

2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit



Innovating with Purpose: Building a
Resilient Behavioral Health System

September 24, 2026 | The Westin-Richmond

WELCOME

The U.S. behavioral health system continues to navigate a complex set of issues marked by a period of rising service demand, workforce shortages, rapid transformation, and persistent structural challenges.

Across the nation, the demand for mental health and substance use disorder treatment has grown. This is driven by factors including increased public awareness and reduced stigma, some lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating rates of anxiety and depression, youth mental health challenges, and the ongoing substance use crisis. Each year, more than one in five U.S. adults and one in seven youths ages 6-17 experience a mental illness, while one in 20 adults experience serious mental illness.

In Virginia, the behavioral health system has made meaningful progress in enhancing service access and developing new points of entry and customized care programs that meet the unique needs and life circumstances of patients and families. Yet challenges still persist and service demand remains strong. In 2024, Virginia had more than 63,600 behavioral health hospital admissions for inpatient care. Private hospitals accommodated nearly 92 percent of the statewide total.

With that level of service demand, workforce needs remain a significant challenge confronting the behavioral health system. The U.S. faces a shortage of behavioral health professionals across roles including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed counselors, social workers, nurses, and behavioral health technicians. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration reports that as of 2025 approximately 40 percent of the U.S. population (137 million people) live in a mental health professional shortage area. Many rural communities are among those in shortage areas. Virginia's rural hospitals are working to meet that need. In 2025, rural hospitals had 3,207 behavioral health inpatient admissions as well as 28,669 inpatient admissions for patients with a behavioral health-related diagnosis.

As we face these conditions, the 2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit brings providers and stakeholders together to network, share, and learn from each other about effective strategies to address service and workforce needs and integrate new tools and models to support care delivery with a focus on collaboration, prevention, resilience, and early intervention for the good of all Virginians.



Dr. William Lunn
VHHA Board Chair
President, HCA Capital Division



Sean T. Connaughton
VHHA President and CEO



AGENDA

Breakfast and Registration <i>Chesapeake Foyer</i>	7:30-9 a.m.
Summit Welcome and Opening Remarks Speakers: R. Brent Rawlings, Marvin Figueroa, Dr. William Lunn, Daryl Washington, Stacey Johnson <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B, C</i>	9-9:30 a.m.
Keynote Remarks - Resilience: Awareness, Perspective, and Choice Speaker: Amy Dee <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B, C</i>	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Artificial Intelligence in the Behavioral Health Professions: Emerging Ethical and Risk Management Challenges Speaker: Frederic Reamer <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B, C</i>	10:35-11:50 a.m.
Networking Lunch and Exhibit Hall <i>Chesapeake Foyer</i>	11:50 a.m.-12:50 p.m.
Breakout Session Transition	12:50-1 p.m.
Breakout Session - From Champions to Culture: Growing and Sustaining Well-Being in Healthcare Teams Speakers: Joel R. Anderson, Tora Simpson <i>Chesapeake Ballroom C</i>	1-2 p.m.
Breakout Session - Aggression Risk Prediction: Evidence-Based Tools and Best Practices for Implementation Speakers: Jennifer Campbell-Raab, Cynde McCallum, Mary Haigh, Melanie Galloway <i>Blue Ridge Ballroom A, B</i>	1-2 p.m.
Breakout Session - Beyond Custody: Cross-Sector Innovation in Emergency Behavioral Healthcare Speakers: Mylene Kedrock, Tiffany Coullahan, R. John Repique, Scott Smith, Donald L. Smith, Andrea Hess <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B</i>	1-2 p.m.



AGENDA

Breakout Session Transition	2-2:15 p.m.
Breakout Session - From Risk to Results: Advancing Workplace Safety in Healthcare Speakers: Jaime Lovelace, Lexi Robertson, Charles Grandel, Mark Gilbert, Lisa Dishner <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B</i>	2:15-3:15 p.m.
Breakout Session - Beyond the Incident: Supporting Behavioral Health and Hospital Employees Through Workplace Violence and Recovery Speakers: Joey Trapani, Doug Cofield, Ariel Daniel, Bonnie Price, Angela Modlin <i>Blue Ridge Ballroom A, B</i>	2:15-3:15 p.m.
Breakout Session - Integrating Addiction Medicine Across the Care Continuum: Lessons from VCU Health's MOTIVATE Clinic Speakers: Dr. Brandon Wills, Theresa Davis, Kalie Owen <i>Chesapeake Ballroom C</i>	2:15-3:15 p.m.
Afternoon Break and Transition	3:15-3:30 p.m.
Keynote Remarks - Choices Matter Speaker: David Francisco <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B, C</i>	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Closing Remarks Speaker: Joey Trapani <i>Chesapeake Ballroom A, B, C</i>	4:30-4:45 p.m.

Scan the QR Code for additional details
on the Summit agenda and speakers



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MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR AGES 4 TO 100+

No one should have to wait to feel better.

Your patients are waiting months for behavioral health care. We can see them this week — the 8-year-old, the teen, the parent, the grandparent. Backpack Healthcare partners with health systems to expand BH access for whole families, in-network with Medicaid and major insurances.

