

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

You are receiving this e-mail from VHHA because you requested a subscription. For continued delivery of this e-mail version, please add jtwalker@vhha.com to your address book today.

Articles:

1. [VHHA in Action](#)
2. [Register for the 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit, Nov. 6-8](#)
3. [VHHA Board Chairs Delivers Keynote Remarks at Debut of Black History Museum Exhibit](#)
4. [VNPC to Host Annual Summit Oct. 20-21 Focused on Maternal and Infant Health](#)
5. [Register for Oct. 9 Webinar on Healthcare Preparedness for 2024 Elections, Civil Unrest](#)
6. [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features VCU Health Geriatric Physician, Home Health Program](#)
7. [FDA Accepting Public Comments on Draft Guidance for Oncology Clinical Development Programs](#)
8. [VNPC Recruiting Hospitals for Perinatal Mental Health Quality Improvement Project](#)
9. [CMS Issues Request for Information on Artificial Intelligence Use by Health Care Providers](#)
10. [Around the State](#)

1. 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 care systems. In the past week, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- This week, VHHA participated in the [Real Life](#) "Beyond Gunshots: Pathways to Safer Communities" conference by moderating a panel discussion featuring representatives from six Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs), which provide support services to patients impacted by community and interpersonal violence. These interventions help restore lives and improve communities. Representatives from **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Sentara Health, VCU Health, Riverside, Bon Secours, and Carilion Clinic** participated on the panel. View event photos [here](#).
- VHHA staff attended the [quarterly meeting](#) of the **Virginia State Board of Health** this week. The meeting agenda included a regulatory action update, a presentation on the Sickle Cell Program, amendments to regulations for the Virginia Immunization Information System, and more.
- This week, VHHA staff attended a meeting of the **State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board**, where the [agenda](#) focused on internal and external audit findings related to an investigation into the misappropriation of state funds.
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has issued [draft guidance](#) on "Integrating Randomized Controlled Trials for Drug and Biological Products into Routine Clinical Practice" to support the conduct of randomized controlled trials with streamlined protocols and procedures that focus on essential data collection, allowing integration of research into routine clinical practice. Public comments on the draft guidance are being accepted.

- The **U.S Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, and the **Treasury Department** recently issued a [final rule](#) to promote commercial health plan compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 that requires mental health and substance use disorder benefits at the same level as medical and surgical benefits. Provisions in the final rule set standards for determining network composition and out-of-network reimbursement rates; adds protections against restrictive non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTL) in coverage; and prohibits plans from using non-objective information that may negatively impact access to mental health or substance use disorder care when applying NQTL.
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued revised guidance on participation conditions and the conversion process for facilities to participate in Medicare and Medicaid as a rural emergency hospital, a provider designation established in federal law in 2020 in response to rural hospital closures and to promote health care access in rural communities. When eligible facilities convert to a rural emergency hospital they are permitted to provide emergency department services, observation care, and other services as elected provided the average annual patient length of stay is less than 24 hours. Medicare pays rural emergency hospitals an extra 5 percent above the hospital outpatient prospective payment system rate to provide emergency, observation, and other outpatient services to Medicare patients. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- VHHA recently hosted a webinar in the quarterly public health webinar series for Virginia hospitals and health systems. The webinar series is hosted by VHHA in collaboration with **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** officials who provide updates on key topics including disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, RSV, and unique pathogens, among others. View presentation slides [here](#) and a webinar recording of the most recent installment through this [link](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is accepting [public comments](#) through Nov. 12 pertaining to a proposed plan for data collection and audit requirements for Medicaid Advantage plans related to compliance with the calendar year 2024 Medicare Advantage [final rule](#).
- **HosPAC**, the political action committee of VHHA, is in the midst of its 2024 fundraising campaign and needs support from members of the health care community. Financial contributions of any amount, large or small, help HosPAC support candidates for state office who are committed to strengthening the health care delivery system in Virginia by growing the health care workforce, promoting access to care, and investing in public health. By supporting candidates from both parties who champion these values, HosPAC helps advance the voice of the health care community in state public policy development. Please consider contributing to HosPAC to support this important work on behalf of Virginia hospitals, health systems, and their teams. Visit this [link](#) to make contributions and contact Hannah Coley at hcoley@vhha.com with any questions.
- 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 includes recent coverage from [WAVY](#), [WWBT](#), [WRIC](#), [Yahoo News](#), [WCAV](#), and the [Center Square](#).

[Back](#)

Now is the time to register for the **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The theme for this annual VHHA event is “Come Home to Healthcare.” The Summit programming agenda is centered around topics of interest and opportunities for networking and engagement with fellow leaders and national experts. Former **U.S. Representative Harold Ford Jr.** of Tennessee is confirmed as a Summit keynote speaker. Summit participants are also eligible for continuing education credits. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact events@vhha.com for questions or registration assistance.

