



## Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

November 26, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

House Subcommittee Room C – General Assembly Building

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### Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett (virtual)  
Delegate M. Keith Hodges  
Delegate Patrick Hope  
Delegate Robert Orrock  
Delegate Atoosa Reaser (virtual)  
Delegate Cia Price (virtual)  
Delegate Mark Sickles  
Delegate Howard Wachsman

Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Senator Barbara Favola  
Senator Christopher Head  
Senator Mamie Locke  
Senator L. Louise Lucas  
Senator Stella Pekarsky  
Senator Todd Pillion (virtual)  
Senator David Suetterlein

### Members Absent

Delegate N. Baxter Ennis  
Delegate Cliff Hayes

### Staff Present

Sarah Stanton  
Jen Piver-Renna  
Estella Obi-Tabot  
Emily Atkinson  
Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Senator Hashmi

Roll Call - Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an overview of the agenda and reminded members of the voting process for study policy options. She then summarized the first part of the *Strategies to Extend Health Care Access to Vulnerable Populations* study; in which she provided the findings and policy options for mobile health clinics.

Members discussed the options and unanimously voted to:

- Adopt policy option 1 as presented.
- Adopt policy option 2 with an amendment to require DHCD to report to the JCHC regarding current gaps in broad.
- Defer action on policy option 3 to the December meeting.

Sarah then presented the second part of the study - community paramedicine. She provided the findings and policy options.

Members discussed the policy options and unanimously voted to:

- Adopt policy options 4, 5, 7 and 8 as presented.
- Defer action on policy option 6 to the December meeting.

Estella Obi-Tabot presented the findings and policy options for the next section of the report, home visiting programs. Members discussed the policy options and voted to:

- Adopt policy option 9 with a 11-1-0 vote.
- Unanimously adopted option 10 as presented.

Subsequently, Ms. Obi-Tabot summarized the findings and policy options of community health workers. Members discussed the policy options and unanimously voted to:

- Adopt policy option 11 with an amendment to require VDH to report on use of funds provided in previous years.
- Adopt policy option 12 with an amendment to strike “budget amendment” and replace with “legislation.”
- Adopt policy option 13 with amendments to (i) strike “budget amendment” and replace with “legislation” and (ii) incorporate policy options 14 and 15.
- Adopt policy option 16 as presented.

Emily Atkinson briefed members on the last section of the report speaking about telehealth. She provided the findings and policy options. Members discussed the policy options and voted unanimously to:

- Adopt policy options 17-19 and 22-25 as presented.
- Adopt policy option 20 with amendments to strike “establish” and replacing with “consider”, and striking “including” and replacing with “which may include”.
- Adopt revised policy option 21 as presented; revised language directs DMAS to provide reimbursement for provider-to-provider consultations delivered through telehealth consistent with the state plan and in a manner that is budget neutral and does not increase costs.
- Adopt policy option 26 with an amendment requiring VADOC and the Virginia Board of Local and Regional Jails to provide an update to the JCHC by October 1, 2025, regarding the current status of telehealth policies, opportunities to expand telehealth programs, and recommended strategies to reduce gaps or barriers to telehealth service delivery.

Estella Obi-Tabot presented the study of *Expanding Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment in Virginia*. Ms. Tabot briefed members on what sickle cell disease is and who is most affected by it. She spoke about the lack of monitoring of the disease in Virginia and the different options and challenges of treating the disease. She then listed the programs and funding available in the state to assist the afflicted individuals. Lastly, Estella provided the challenges that exist for individuals with sickle cell disease in getting treatment, and policy options to help address those issues.

After a short break, Emily Atkinson provided a presentation on *Strategies to Strengthen the Anesthesia Workforce in Virginia*. Emily briefed members on the multiple options of anesthesia providers (Physician Anesthesiologist; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist - CRNA; Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant - CAA) and listed the education and training levels for each of them. She spoke about the services that each type of anesthesia provider delivers and the current number of each type of provider available in Virginia. She then spoke about the type of supervision that is required for CRNAs and CAAs and the rules and laws that establish supervision requirements. Ms. Atkinson also discussed the roles of CAAs and how they may be able to add to the anesthesia workforce if allowed to practice in Virginia. She concluded her presentation by discussing the residency programs for CRNAs. She provided five policy options throughout her presentation.

Meeting adjourned.