



## Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

June 4, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Senate Room A– General Assembly Building

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### Members Present

Delegate Mark Downey

Delegate M. Keith Hodges

Delegate Patrick Hope

Delegate Cia Price (Virtual)

Delegate Atoosa Reaser (Virtual)

Delegate Kathy Tran

Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Delegate Rodney Willett

Senator R. Creigh Deeds

Senator Barbara Favola

Senator Mamie Locke

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator Stella Pekarsky

Senator David Suetterlein

### Members Absent

Senator Todd Pillion

Delegate Wren Williams

Delegate Cliff Hayes

Senator Christopher Head

### Staff Present

Sarah Stanton

Jen Piver - Renna

Mayesha Alam

Khadeejat Lawal

Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Senator Favola

Roll Call- Agnes Dymora

Delegate Willett gave a brief introduction of health policy fellows from the Students Leadership Program who attended the meeting.

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an overview of the agenda.

Associate Analyst Khadeejat Lawal provided an information briefing on *Public Health Impacts of E-cigarette Use and E-cigarette Retailers*. She provided background information on e-cigarette use including demographics on who uses e-cigarettes in the US and Virginia. Khadeejat also spoke about the health effects of e-cigarette use and the public impacts of retailers who offer these products. She also discussed the efforts of some of Virginia agencies to reduce the demand for cigarette and e-cigarette use. Lastly, Khadeejat discussed the regulations that are being developed around these products. She answered several questions from the members.

Associate Staff Attorney/Analyst Mayesha Alam provided an information briefing on *Financial Condition of Virginia's Rural Hospitals*. She discussed the services rural hospitals

provide and the financial challenges that they face. Mayesha spoke about the financial performance of Virginia's rural hospitals as defined by frameworks from the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment reform and the University of North Carolina. She discussed the seven hospitals that are at the highest risk of closing and described the ways they are restructuring the services they provide to their patients. Lastly, she outlined the federal policy changes that may affect the operations of rural hospitals. She answered several questions from the members.

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an update on the 2026 workplan that was recommended by the Executive Committee and all members present voted unanimously to approve the updated workplan. The workplan for summer/fall 2026 includes:

- A targeted study of HB 605 (Willett): An evaluation of Virginia's nursing facility workforce and options for staffing standards.
- An information brief on the impact of HR 1 (2025) on Virginia's Medicaid program and health care system, focusing especially on rural hospitals.
- A targeted study with policy options of SB 789 (Reeves): Liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products; certification.
- Any Step 2 analyses of proposed mandated health care benefits at the direction of the Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC).
- If additional capacity develops, prioritizing HB 1423 (McGuire) Group homes; oversight and accountability for 2027 workplan.

Daryl Washington, Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services provided an update on the transition of patients at the Hiram Davis Medical Center. He spoke about the building infrastructure systems that would need to be replaced and mentioned the HVAC system failure that occurred recently. He discussed the updated census and introduced several members of DBHDS staff including Dr. Tanious, Ms. King, Ms. Rupe, and Ms. Norton who spoke to about transition planning and appropriate future care of the patients currently residing at the Hiram Davis Medical Center. The Commissioner discussed his concerns of complete building failure and emergency evacuation and concluded by discussing the cost savings and where those savings will be invested in the community. He answered members' questions.

Several members of the public provided comments on the Hiram Davis Medical Center closure plan.

Meeting adjourned.

Delegate Price participated virtually due to injury. Delegate Reaser participated virtually due to a personal matter.