



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

November 6, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual

Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett, Chair
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Cia Price
Delegate Mark Sickles
Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Vice Chair
Senator Mamie Locke
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Senator Stella Pekarsky
Senator David Suetterlein

Non-JCHC Members Present

Delegate Adele McClure
Delegate Vivian Watts
Delegate Chris Obenshain

Members Absent

Delegate Baxter Ennis
Delegate Cliff Hayes
Delegate Patrick Hope
Delegate Robert Orrock
Senator Christopher Head
Delegate Atoosa Reaser
Senator Barbara Favola
Senator Todd Pillion

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton
Jen Piver-Renna
Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Chairman Willett

Commissioner Nelson Smith, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, briefed members on the final plan for the Hiram Davis Medical Center closure. The Commissioner presented data on the current census of patients and the ways in which the current staff have been supported throughout the planning process. He spoke about the different options for expanding or renovating Central State Hospital to accommodate HDMC patients that were offered by stakeholders and through public comments. Commissioner Smith described the new locations within communities to which current patients will be moved after the closure, including newly renovated accommodations at Southeastern Virginia Training Center. He also spoke about the staff at HDMC and their preferences for transfers to other facilities. Next, Commissioner Smith described the projected six-year costs for either closing or renovating the medical center. Lastly, the Commissioner provided a timeline for implementation of the plan. At the end of the presentation, Commissioner Smith answered members' questions.

Sarah Stanton, Executive Director, informed members that one of the projects selected for the 2026 work plan – an information brief on the role of assisted living facilities in Virginia’s continuum of long-term care services - was also being considered by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) for inclusion on JLARC’s work plan. Sarah recommended removing the project from the JCHC’s work plan, and either replacing the project with another one or limiting the 2026 work plan to three projects to allow staff to focus more fully on the selected projects. Members present for the virtual meeting agreed that the JCHC should remove the project from the work plan and proceed with the three remaining projects, without selecting a new project. More discussion and a vote on the change will take place at the December 3rd meeting.

Meeting adjourned.