon Secours**

Hampton Roads; Dr. Deepak Talreja, a cardiologist with **Sentara Health**; and **Emily Tchiblakian**, Vice President of Perioperative Service Lines at **Sentara Health**; have been named to the 2026-27 Board of Directors for the **American Heart Association - Hampton Roads**.