

# FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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## 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 hosted an in-person workshop at its offices in Glen Allen, VA that was facilitated by **Joe Mull**, a featured keynote speaker at the [2024 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit](#). The theme of the workshop was "Becoming a Destination Workplace: What Leaders Must Do to Find and Keep Devoted Employees." View event photos [here](#).
- June 5 at noon is the scheduled date and time for the next webinar in a quarterly series hosted by VHHA to provide the health care community with timely information from the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH). Register for the webinar [here](#). A recording of a previous webinar in the series about the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A webinar recording is available through this [link](#) and presentation slides can be accessed [here](#).
- The **Disparities Solutions Center** is now accepting applications for the [2024-2025 Disparities Leadership Program](#), which is a year-long, hands-on executive education program focused on helping health care leaders achieve equity. The program is designed to help leaders translate the latest understanding of disparities into realistic solutions that can be applied within organizations. To date, more than 569 participants from 236 organizations representing 35 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Switzerland have participated in the program. Letters of intent from applicants are due by July 12 and applications are due by Aug. 2. Download the necessary forms through this [link](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has launched a new option on CMS.gov to allow individuals to more easily file an Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) complaint. Medicare-participating hospitals are required under EMTALA to provide medical

screening exams for individuals arriving at hospital emergency departments to determine if the person has an emergency medical condition. If an emergency medical condition is confirmed, hospitals must provide stabilizing medical treatment (or, if unable to stabilize the person within its capability, to appropriately transfer the patient). Read more [here](#).

- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, in conjunction with the Million Hearts initiative, has released a [Hypertension in Pregnancy Change Package \(HPCP\)](#) with tools and resources for outpatient clinicians and care team members to use to identify, manage and prevent complications of hypertension in pregnancy. The HPCP was developed in partnership with the **American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)**, the **American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)**, the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)**, the **American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOOG)**, the **American Medical Association (AMA)**, the **National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)**, and the **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)**. It presents an evidence-informed listing of process improvements with accompanying tools and resources that outpatient clinicians and care team members can implement as they provide care to pregnant and postpartum women and women of reproductive age with a focus on early identification, optimal management, and prevention of complications of hypertension in pregnancy.
- The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** and international partner agencies recently released guidance for high-risk nonprofit and other resource-constrained community organizations to assist in understanding and mitigating cyber threats. The guide provides several recommendations for organizations to follow such as keeping software updated on user devices and IT infrastructure; implementing phishing-resistant multifactor authentication; account auditing and disabling those that are unused or unnecessary; selecting vendors with due diligence; implementing basic cybersecurity training; and developing and exercising incident response and recovery plans. Read more [here](#).
- VHHA recently submitted a [public comment letter](#) regarding the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** proposed Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (CIRCIA) reporting requirements.
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently granted accelerated approval to tarlatamab-dlle (Imdelltra, Amgen, Inc.) for extensive stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC) with disease progression on or after platinum-based chemotherapy. Read more [here](#).
- The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center recently issued a joint cybersecurity advisory to provide information on Black Basta, a ransomware variant whose actors have encrypted and stolen data from at least 12 out of 16 critical infrastructure sectors, including the health care and public health sector. Read more [here](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is seeking public comment on [draft guidance](#) regarding the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program, which will negotiate prices with drug makers for certain high-cost, sole-source drugs and apply them beginning in 2026. The drug price program is a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. July 2 is the public comment deadline. Read more [here](#).
- The [Patients Come First](#) podcast from the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** has been named one of the [15 Best Patient Experience Podcasts in 2024 by Feedspot](#). VHHA launched the podcast in 2017. It can currently be heard on major digital podcast platforms as well as 19 radio stations across five states.

- 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 [WVEC](#), [WAVY](#), [Axios](#), [MSN](#), and the [Gazette Leader](#).

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## 2. CMS Solicits Public Comment on Attestation Requirements for Medicaid Managed Care Rule

July 22 is the deadline for submitting public comment to the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) on the information requirements associated with attestation requirements included in the Medicaid managed care access rule. Read more and submit comment through this [link](#).

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## 3. On Board Virginia Digital Campaign Promotes Hospital Jobs to Recent Nursing School Grads

To encourage recent nursing school graduates to establish their careers in Virginia, [On Board Virginia](#) has launched a geographically targeted marketing campaign showcasing hospital employment opportunities in the Commonwealth. The campaign is centered on promoting hospital nursing career opportunities to graduates of nursing programs at Virginia-based colleges and universities as well as nursing programs at educational institutions in neighboring jurisdictions such as Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. This initiative is the latest project of On Board Virginia, an effort the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) and its members [established in 2022](#) to promote health care workforce recruitment and retention amid ongoing workforce shortages across clinical roles. In the past year, the On Board Virginia website has been viewed more than 46,200 times. Meanwhile, the digital ads focused on recent nursing school graduates have reached nearly 60,000 people in the target audience in the past month. Health care staffing shortages have been a persistent challenge that were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As aging segments of the U.S. population transition into retirement, health care service utilization is expected to grow in the years ahead, resulting in greater demand for trained professionals to occupy clinical roles. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects registered nurse employment growth of “6 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations” with a forecast of “193,100 openings for registered nurses...each year, on average, over the decade” due to rising demand for health care services among older patients and the need to replace nurses who retire or transition to other roles. Read more [here](#).

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## 4. VHHA Members Encouraged to Apply for ‘Earn to Learn’ Nurse Education Acceleration Program

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) Office of Health Equity is seeking applications for the Virginia Earn to Learn (ETL) Nursing Education Acceleration Program. For state fiscal year 2024, the **Virginia General Assembly** directed VDH to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA SLRF) to establish the Virginia Earn to Learn Nursing Education Acceleration Program. The funding will support education and health care facility partnerships to provide registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) students with paid employment during nursing studies to increase clinical education opportunities and the number of practice-ready new graduate nurses. See more details about the request for application opportunity [here](#). Applications are due by June 4 at 11:45 p.m. EDT.

