

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

September 20, 2018



The VACo County Pulse Podcast discusses Utility-Scale Solar Energy...
Page 2



A photo series on Virginia's water towers...
Page 5



Several CSA Studies Underway...
Page 4



Governor Ralph Northam to speak at the VACo Annual Conference...
Page 6



ID 69368506 © Catwoman10 | [Dreamstime.com](https://www.dreamstime.com)



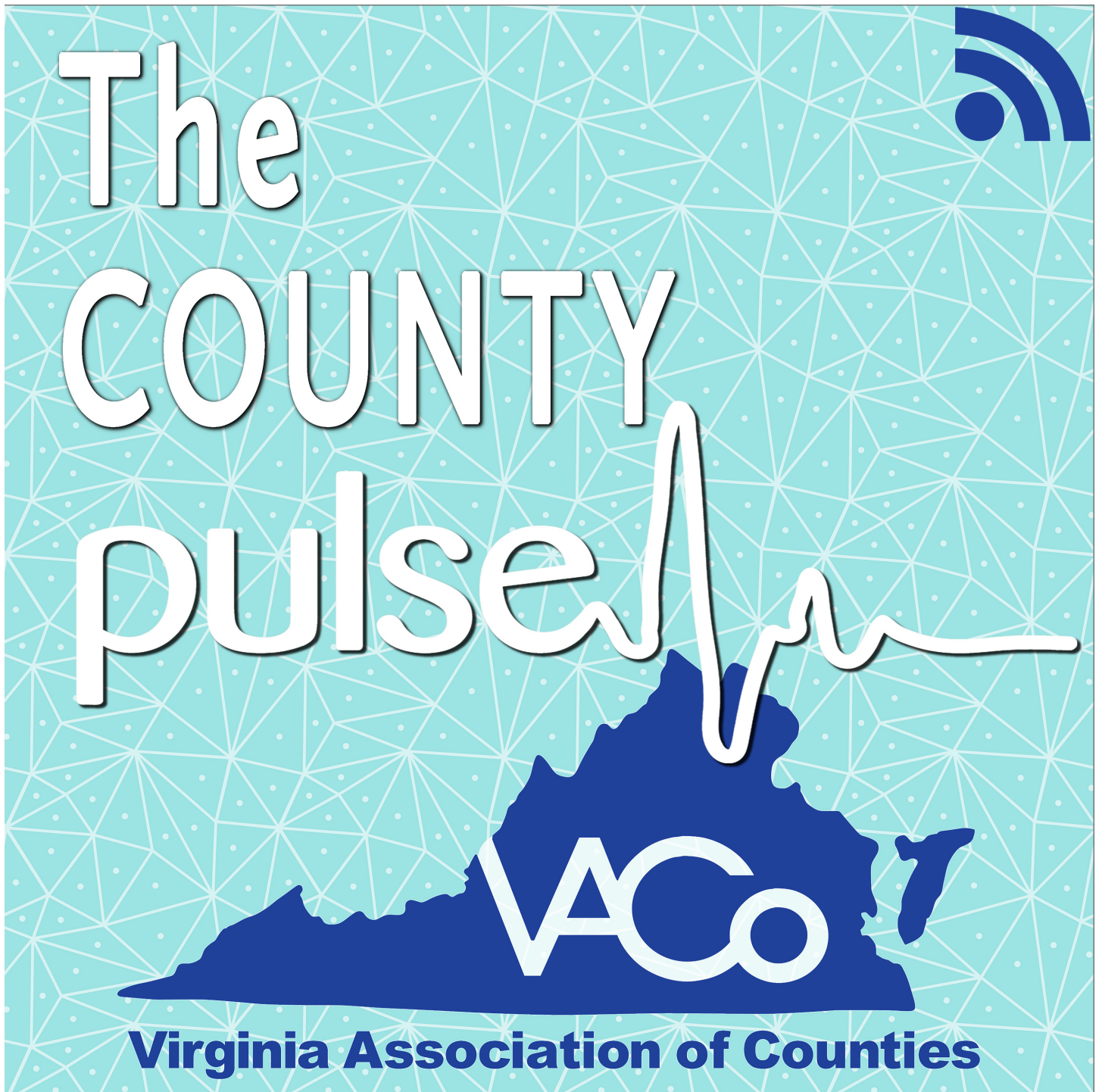
Local Support of Behavioral Health System Under Discussion; Mental Health Standards in Jails Contemplated



