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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:

Inaugural Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network Summit Held in Richmond

- The inaugural **Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network (VCCRN)** Summit was held this week as an in-person event at The Westin – Richmond. The Summit theme was "Generating

Impact Through Research and Collaboration” and the event presented an opportunity to network and build relationships with clinical researchers, health care institutions, and life science industry leaders from across Virginia. Hosted by the [Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network](#) (VCCRN) with support from the [VHHA Foundation](#), the Summit programming included insightful keynote presentations and panel discussions oriented around efforts to strengthen collaboration among clinical, academic, and biotechnology and life sciences organizations to accelerate clinical research and trials across the Commonwealth to address health disparities, improve outcomes, and support economic growth. Featured Summit speakers include a [welcome message](#) from **City of Richmond Mayor Dr. Danny Avula** as well as leaders from **Activation Capital, Athari Biosciences, Carilion Clinic, the Central Virginia VA Health System, Jeeva Clinical Trials, Phlow Corp., VCU Health, VHHA, Virginia Bio, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)**. Read more about the event [here](#), view the program brochure through this [link](#), and see an event photo gallery [here](#).

VHHA Develops Virginia Hospital Workforce Data Dashboard to Track State, National Trends

- The **VHHA Data Analytics Team** has developed a new public-facing data tool that enables users to evaluate national and state-level data on trends in hospital employment, wages, and in-demand occupations. The [Virginia Hospital Workforce Dashboard](#) is an interactive tool that leverages data from the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’** (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program as well the annual Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. The construction of the dashboard on the foundation of those data sources provides a more representative and consistent picture of hospital workforce supply and demand trends. The dashboard tool also has an array of built-in filters and features so users can evaluate the data by zooming in on Virginia or expanding their view to compare hospital job categories across states to identify patterns or derive key insights. Read more [here](#).

VHHA Participates in Virginia Chamber of Commerce 2025 Healthcare Conference

- This week, VHHA staff and representatives from multiple hospital members participated in the **Virginia Chamber of Commerce 2025 Healthcare Conference**. **VCU Health** Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer **Michael Elliott**, the Immediate Past Chair of the **VHHA Board of Directors**, member offered welcome remarks at the Conference. VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** moderated a panel discussion on “The State of Healthcare Policy” that also featured panelists from VCU Health and **Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters**, among others. Other VHHA member organizations participating in the Conference programming included **Augusta Health, Bon Secours, Inova, Riverside, Sentara Health, and Valley Health**. Read more [here](#).

VHHA Holds In-Person Rural Hospital Collaborative Meeting

- This week, VHHA held an in-person meeting of the **Rural Hospital Collaborative**. The event was held in Nelson County in concert with the **Virginia Rural Health Association** and rural hospital representatives from **Carilion Clinic, Valley Health, Bon Secours, VCU Health, HCA Virginia, Riverside, and Centra** were in attendance. The program included a legislative presentation provided by a representative from the **National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health** as well as a pair of breakout sessions on addressing social drivers of health in rural communities and maternal health issues. Contact **Rachel Pryor** with questions at rpryor@vhha.com.

View Recording of VHEMP 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 – recently hosted a free webinar briefing featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service (NWS)**, that focused on the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. View a webinar recording through this [link](#) and access presentation slides [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 the [Virginia Independent](#).

News Updates

HHS, CMS Rescind Guidance on Hospital Obligations Under EMTALA Regarding Pregnancy Loss

This week, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** announced the withdrawal of previously issued federal guidance to hospitals that pregnant patients should have access to an abortion during a medical emergency irrespective of state laws prohibiting those procedures. The guidance being rescinded was issued in 2022 under the Biden Administration. CMS indicates it “will continue to enforce EMTALA, which protects all individuals who present to a hospital emergency department seeking examination or treatment, including for identified emergency medical conditions that place the health of a pregnant woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy.” Read more [here](#).

U.S. GAO Report Calls for CMS to Probe Medicare Advantage Plans on Behavioral Health Services

A recent report from the **U.S. Office of Government Accountability (GAO)** recommends that the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** target behavioral health services in its audits of Medicare Advantage plans after a review showed that many such organizations require prior authorization before patients receive needed behavioral care. Read more [here](#).

CMS to Enhance Oversight of State Medicaid Spending on Care for Undocumented Immigrants

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently announced enhanced federal oversight efforts regarding how states use federal Medicaid dollars regarding coverage of health care services for individuals in the country illegally. As part of this effort, CMS is urging states to examine and update internal controls, eligibility systems, and cost allocation policies to ensure compliance with federal law. The agency indicates that improper spending on non-citizens “will be subject to recoupment of the federal share.” This policy effort aligns with an [executive order](#) issued in February by **U.S. President Donald Trump** focused on preventing public dollars from supporting illegal immigration. Read more [here](#).

