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

### **VHHA Solutions Enters Partnership with FairShare Insurance to Support Employer Voluntary Benefits**

- **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) affiliate [VHHA Solutions](#) has entered into a new strategic partnership with [FairShare Insurance](#), an award-winning supplemental insurance company that offers a unique reinsurance model that benefits employers and their employees. FairShare Insurance supports organizations that offer voluntary employee benefits such as

accident, critical illness, and hospital indemnity by reinsuring benefit plans. This helps reduce premiums, enhance coverage, and can return surplus funds to employers. That approach can help reduce staff turnover, boost employee satisfaction, and create a recurring source of funds for employers. The FairShare Insurance model helps employers maximize the value of employee benefits by enhancing coverage at a lower cost to staff. The funds realized from this model can be reinvested in wellness initiatives, employee health savings accounts (HSA), or other benefit enhancements. VHHA Solutions will work with FairShare Insurance to showcase its turnkey programs to health care organizations and large employers. Read more [here](#).

#### **VHHA Staff Attends Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care Hearing**

- This week, VHHA staff attended a meeting of the **Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care** (JCHC) whose [agenda](#) topics included a briefing on the planned closure of the state-run Hiram Davis Medical Center, a review of the 2025 **Virginia General Assembly** session, and a briefing on effort to respond to the fentanyl crisis.

#### **VHHA Hosts Meeting of Healthcare Safety & Security Workgroup**

- This week, VHHA convened a meeting of the **Healthcare Safety & Security Workgroup**. The Workgroup includes hospital safety and security leaders focused on sharing experiences, ideas, and best practices regarding current and future safety, security, violence prevention, and response activities in Virginia hospitals and health systems. Contact **Abraham Segres** at [asegres@vhha.com](mailto:asegres@vhha.com) with questions about the group.

#### **VHHA Hosts Meeting of Payor Advisory Committee**

- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Payor Advisory Committee**. The Committee is a forum for hospital payor relations and revenue cycle leaders to discuss priority issues and ongoing payor-related challenges. Contact **Craig Connors** at [cconnors@vhha.com](mailto:cconnors@vhha.com) to inquire about the committee.

#### **VHHA Hosts Meeting of Virginia Hospital Communications Officers**

- This week, VHHA hosted a meeting of the **Virginia Hospital Communications Officers**, which is a forum for Virginia hospital marketing and communications team members to discuss relevant issues related to strategic approaches to messaging, outreach, and public awareness efforts. Contact **Julian Walker** at [jwalker@vhha.com](mailto:jwalker@vhha.com) with questions about the group.

#### **Virginia Works, VHHA Host Apprenticeship Accelerator Workshop**

- This week, **Virginia Works** hosted an in-person workshop for hospital leaders to provide insight on establishing the basic components of a customizable Registered Apprenticeship program for three high-demand hospital roles (registered nurse, imaging tech, and surgical tech). The workshop was conducted in collaboration with VHHA. Questions about the program can be sent to VHHA Director of Workforce Initiatives **Sharon Alexander** at [salexander@vhha.com](mailto:salexander@vhha.com). View event photos [here](#).

#### **VHHA Hosts Informational Webinar on LEAN Six Sigma Green Belt Certification Program Offering**

- VHHA, in partnership with A3 Healthcare, will offer a LEAN Six Sigma Green Belt Certification program spanning July 2025 to February 2026. Ahead of that offering, VHHA hosted a webinar this week to provide an overview of the Green Belt program, how it will be tailored to health care, and specifics about the upcoming VHHA certification program that will offer a unique blend of change management skills, LEAN principles, and the DMAIC (define, measure, analyze, improve, and control) methodology. Contact **Kristie Burnette** at [kburnette@vhha.com](mailto:kburnette@vhha.com) with program questions.

#### **View VHHA Highlight Video from the 2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit**

- In April, VHHA and the **VHHA Foundation** hosted the **2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** at The Westin-Richmond. “Today’s Challenges, Tomorrow’s Impact” was the theme for the in-person event, during which participants engaged with speakers, sponsors, and support organizations from across the Virginia health care community regarding opportunities to strengthen the Commonwealth’s preparedness for threats to the health care delivery system including severe weather, active aggressor incidents, crisis standards of care considerations, and special pathogens response. VHHA recently produced a Summit [highlight video](#) that is now available online. View the Summit program brochure [here](#) and read more through this [link](#). An event photo gallery can be viewed [here](#).

