



You are receiving this e-mail from VHHA because you requested a subscription. Questions and content submissions may be sent to jtwalker@vhha.com.

FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [Congress Approves Budget Reconciliation Plan with Medicaid Cuts](#)
- [DMAS Announces New Cardinal Care Health Plan Enhancements, Enrollment App](#)
- [Supreme Court Upholds ACA Preventive Care Coverage Rules](#)

[Events](#)

- [Register for July 15 Webinar on Human Resources Fiduciary Role in Voluntary Benefits](#)
- [Applications for AHA 'Circle of Life' Award Due July 15](#)
- [Mercer, VHHA to Host July 29 Workshop for Virginia Hospitals on Workday Insights](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features VCU Health Lung Transplant Surgeon](#)

[Around the State](#)

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:

Several New Virginia Laws Apply to Health Care Systems, Providers

- Each year in Virginia, July 1 is the effective date for many new state laws. This year, the Virginia General Assembly approved several new laws of interest to hospitals and health systems. Among them are bills to [require hospitals with emergency departments to test for fentanyl during urine drug screenings](#) (Jan. 1, 2026 effective date); [streamline and clarify the regulation of sexual assault services](#); [require hospitals with emergency departments or labor and delivery, free standing emergency departments, and birthing centers to implement standardized protocols for addressing obstetric emergencies](#); [require health care facilities that provide labor](#)

[and delivery services to allow birthing persons to have a companion or doula with them during birth](#); [update medical debt collection standards focused on limiting extraordinary collection practices](#) (July 1, 2026 effective date); [establish standards of insurance prior authorization process transparency](#); [allow critical access hospitals to use additional swing beds under certain conditions](#) (sunset date of July 1, 2028); and [require hospitals to document and report health care workplace violence incidents](#). In April, VHHA hosted a webinar briefing to provide an overview of new state laws that impact health care providers. A webinar recording can be viewed [here](#).

View Video Recap of Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network Inaugural Summit

- A highlight video is now available that summarizes the inaugural **Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network** (VCCRN) Summit that was held in early June as an in-person event in Richmond. View the video through this [link](#). 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 included 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 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 [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), [WRVA](#), [WWBT](#), [VPM](#), [WDBJ](#), [Chief Healthcare Executive](#), [WINA](#), the [Mecklenburg Sun](#), the [Augusta Free Press](#), the [Falls Church News-Press](#), multiple [articles](#) from [WVEC](#), multiple [articles](#) in the [Virginia Mercury](#), the [Staunton News Leader](#), [Yahoo News](#), the [Lynchburg News & Advance](#), [WHRO](#), the [Roanoke Times](#), the [Virginia Independent](#), [MSN](#), the [Fauquier Times](#), the [Loudoun Times](#), [Patch.com](#), [Newsbreak](#), [WWVW](#), and [USSA News](#).

News Updates

Congress Approves Budget Reconciliation Plan with Medicaid Cuts

This week, the **U.S. Congress** approved a **U.S. Senate** [amended version](#) of the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#) budget reconciliation package. The Senate passed it by a [51-50](#) margin with **U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance** casting the tiebreaking vote. The House then voted [218-214](#) to approve the Senate plan – whose cuts threaten hospital survival, patient access to care, and our economy – that goes beyond the initial

U.S. House of Representatives version by changing the hold harmless threshold for provider assessment health care-related taxes from 6 percent to 3.5 percent. That change, along with changes to state directed payment programs (DPP), have significant revenue implications for hospitals. It is estimated those policy changes would cost Virginia hospitals more than \$2 billion annually. That funding loss could lead to hospitals closing or reducing services. That would impact patient access to care and the economy. A **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** [analysis](#) from early June predicted 16 million Americans would lose health coverage by 2034 under the reconciliation provisions as well as the expiration of [expanded Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) premium tax credits](#) this year and the impact of the [2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Rule](#). The **Joint Economic Committee** [projects](#) that more than 302,000 Virginians will lose coverage as a result of those policy actions. A separate [analysis](#) by the **Commonwealth Fund** projects nearly 500,000 health care jobs lost, including 13,200 in Virginia, in the next several years under the reconciliation plan. Virginia has a provider tax on acute care hospitals to fund the state share of costs for [coverage](#) of the Medicaid expansion population. A portion of the tax is also used to fund Medicaid [rate improvement](#). Through DPP, tax proceeds are used to draw down federal funds supporting supplemental payments for providers to bridge the financial gap between reimbursements and the cost of care. **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** is expected to sign the approved package by July 4.