[Back](#)

3. VHHA Board Chairs Delivers Keynote Remarks at Debut of Black History Museum Exhibit

VHHA Board Chair Michael Elliott, the Chief Operating Officer for **VCU Health**, was a featured speaker this week at the opening of a new exhibit at the [Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia](#). The exhibit – “A Prescription for Change: Black Voices Shaping Healthcare in Virginia” – tells stories of the significant yet often overlooked contributions of black professionals in the health field. Several members of the VHHA staff attended the exhibit debut. VHHA is proud to be an exhibit sponsor. View event photos [here](#).

[Back](#)

4. VNPC to Host Annual Summit Oct. 20-21 Focused on Maternal and Infant Health

The **Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC)** is slated to host its 2024 Annual Summit – “Connecting the Dots: Action to Outcome” – Oct. 20-21 at the Wintergreen Resort. The VNPC Annual Summit offers an opportunity to hear important updates on statewide quality improvement initiatives, learn about new findings in the world of maternal and infant health, and connect with others in the field. Experts will speak on topics relevant to maternal and infant health in Virginia with an emphasis on evidence-based actions and how to continue Virginia’s progress toward improving outcomes. Hospital quality, obstetric, pediatric, nursing, health equity, and population health leaders are encouraged to attend. Learn more and register [here](#).

[Back](#)

5. Register for Oct. 9 Webinar on Healthcare Preparedness for 2024 Elections, Civil Unrest

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, VHHA, and the four regional healthcare coalitions – is hosting an hourlong webinar Oct. 9 at noon focused on medical facility operational planning in the lead up to the 2024 election cycle and the role of medical intelligence in anticipating potential issues. Recent years have seen an increase in civil unrest events across the nation, which can unfortunately impact health care operations in several ways including the potential for mass casualty events. This year’s elections have the potential to spark protests or other conduct that could have public health implications. The webinar will feature **Scott Cormier**, Vice President of Emergency Management and Safety with **Medxcel**. Register for the webinar [here](#).

[Back](#)

6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Geriatric Physician, Home Health Program

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Julia Siegel Breton**, a VCU Health physician who leads the innovative Hospital at Home program. Our conversation delves into her professional journey and what inspired her to pursue geriatric medicine, an overview of how the VCU Health Hospital at Home program works, 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](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.

[Back](#)

7. FDA Accepting Public Comments on Draft Guidance for Oncology Clinical Development Programs

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is accepting public comments through Nov. 18 on [draft guidance](#) pertaining to “Considerations for Generating Clinical Evidence From Oncology Multiregional Clinical Development Programs.” The draft guidance provides recommendations to sponsors who are planning global clinical development programs for drugs intended to treat cancer, on improving the evidence obtained from one or more multiregional clinical trials (MRCTs) intended to support a marketing application. This draft guidance expands on principles described in the FDA’s existing guidance documents related to this topic, by providing additional recommendations for the planning, design, conduct, and analysis of an oncology MRCT that may facilitate the FDA’s assessment of applicability of the data to the U.S. population with the cancer being investigated and to U.S. medical practice.

[Back](#)

8. VNPC Recruiting Hospitals for Perinatal Mental Health Quality Improvement Project

The [Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative \(VNPC\)](#) is recruiting hospitals for its perinatal mental health quality improvement project, SMILE, which is fully aligned with the associated [AIM patient safety bundle](#). For hospitals that need support to achieve the CMS “birthing friendly” designation, engagement in this project would satisfy the perinatal quality collaborative participation requirement. Enrollment ends Oct. 1. Contact info@goVNPC.org for more information about the program, including enrollment.

[Back](#)

9. CMS Issues Request for Information on Artificial Intelligence Use by Health Care Providers

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued a [request for information](#) seeking insight on artificial intelligence use by health care providers and other organizations that can improve health care outcomes and care delivery. Selected organizations will have the opportunity to give brief presentations on their AI products and services beginning in October. Those presentations will inform future CMS actions on AI. Responses are due by Oct. 7.

[Back](#)

10. Around the State

Buchanan General Hospital has received the Environmental Sustainability Excellence Award from **Vizient Inc.**, a health care services firm. The award ranks members across five cohorts on contributions to human and environmental health through responsible purchasing decisions. Read more [here](#).

Ballad Health has named **Sean Mills** as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Acute Services and Market Operations; **Joshua McFall** as Chief Financial Officer of Corporate, Retail, and Non-Acute Services; **Shana Tate** as Chief Revenue Officer; **Chase Wilson** as Chief Financial Officer for Johnson City Medical Center; and **Davis Greene** as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Johnson City Medical Center. Read more [here](#).

[Back](#)