#### **Register for VHHA-IHI Open School Quality and Patient Safety Certificate Program**

- Now is the time to register for the latest cohort of the [IHI Open School](#) Certificate Program in Quality and Patient Safety offered by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence**. Since the first offering in 2021, hundreds of participants have completed the 13 required courses and have been recognized at the annual **Virginia Patient Safety Summit**. Now in its fourth year, Virginia health care professionals looking to gain quality and patient safety improvement knowledge are invited to register to join the IHI Open School courses to earn a certificate in quality and safety. Content is delivered through narrative, video, and interactive discussion. There are 13 core courses to earn the Basic Quality and Safety Certificate (17.75 CE credits available for the 13 courses) and [more than 30 courses](#) available in total for Continuing Education and Specialty Board Certification. The courses offer a dynamic learning environment for health care professionals of all levels and are available as self-paced online modules that are estimated to take 13-22 hours to complete. Those who register will be contacted by e-mail before June 1, 2025, with instructions about how to log in. Participants will have access to all courses from June 1, 2025-May 30, 2026. Those who complete the certificate by Jan. 31, 2026 will be recognized during the 2026 Virginia Patient Safety Summit. The VHHA group rate cost to enroll is \$199 (\$399 without the group rate). Team members from Virginia rural hospitals participating in the Flex grant are encouraged to contact [rpryor@vhha.com](mailto:rpryor@vhha.com) for pre-approval before registering. Questions can also be directed to [kburnette@vhha.com](mailto:kburnette@vhha.com). Register to participate through this [link](#).

#### **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 the [Virginia Mercury](#), [Insurance News Net](#), and [Business Wire](#).

## News Updates

### U.S. House Approves Budget Package that Impacts Medicaid Program Funding

After a series of votes and several rounds of negotiation, the **U.S. House of Representatives** this week narrowly approved the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” budget package endorsed by **U.S. President Donald Trump**. The package extends income tax cuts previously enacted in 2017, invests in border control, and calls for reduced Medicaid and food assistance program spending. This week, the package cleared the **House Budget Committee** and the **House Rules Committee** and then won full House approval on a [215-214 vote](#). The package includes [legislation](#) previously approved by the **U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee** that contains Medicaid policy changes and funding reductions as part of the broader spending plan. The **Congressional Budget Office** (CBO) has [estimated](#) the proposed Committee legislation would reduce the federal deficit by \$912 billion over a decade, including \$715 billion in savings from reductions in Medicaid. CBO also projects that 13.7 million more individuals could be without health insurance by 2034. That figure includes a projected 4.2 million people who could lose coverage due to the anticipated expiration of expanded Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits, 1.8 million people due to the impact of the [2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Rule](#), and a 7.7 million reduction in the number of people with health insurance by 2034 under the Medicaid provisions of the legislation. The legislation would establish more frequent eligibility redeterminations to prevent duplicate enrollment. It would also require certain able-bodied adults ages 19 to 64 without dependents to work at least 80 hours per month or participate in community engagement activities to maintain Medicaid coverage. The proposed legislation seeks to limit the growth of Directed Payment Programs (DPP) while incorporating grandfather clause language that specifies any programs that received written prior approval before the date of enactment would be capped at the levels outlined in its currently approved preprint and State Plan Amendment (SPA). It is the view of VHHA that preserving funding mechanisms such as the State Directed Payment Program is essential for sustaining high-quality and affordable care for Medicaid beneficiaries across the Commonwealth. The draft legislation maintains the current Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) model rather than shifting to per capita caps or block grants. This week’s action was preceded by a [continuing resolution](#) Congress approved in March to fund the federal government through Sept. 30 and avert a partial government shutdown. That was followed in April by the passage of a modified [budget resolution](#) that, among other things, directed the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee with jurisdiction over Medicaid and other health care programs to cut at least \$880 billion in spending over time. Now that the U.S. House has passed the legislation, it heads to the **U.S. Senate** for consideration. The President and **House Speaker Mike Johnson** reportedly want a deal done by July 4.

### FDA Leaders Offer Revised Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary** and FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director **Dr. Vinay Prasad** offered new guidance on “an evidence-based approach to COVID-19 vaccination” in a [New England Journal of Medicine](#) article published this week. The article notes that the FDA is adopting a regulatory framework in which vaccination occurs “on the basis of immunogenicity — proof that a vaccine can generate antibody titers in people” with the anticipation “that it will be able to make favorable benefit–risk findings for adults over the age of 65 years and for all persons above the age of 6 months with one or more risk factors that put them at high risk for severe” disease outcomes. The guidance further notes that “for all healthy persons...the FDA

anticipates the need for randomized, controlled trial data evaluating clinical outcomes before Biologics License Applications can be granted.”

