Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

October 21, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Senate Room A– General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Mark Downey (virtual)
Delegate Cliff Hayes
Delegate Cia Price
Delegate Atoosa Reaser
Delegate Kathy Tran
Delegate Rodney Willett (virtual)
Delegate Wren Williams
Delegate Howard Wachsmann
Senator Barbara Favola, Chair
Senator R. Creigh Deeds (virtual)
Senator Mamie Locke
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Senator Stella Pekarsky
Senator David Suetterlein

Members Absent

Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Patrick Hope
Senator Christopher Head
Senator Todd Pillion

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton
Jen Piver - Renna
Agnes Dymora
Khadeejat Lawal
Mayesha Alam
Sarah Shultz
Grace Juran

Call to order and welcoming comments – Senator Favola

Roll Call- Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an overview of the agenda.

Kyle Russell, Virginia Health Information CEO, provided an annual update. He summarized what the organization provides and how it has evolved to provide more information than ever before. Kyle also talked about the new VHI website design that allows for an easier access to healthcare data that can be accessed by the public. Lastly, he discussed the VHI priorities for next year.

Associate Health Policy Analyst, Khadeejat Lawal, briefed members on Virginia's Liquid Nicotine and Nicotine Vapor Product Directory. She discussed the prevalence of use of liquid nicotine vapor products in the Commonwealth and some negative health impacts caused by the products including E-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury (EVALI). Khadeejat also briefed about the federal regulatory process for introducing new products for sale to the public. She then described Virginia's "Directory" established to limit access to

unregulated products. Lastly, she discussed ways in which Virginia can improve the effectiveness of the Directory, including two policy options.

Deputy Director Jen Piver-Renna provided a presentation on Virginia's nursing home workforce and considerations for a nursing home staffing standard. She began by describing patients served by nursing homes and the current regulations that exist for the nursing homes. Jen then provided data on staffing level and nurse mix in Virgina's nursing homes and talked about where the state ranks nationally on various measures of staffing. She discussed how staffing levels affect the quality of care received in nursing homes. She then provided details about the different incentives that exist to assist with staffing for the workforce shortages that exist in those facilities. She also spoke about different legislation taken up in the last few years to establish a staffing standard and explained why it did not take effect. Lastly, Jen provided a policy option for reestablishing a nursing home staffing standard and listed several sub options members may put forth in legislation in the 2027 General Assembly session to improve the current level of nursing home staffing.

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Toni Blue provided a statement on behalf of the Administration about the proposed closure of the Hiram Davis Medical Center.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Commissioner Daryl Washington provided a presentation to reaffirm DBHDS's commitment for a safe transition of the patients at the Hiram Davis Medical Center after closure of the facility which is now delayed until June 2028. Mr. Washington listed the options and costs for building a new facility to house the patients. Lastly, he listed a new timeline for the closure of Hiram Davis.

Meeting adjourned.

Senator Deeds participated virtually due to a work commitment. Delegate Downey participated virtually due to a work commitment. Delegate Willett participated virtually due to a personal matter.