CMS Contacts Hospitals Regarding Gender Reassignment Procedures

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently sent a [letter](#) to select U.S. hospitals expressing “serious concerns with medical interventions for gender dysphoria in children” including “surgical procedures that attempt to transform an individual’s physical appearance . . . for purposes of treating gender dysphoria, to alter or remove an individual’s sexual organs” as well as “the use of puberty blockers” or “sex hormones” in an effort to “align an individual’s physical appearance with an identity that differs from his or her sex.” It is the position of CMS that such “interventions were initiated with an underdeveloped body of evidence, lack reliable evidence of benefits for minors, and are now known to carry serious risks of long-term and irreparable harm.” Hospitals that received the letter are asked to provide “detailed explanations of how informed consent is obtained for pediatric patients and whether parental involvement is mandatory” as well as “any planned updates to clinical guidelines considering comprehensive review of scientific research,” documentation standards on adverse outcomes, and provider financial information such as billing codes for “sex trait modifications, facility and provider level revenue, facility and provider level profits, and projected revenue for these service lines.” Read more [here](#).

CBO Estimates Nearly 11 Million More Uninsured Under Federal Budget Legislation

This week, the **Congressional Budget Office** (CBO) released a new [analysis](#) that projects millions more Americans would be uninsured by 2034 under the federal budget legislation endorsed by **U.S. President Donald Trump** that is being considered by Congress. The analysis estimates that 10.9 million more individuals would be uninsured due to Medicaid policy and funding changes in the legislation which has passed the **U.S. House of Representatives** and is now being evaluated in the **U.S. Senate**. Other related policy actions including the anticipated expiration of expanded Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits this year and the impact of the [2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Rule](#) are projected to result in 5.1 million more individuals being uninsured by 2034. In total, CBO projects “that the combined effect of those policies . . . would increase the number of people without health insurance by 16.0 million in 2034.” A previous [analysis](#) by Democrats on the **U.S. Joint Economic Committee** projected that 262,440 Virginians could lose health coverage due to federal budget action on Medicaid as well as other policies that impact the ACA. That analysis was based on an earlier CBO projection that there would be 13.7 million more uninsured people in the U.S. in 2034. In related news, the Trump Administration recently released a [technical supplement document](#) on the 2026 budget as well as [briefing materials](#) on the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) 2026 proposed discretionary budget of \$94.7 billion, representing a more than \$30 billion reduction from the previous year.

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 or **Dr. Dane De Silva**, Director of the Division of Population Health Data, at dane.desilva@vdh.virginia.gov. The survey is available through June 30. Access the survey through this [link](#).

Events

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 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 outline 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](#).

Register for June 24 Webinar on 'Pediatric Inpatient Management of Withdrawal'

Officials from **Carilion Clinic** are hosting an upcoming webinar that is part of a series of presentations focused on a statewide effort to expand emergency department (ED) adoption of best practices in treating opioid use disorder. The next installment in the series is scheduled for June 24 at noon and will focus on the topic of "Pediatric Inpatient Management of Withdrawal" presented by **Dr. Jeffrey Wilson** of **Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters** (CHKD). The webinar is continuing medical education-based addiction treatment training that can count toward 8-hours of required education when a physician or ACP renews DEA registration. The webinar is free to attend, but pre-registration is required. Register for the webinar through this [link](#). Registrants will receive a unique e-mail invitation that should not be shared with others. This series is presented with funding from the **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services** (DMAS) via the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) and is supported by VHHA.

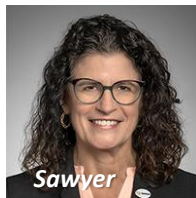
Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Children's Pediatric Allergist

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Jonathan Hemler**, a pediatric allergist with **UVA Health Children's**, who joins us to discuss his work, the topic of allergies, new advancements in UVA's pediatric food allergy treatment program, 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.



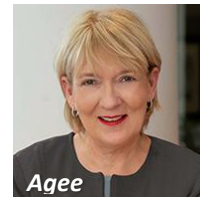
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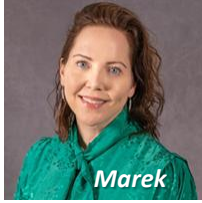


This week, *Virginia Business* magazine hosted a ceremony honoring recipients of the 2025 Virginia C-Suite Awards that “celebrate top corporate executives who consistently demonstrate remarkable leadership skills, integrity, values, vision, commitment to

excellence, company performance and community engagement.” The 2025 inaugural class includes two **Sentara Health** leaders – Sentara Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer [Melinda Hancock](#) and Sentara Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer [Becky Sawyer](#) – and VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton**. Read more [here](#).

Nancy Howell Agee, CEO Emeritus of **Carilion Clinic**, was selected as a 2025 Hall of Fame inductee by the **Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council** (RBTC). The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made a lasting impact on the region. Carilion Clinic Innovation Director **Aileen Helsel**, PhD, received the Regional Leadership Award, which recognizes a member who succeeds in the workplace and leads by example in the community. Read more [here](#).





Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Marketing Director **Janele Marek** has been named among this year's crop of Rising Star Women Leader in Marketing for 2025 by *Women We Admire*. Previously, Marek was named a 2023 Top Hospital Marketer of the Year by Xpectives.Health. Read more [here](#).

VHHA Senior Vice President and General Counsel **R. Brent Rawlings** has been named to the **Lead Virginia Board of Directors**. Rawlings is a member of the Lead Virginia Class of 2017. Read more [here](#).