The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century has met several times over the spring and summer, and its System Structure and Finance Subcommittee continues to examine local support for Community Services Boards (CSBs). Dr. Richard Bonnie of the University of Virginia's Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy (ILPPP) made a presentation on CSB funding to the subcommittee on September 5 (presentation is available on the Joint Subcommittee's [webpage](#)). The ILPPP's review found that local support for CSBs varies considerably throughout the state and that administrative policy CSBs, which are more integrated into local government structures, receive the bulk of local financial support, while operating CSBs (which typically serve several jurisdictions) experience more financial instability, which may be compounded by delays in Medicaid reimbursements, due to their increased reliance on Medicaid funding. ILPPP suggested that an alternative to the required local match (10 percent of the total state and local funds received by the CSB) should be developed as a means of increasing local support for mental health services; it also suggested that the current method the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) uses to distribute state General Funds to CSBs should be reviewed. Joint Subcommittee members have discussed the possibility of establishing a structure for mental health funding similar to the Standards of Quality in K-12 funding, in which the state establishes minimum standards for service provision, with state and local cost-sharing. The Joint Subcommittee is expected to meet again this fall to refine its proposals for the 2019 Session.

The provision of mental health services in local and regional jails continues to be a subject of interest among legislators and state agencies. During the 2018 General Assembly session, legislation was introduced that would have required CSBs to provide mental health and substance abuse services in local and regional jails; VACo objected to the bills' lack of clarity

MENTAL HEALTH Continued on Page 11



VACo Members - listen to the podcast and then tell us your solar story. VACo seeks feedback and information on any issues not addressed in this episode. Contact Joe Lerch at jlerch@vaco.org.

VACo County Pulse Podcast

Utility-Scale Solar Energy

Utility-scale solar energy (USSE) projects are growing in size and number across the Commonwealth. Unlike a traditional electric generating facility, they are land intensive. One Megawatt (MW) of generation capacity typically requires the siting of solar panels on 8 to 12 acres of land. The result is larger projects - in the 150MW to 500 MW range - now measure in the thousands of acres and even square miles. This episode explores both the land use impacts and local revenue implications of this emerging energy production market on Virginia's counties.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board announces record number of Smart Scale applications

The following is a joint press release from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) recently announced that the data-driven SMART SCALE project prioritization process reached new benchmarks as localities and planning organizations submitted the highest number of applications to date. Statewide, 468 applications were submitted, for a total requested amount of approximately \$7 billion to support an initial total project value of \$12.4 billion. The application intake period closed August 8, which now makes way for detailed project screening and validation.

Transportation projects will be vying for an estimated \$850 million in available funds. The SMART SCALE process will score projects based on quantifiable factors, such as: safety, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, environmental quality and economic development. Between 2015 and 2017, 757 applications were received, 691 projects met the requirements to be considered for scoring, and 310 projects were funded for a total of \$2.45 billion.

Throughout the September CTB meeting, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) leadership provided updates on tornadoes and other effects of tropical storm Florence on Virginia's communities. Across the Commonwealth, roads are closed due to flooding, and clean-up crews are clearing downed trees and debris from roadways.

"At the request of the United States Department of Transportation, Virginia stands ready to respond with post-storm communications support in North Carolina," said Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine.

In other business, the CTB approved a \$7.7 million grant application through the Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) for the Virginia Inland Port in the Staunton District. Virginia Inland Port is expanding capacity inside the gate to handle increased volume of rail traffic. The grant will help accommodate the growing needs of rail at the port in Front Royal as the Virginia Inland Port has shown drastic growth by more than doubling throughput in the last 5 years.

The CTB approved two contracts totaling \$19.3 million for maintenance and construction projects in VDOT's Bristol and Richmond Districts. A \$12.7 million contract was awarded to Orders Construction Company, Inc. of St. Albans, West Virginia, to replace two bridges that carry Interstate 81 over Route 686 (Mulberry Lane) in Smyth County, part of VDOT's Bristol District.