### **VDH Seeks Survey Responses to Improve Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness**

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is seeking survey responses to improve public health reporting and surveillance of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which is a condition that affects newborns exposed to opioids or addictive substances in the womb, causing them to experience withdrawal symptoms during their first few days of life. By participating in this brief survey, clinicians will help identify key areas where additional support or resources are needed. This survey will provide valuable insights into the challenges and barriers faced when reporting NAS cases, helping VDH develop better educational tools to support health care providers across the state. All responses will be used for VDH’s evaluation efforts and any data shared will be reported in aggregate to ensure privacy. Survey questions may be sent to **Julie Keeney**, CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, at [juliana.keeney@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:juliana.keeney@vdh.virginia.gov) or **Dr. Dane De Silva**, Director of the Division of Population Health Data, at [dane.desilva@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:dane.desilva@vdh.virginia.gov). The survey is available through June 30. Access the survey through this [link](#).

### **Health Sector Coordinating Council Shares Health Care Cybersecurity Report**

The **Health Sector Coordinating Council** (HSCC) recently shared a new [report](#) titled “On the Edge: Cybersecurity Health of America’s Resource-Constrained Health Providers.” The report highlights how resource-constrained health care systems including small, rural, and critical access hospitals, family clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and federally qualified health centers (FQHC), among others are only marginally prepared for ongoing cyber threats to clinical care and operational liquidity. It also recommends forms of support needed amid stiffer cybersecurity regulatory requirements.

## **Events**

### **VHEMP to Host May 28 Webinar on 2025 Hurricane Season**

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program** (VHEMP) – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH), the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA), and the four regional healthcare coalitions – will host a free webinar briefing on May 28 at noon featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service** (NWS), that will focus on the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. Register through this [link](#).

### **Register for June 4 In-Person Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network Summit**

Registration is open for the 2025 **Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network** (VCCRN) Summit, scheduled for June 4 at The Westin – Richmond. “Generating Impact Through Research and Collaboration” is the theme for this in-person event presented by VCCRN as an opportunity to network and build relationships with clinical researchers, health care institutions, and life science industry leaders from across Virginia. Visit this [link](#) for more details and registration.

### **Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics to Host Virtual Summit June 9-13**

The **Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (VAFCC)** will host its 2025 Virtual Summit next month, June 9-13, as an event available to health care professionals across the Commonwealth. The programming includes diverse content tracks facilitated by expert speakers including a workplace well-being essentials track, a community health worker track, a cardiometabolic education track, a communications track, and a fund development track. Visit this [link](#) for more details and registration information.

### **Mercer, VHHA to Host June 10 Webinar on Workday Implementation for Hospitals**

Mercer and VHHA are hosting a 90-minute webinar at 2 p.m. on June 10 for hospitals that focuses on the evolving human resources and operations landscape through the lens of Mercer's Infinity Loop framework – strategy, deployment, and betterment. This webinar content will focus on how health care organizations are implementing Workday to drive digital transformation, provide insights on the impact of AI in health care delivery, and key success factors for technology deployment. Register for the webinar [here](#).

### **VHHA to Host June 24 Workshop on Adapting Leadership for Next Generation Talent**

VHHA is hosting an in-person workshop for clinical and administrative leaders on June 24 at its offices in Glen Allen, VA focused on the topic of "GEN Z 101: Adapting Your Leadership for the Next Generation of Talent." The workshop will feature **Hannah Ubl**, future of work expert and co-founder of Good Company Consulting. The workshop is scheduled for June 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Register [here](#).

## **Podcast**

### **VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Backpack Healthcare Mental Health Services**

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Jay Taylor**, Chief Growth Officer at **Backpack Healthcare**, who joins us to discuss his career journey, behavioral health access amid rising service demand, a new partnership between **VHHA Solutions** and Backpack Healthcare, 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](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), 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, and 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to [pcfpodcast@vhha.com](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com).



## Around the State



**UVA Health** has named **Stephanie Schnittger** as its Chief Financial Officer. Schnittger comes to UVA Health from **Luminis Health**, where she has served as Chief Financial Officer. She also previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Corporate Finance for **Sentara Health** and Senior Vice President for Corporate Finance and Interim Chief Financial Officer for **Inova**. Schnittger earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Dayton and a Certified Public Accountant license from the state of Ohio. Read more [here](#).

**Kim Doss** has been named as the 2025 Mercy Award winner for **Sovah Health - Danville**. The Mercy Award recognizes one employee from each **Lifepoint Health** facility who profoundly touches the lives of others and best represents the spirit and values on which the company was founded. Read more [here](#).

