



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

July 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

House Subcommittee Room C – General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett

Delegate M. Keith Hodges

Delegate Patrick Hope (virtual)

Delegate Robert Orrock

Delegate Cia Price

Delegate Atoosa Reaser

Senator Christopher Head

Senator Barbara Favola (virtual)

Senator David Suetterlein

Members Absent

Senator Ghazala Hashmi

Delegate Cliff Hayes

Delegate Baxter Ennis

Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Delegate Mark Sickles

Senator Mamie Locke

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator Stella Pekarsky

Senator Todd Pillion

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton

Jen Piver-Renna

Estella Ob-Tabot

Mayesha Alam

Emily Atkinson

Khadeejat Lawal

Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Chairman Willett

Roll Call - Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Sarah Stanton introduced the newest member of the JCHC staff, Mayesha Alam. She then provided an overview of the agenda.

Dr. Karen Shelton, State Health Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Health, presented information on several topics. She provided information about the regulation of nursing homes and hospitals in Virginia. She described certification requirements for nursing homes, current trends in complaints, investigations undertaken in response to complaints, and efforts to address issues related to case backlogs and delays in performing required investigations. Dr. Shelton discussed staffing at OLC and listed goals and initiatives to help recruit new staff. She then answered members' questions.

Next Dr. Shelton described certification requirements for and current trends in complaints about Virginia hospitals. She spoke about deficiencies related to the operation of the Henrico Doctor's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and actions VDH is taking to ensure the deficiencies are corrected, including ongoing monitor of the hospital. She then answered members' questions.

Lastly, Dr. Shelton briefed members on the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. She discussed the details of grants that cover the medical and support services for the program and described recent cuts to program funding. Finally, she answered members' questions.

Ms. Cheryl Roberts, Director of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, provided an update on the Cardinal Care Managed Care, then briefed members on provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. She described changes to the enrollment and eligibility determination process and retroactive coverage provisions; changes to rules governing provider taxes and state directed payments; new community engagement and work requirements; changes to cost sharing requirements; adjustment to home or community-based services; and the new Rural Health Transformation Program. She also answered members' questions.

Mr. Kyle Russel, Chief Executive Officer for Virginia Health Innovation, provided a briefing on VHI's annual report. He described the origins and purpose of VHI and how it evolved over the years. He also described the type of data and information the organization collects, and how that data and information is used and distributed. He spoke about the projects that VHI accomplished this year and discussed the priorities that are planned for next year. Lastly, he answered some questions from the members.

Ms. Beth Bortz, President & CEO of the Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI) provided a brief overview of the organization and gave an update on the primary care task force accomplishments including their four pilots. She discussed the three recommendations from the pilots that will require legislative action and reasons for the requirements. Next, VCHI's Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Lauryn Walker discussed the details of the primary care investment report including spending, workforce, and patient outcomes. She also spoke about recent work and planned future activities of VCHI's Research Consortium. Ms. Bortz and Dr. Walker both answered members' questions.

Meeting adjourned.

Senator Favola participated virtually due to medical reasons. Delegate Hope participated virtually due to personal reasons.