Kids 4+

Teens

Adults

Older adults

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- Acuity we can hold — mild to high-acuity, with step-up and step-down
- Care that stays connected to your clinicians, not siloed from them

backpack

Let's start the conversation

hellobackpack.com

partners@hellobackpack.com

Behavioral Health Services

We're growing.



Strong Futures is expanding to Virginia. This program is designed to support pregnant, postpartum and parenting mothers on their recovery journey.

Strong Futures Virginia offers trauma-informed treatment that addresses substance use, mental health, maternal wellness and family stability. Our unique approach helps mothers receive the care they need while maintaining their connection with their children, promoting healthier outcomes for both mother and child.

Now accepting provider
and community referrals.



Featured openings:

- Registered Nurses
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people behind you,
there's more life
in front of you.**

*Get your best care
with our care team.*



CENTRA



Your mental health matters

At HCA Virginia Health System, we believe mental health is just as vital as physical health. That's why our hospitals provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient mental health programs tailored to support community members facing mental and behavioral health challenges, including acute trauma, anxiety, addiction and eating disorders.

**Compassionate care is only a call away.
Call our Help Line: 844.255.8448**



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about our mental health services
or visit HCAVirginia.com



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Adolescent Acute Services

Adult Services

Adult Detoxification Services

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Phone 757-827-1001 | Fax 757-827-3128
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Sentara Cares

Sentara is proud to support the 2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit

Sentara believes our community thrives when we all come together to improve the health and well-being of our residents. Thank you, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, for bringing healthcare professionals across Virginia together to advance behavioral health care.



SentaraCares.com



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THE OMNI HOMESTEAD RESORT



SPEAKERS



Joel R. Anderson, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNL

Senior Director, Medical Center, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Co-Director, Office of Team Wellbeing | Wisdom and Wellbeing Program



Jennifer Campbell-Raab, BSN, RN

Behavioral Health Education Coordinator, Riverside Mental Health and Recovery Center



Doug Cofield, MHA, RN, PMH-BC

Market Director, Behavioral Health, Bon Secours



Tiffany Coullahan, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Senior Nursing Director, Emergency Services and Emergency Care Centers, Interim System Senior Director, MSL Emergency Medicine Nursing, Inova



SPEAKERS



Ariel Daniel, LPC, CSOTP, CCTP

Manager, Behavioral Health, Bon Secours



Theresa Davis, RN, MSN, FNP-BC

Clinical Research Nurse Practitioner,
VCU Health



Amy Dee, RN

Storyteller, Comedian, Nurse



Lisa Dishner, MSN, MHA, PMH-BC, NEA-BC, PRS, CCISM

Senior Director, Mental Health, Carilion Clinic

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SPEAKERS



The Honorable Marvin Figueroa, EdM

Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources



David Francisco

Survivor, Motivational Speaker, Music Producer



Melanie Galloway, LCSW

Clinical Director, Riverside Mental Health and Recovery Center



Mark Gilbert

Captain, Police and Security Services,
Carilion Clinic



SPEAKERS



Charles Grandel

Behavioral Security Specialist, Carilion Clinic



Mary Haigh, DNP, RN, CEN, NEA-BC

Senior Director, Emergency Services,
Riverside Regional Medical Center



Andrea Hess, LPC

Manager, Emergency Services, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board



Stacey Johnson, LCSW, MBA

President, Riverside Doctors' Hospital
Williamsburg

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SPEAKERS



**Mylene Kedrock, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC,
PMHNP-BC**

Advanced Practice Provider (APP)
Manager, Inova



Jaime Lovelace, MSN, RN, PMH-BC

Nursing Director, Virginia Treatment
Center for Children



Dr. William Lunn

President, HCA Capital Division, VHHA Board
Chair



Cynde McCallum, MHA, BSN, RN, PMH-BC

Chief Nursing Officer, Riverside Mental Health
and Recovery Center



SPEAKERS



Angela Modlin, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P

Manger, Violence Response Team, Bon Secours



Kalie Owen, LCSW, CSAC

Clinical Social Worker, MOTIVATE Clinic,
VCU Health



Bonnie Price, DNP, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, AFN-BC

Director, Community Health - Violence Response
Team, Bon Secours Richmond Health System



R. Brent Rawlings, JD, MHA

Senior Vice President and General Counsel,
VHHA

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SPEAKERS



Frederic Reamer, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Rhode Island College
School of Social Work



R. John Repique, DNP, RN

Director, Behavioral Health Services,
Augusta Health



Lexi Robertson, MSN, RN, PMH-BC

Nurse Clinician, Virginia Treatment Center for Children



Tora Simpson, MSN, MHA, RN, CNML

Market Director, Behavioral Health, Sovah
Health - Danville/Martinsville, Lifepoint Health



SPEAKERS



Donald L. Smith

Sheriff, Augusta County



Scott Smith

Director, Safety and Security Services,
Augusta Health



Joey Trapani, MBA

President, Bon Secours Southside Medical
Center and Southern Virginia Medical
Center



Daryl Washington, LCSW

Commissioner, Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services (DBHDS)



Dr. Brandon Wills, DO, FASAM, FAACT

Professor, Addictions Division,
Department of Psychiatry, Medical
Director, MOTIVATE Clinic, Fellowship
Director, Addiction Medicine, VCU Health

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