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## 5. FDA Provides Alert on Plastic Syringe Recall, Urges Users Not to Use Recalled Syringes

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently announced that Medline Industries, LP, a firm marketing and distributing Chinese-made plastic syringes sold within the U.S., initiated a recall to stop using affected products which includes unauthorized plastic syringes made in China. The FDA also announced that Jiangsu Shenli Medical Production Co. Ltd, a China-based manufacturer of plastic syringes, initiated a recall to stop using its unauthorized plastic syringes. The FDA recommends that providers should immediately transition away from using plastic syringes made by the following China-based manufacturers, unless use of these syringes is absolutely necessary until the transition to syringes that are not manufactured in China is complete: Jiangsu Caina Medical Co. Ltd., Jiangsu Shenli Medical Production Co. Ltd., Shanghai Kindly Enterprise Development Group Co. Ltd., and Zhejiang Longde Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. Read more [here](#).

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## 6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Sentara Health Nurse Leader on Sensory Certification

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Donna Wilmoth**, Chief Nursing Officer at **Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center**. She joins us for a conversation about her nursing career, how Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center became the first certified sensory-inclusive hospital in Virginia, 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](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [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 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, 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](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com). – Salinna Lor

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## 7. VHHA Shares 2024 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit Highlight Video

VHHA has produced a short video that highlights some of the sights and sounds from the recently held **2024 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit**, which attracted hundreds of health care professionals and stakeholders for a one-day conference in Richmond. View the recap video [here](#). The theme of the event was “Connection: Building a Behavioral Health System that Serves All” and it featured programming on innovative behavioral health models, patient-centered strategies, an overview of the expansion of the crisis system across the state, and the opportunity to learn about advances in technology that can improve behavioral health resources. Featured speakers during the Summit included **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin**, **Dr. Scott Zeller** of Vituity, and stress and mental health expert **Tami West**, PhD. Other speakers and panelists include representatives from **Carilion Clinic**, **Centra Health**, **Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS)**, **HCA Virginia**, **Riverside Health System**, **Sentara Health**, **Summit Behavioral Health**, the **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)**, and **Williams Mullen**. In addition to program participants and attendees, VHHA and the VHHA Foundation thank the following sponsors for their support of the Summit: [Qualivis](#), [Vizient](#), [Arrowood Addiction Treatment Center](#), [Augusta Health](#), [Centra Health](#), [EVMS](#), [Initial VII Consulting](#), [Mary Washington Healthcare](#), [Sentara Health](#), [TSW](#), [Universal Health Services](#), [Unite Us](#), [Valley Health](#), [VCU Health](#), [Ballad](#)

[Health](#), [Grafton Integrated Health Network](#), [Troutman Pepper Strategies](#), [VHHA Solutions](#), the [Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants](#), the [Virginia Association of Community-Based Providers](#), and [Williams Mullen](#). View a Summit brochure [here](#), view Summit photos [here](#), and read more about the event through this [link](#). – Will Selden

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## 8. Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center Shares New Training Video

The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center** (VIPTC) has released a new training video called *Germ Center*. Featuring fun characters and engaging storylines, this video covers the latest health care wins, losses, and highlights. This is the newest installment in VIPTC's growing infection prevention training video library. Access the video [here](#) or visit the VIPTC [website](#) to learn more.

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## 9. CDC Attributes Salmonella Outbreaks to Backyard Poultry

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) is reporting that 109 people from 29 states have gotten sick from *Salmonella* after touching or caring for backyard poultry, resulting in 33 hospitalizations. Among those infected in this outbreak, 43 percent are individuals younger than 5 years old. Backyard poultry, such as chickens and ducks, can carry *Salmonella* germs even if they look healthy and clean. These germs can easily spread to anything in the areas where the poultry live and roam. People may get sick from touching backyard poultry or anything in their environment and then touching their mouth or food and swallowing *Salmonella* germs. Read more [here](#).

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## 10. Around the State

**Children's National Hospital** has named **Kevin Cleary**, PhD, as its Sheikh Zayed Professor of Bioengineering. Dr. Cleary serves as Technical Director of the Bioengineering Initiative within the hospital's Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation. He is also a professor of Pediatrics and Radiology at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Read more [here](#).

The Battle Building on the **UVA Health Medical Center** campus has earned the 2024 Greening the OR Recognition Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization for environmental sustainability in healthcare. Read more [here](#).

**John Lukens**, PhD, has been named inaugural director of the **UVA School of Medicine's** Harrison Family Translational Research Center. He has been part of the UVA School of Medicine's Department of Neuroscience since 2014. Dr. Lukens earned his PhD at UVA and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Dr. Paula Young**, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Community Health and Vice President of Medical Affairs for **Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital**, has been named a 2024 RVA Power Woman in the health care category.

**Chesapeake Regional Healthcare** recently honored four outstanding nurses during its annual Nurse Exemplar Awards ceremony. **Haley Hammond**, BSN, RN, a labor and delivery nurse, received the Nurse Exemplar Award. **Ashlynn Harnage**, BSN, RN, an intensive care unit nurse, received the Rookie Award. **Cathy Mason**, BSN, RN, the Nurse Manager of 5 West and 6 West, received the Outstanding Leadership Award. And **Jennifer Schmitt**, BSN, RN, a labor and delivery nurse, received the Legacy Award. Read more [here](#). – Salinna Lor

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