DMAS Launches Cardinal Care Health Plan Enhancements, Enrollment App

The **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)** recently [announced](#) the launch of the new Cardinal Care Managed Care program. The [program](#) features several updates regarding Cardinal Care health plans. As of July 1, Cardinal Care managed care members have five health plan options: **Aetna, Anthem, Humana, Sentara Health Plans, and United Healthcare**. All managed care and fee-for-service Medicaid and FAMIS members are part of the Cardinal Care program. Enrollment options are available through this [link](#). One enrollment pathway is through the Virginia Cardinal Care app that is available through [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#).

Supreme Court Upholds ACA Preventive Care Coverage Rules

A recent **U.S. Supreme Court** [ruling](#) has protected a key Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision regarding preventive health care coverage requirements. The ruling applies to a lawsuit that had been filed challenging how the government decides which health care medications and services must be fully covered by insurance. It rejected litigant's claims that the process is unconstitutional because the deciding body – the **United States Preventive Services Task Force** – is not nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The majority ruling concluded that there is appropriate oversight and authority because the panel reports to the **U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services**.

Events

Register for July 15 Webinar on Human Resources Fiduciary Role in Voluntary Benefits

Registration is open for a July 15 webinar featuring [VHHA Solutions](#) and its endorsed partner, [FairShare Insurance](#), that focuses on the legal, ethical, and strategic responsibilities human resources leaders face when managing voluntary benefits programs that are a critical piece of an employer's value proposition. The webinar will cover the fiduciary implications of voluntary benefit decisions under ERISA and non-ERISA frameworks; best practices for voluntary benefit selection, disclosure, and ongoing oversight; how

to assess and communicate the value of benefits without overpromising; and emerging trends and employer strategies for aligning benefits with financial wellness and retention goals while supporting your employees. Learn more and register [here](#).

Applications for AHA 'Circle of Life' Award Due July 15

The **American Hospital Association** (AHA) is accepting applications for the 2026 Circle of Life Award that celebrates innovation in palliative and end-of-life care. As many as three 2026 Circle of Life Awards celebrating effective, equitable, and patient-centered care will be presented at the 2026 AHA Leadership Summit, July 12-14, in Denver, CO. The award application deadline is July 15, 2025. Visit this [link](#) to apply.

Mercer, VHHA to Host July 29 Workshop for Virginia Hospitals on Workday Insights

Registration is open for an in-person Mercer and VHHA half-day workshop on July 29 designed for hospitals focused on the evolving human resources and operations landscape through the lens of Mercer's Infinity Loop framework – strategy, deployment, and betterment. The workshop will highlight how health care organizations implement Workday to drive digital transformation, provide insights on the impact of AI in health care delivery, and outline key success factors for technology deployment. The workshop will also introduce the concept of continuous improvement through Mercer's Transformation as a Service (TaaS), discuss optimization strategies, and highlight the latest enhancements in Workday for finance, human resources, information technology, and supply chain. The workshop is scheduled for July 29 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. Register for the workshop [here](#). VHHA and Mercer previously held a webinar on this topic; a recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Lung Transplant Surgeon

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Vipul Patel**, Medical Director of the **VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center** and a faculty member in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Management in the Department of Internal Medicine. During the conversation, Dr. Patel share insights about the work of the transplant center as well as a major milestone — the center's first successful lung transplant procedure. 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 9 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



Amy Johnson, DNP, FNP-C, a family nurse practitioner with **Centra Medical Group Bedford**, has been named the Virginia recipient of the 2025 **American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)** State Award for Excellence. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the nurse practitioner (NP) profession. Johnson has been honored for her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to advancing health care access across the Commonwealth. She accepted the award at the Salute to the States Award Ceremony held on June 20 in San Diego, CA during the AANP

national conference. The AANP State Award for Excellence is presented annually to one NP in each state who has demonstrated excellence in clinical practice, education, policy or leadership. The award highlights contributions that align with the AANP mission to empower NPs to advance accessible, person-centered, equitable, high-quality care through practice, education, advocacy, research and leadership (PEARL). Read more [here](#).

Centra Health recently named **Allison Kughn Ebert**, CFRE, as Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer for the **Centra Foundation**. She most recently served as Director of Development for the Centra Foundation. Ebert is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, now Randolph College. She previously worked with local private schools and institutions of higher education in Virginia and as a fundraising consultant in the United States and the United Kingdom. Read more [here](#).



Sharon Alexander, VHHA Director of Workforce Initiatives, has been reappointed to a two-year term on the **Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority Board of Directors** by **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin**. Alexander is an "employer representative" [appointee](#) to the Board.