



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

September 23, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Senate Room A– General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Mark Downey
Delegate Cliff Hayes
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Patrick Hope
Delegate Cia Price
Delegate Atoosa Reaser
Delegate Kathy Tran
Delegate Rodney Willett
Delegate Wren Williams

Senator Barbara Favola, Chair
Senator R. Creigh Deeds
Senator Christopher Head
Senator Mamie Locke (virtual)
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Senator Stella Pekarsky
Senator Todd Pillion (virtual)
Senator David Suetterlein

Members Absent

Delegate Howard Wachsmann

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 introduced two new staff, Sarah Shultz and Grace Juran. She then briefed members on the current status of the 2026 studies and explained that the workplan that was approved in the previous June meeting would continue during 2027, negating the need for a new 2027 workplan. Members unanimously consented to adopting the 2027 workplan as outlined by Sarah.

Nat Draper, Executive Director of Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (VASEM) provided a quick overview of the organization and briefly discussed the current research that the agency is focusing on. He spoke about the VASEM Health Care Summit and invited members to attend. He also answered members' questions.

Keven Patchett, Executive Director of Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, provided an update on the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange. He provided a background of the marketplace and gave an overview of the customer makeup and enrollment data for the last three years. Mr. Patchett

also discussed the HR 1 impacts on future reenrollments and possible consumer savings. Lastly, he answered members' questions.

Sara Cariano, Director of Eligibility Policy and Outreach, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) discussed in detail the new HR 1 Medicaid eligibility changes. She spoke about new rules for noncitizen eligibility, retroactive coverage changes, and renewal timelines. Sara also spoke about meeting the work requirements and ways in which members could meet them. Lastly, she briefed about exemptions and automatic verifications done by DMAS. Finally, she answered members' questions.

Daryl Washington, Commissioner of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, provided an update on the plan for the closure of Hiram Davis Medical Center. He addressed the concerns members had during the last presentation. The Commissioner spoke about the careful transition of each patient, follow-ups at their new placements, and oversight of the implementation. Mr. Washington also discussed building a new 4-6 bed facility for nursing-level care and the cost-savings in doing so.

Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Marvin Figueroa, provided comments about the closure plan for the Hiram Davis Medical Center.

Commissioner Washington answered members' questions.

Meeting adjourned.

Senator Pillion participated virtually due to travel distance. Senator Locke participated virtually due to out of state trip.