A \$6.6 million contract was awarded to J.L. Kent and Sons, Inc. of Spotsylvania to add capacity to Cedar Level Road in the City of Hopewell for a 0.7 mile stretch from just south of Portsmouth Street to just north of Miles Avenue. The road currently has two lanes and will be widened to three lanes, including two travel lanes and a center two-way turn lane. New bike lanes and sidewalks will also be added. The project, in VDOT's Richmond District, is expected to be complete in late summer 2020.

The CTB voted to approve policy guidelines for implementation of governance reforms for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). As part of the Comprehensive WMATA Funding and Reform legislation passed during the 2018 General Assembly Session, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation coordinated with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission in the development of the proposed guidelines. The guidelines will assist the CTB in performing an objective annual review of WMATA's compliance with the required reforms.

Appointed by the governor, the 17-member CTB establishes the administrative policies and approves funding allocation for Virginia's transportation system.

For more information about CTB meetings, times, and location, visit http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public_meetings/schedule/overview/default.asp.

District	Number of applications
Bristol	50
Culpeper	43
Fredericksburg	35
Hampton Roads	58
Lynchburg	30
Northern Virginia	47
Richmond	85
Salem	49
Staunton	71

Several CSA Studies Underway

Several efforts to examine and improve aspects of the Children's Services Act (CSA) are currently underway, both as a result of General Assembly direction and State Executive Council action.

Private special education day placements: Language included in the 2017 Appropriations Act charged money committee staff with identifying ways to improve the management of quality and costs for private special education day placements funded through CSA. Staff reported to the Joint Committee on Health and Human Resources Oversight in November 2017 and requested more time to complete the study; VACo's Immediate Past President Mary Biggs, who serves on the State Executive Council (SEC), provided testimony on behalf of VACo at this meeting. Money committee staff are continuing their work and are expected to make a report by the end of the year.

Language included in the 2018 Appropriations Act directed the Office of Children's Services and the Department of Education to convene a workgroup of stakeholders to develop proposed outcome measures, such as assessment scores, return to public school, or attendance, to track students' progress in private day placements. The workgroup, which includes a VACo representative, has met three times and is currently considering a set of possible metrics that would include graduation rates, assessment scores, attendance, return to public school, suspension and expulsion rates, and parental satisfaction. These indicators are expected to be further refined at a final meeting in early October and reported to the specified General Assembly committee chairs by November 1. In addition, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's study selection subcommittee gave preliminary approval on September 10 to a review of special education overall; a formal study resolution will be considered at a future meeting.

Mandatory uniform assessment instrument policy: State statute requires the use of a uniform assessment instrument to assess children's eligibility for CSA funding, and SEC policy designates the Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs Assessment (CANS) as the required assessment tool. Documentation of CANS administration in compliance with statute and policy is a component of state audits of local CSA offices. In an effort to consolidate and clarify guidance regarding the use of CANS, OCS has convened a workgroup to develop a policy for CANS use. VACo is participating in this workgroup, which has developed a draft policy that seeks to streamline minimum requirements for CANS administration. The SEC is expected to approve releasing the draft policy for public comment at its meeting on September 20.

Utilization management: Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) are tasked in state statute with reviewing and analyzing data on usage of CSA services. At an SEC meeting earlier this year, OCS audit staff informed the SEC that CPMTs varied in the degrees to which they engaged in such efforts. The SEC directed OCS to convene a workgroup that could identify and share best practices in quality improvement among localities. VACo is participating in the workgroup, which has been discussing data elements that are already captured in some manner by local programs or OCS and could be compiled into a simple dashboard that could be reviewed by CPMTs. Supervisor Biggs, who serves on the workgroup, will be reporting on this work to the SEC on September 20.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

For the next several issues - VACo will publish photos of water towers from across the Commonwealth.

If you have a water tower in your community - please email a photo to gcharter@vaco.org



A water tower is an incredibly simple device. Although water towers come in all shapes and sizes, they all do the same thing: A water tower is simply a large, elevated tank of water.

Water towers are tall to provide pressure. Each foot of height provides 0.43 PSI (pounds per square Inch) of pressure. A typical municipal water supply runs at between 50 and 100 PSI (major appliances require at least 20 to 30 PSI). The water tower must be tall enough to supply that level of pressure to all of the houses and businesses in the area of the tower. So water towers are typically located on high ground, and they are tall enough to provide the necessary pressure. In hilly regions, a tower can sometimes be replaced by a simple tank located on the highest hill in the area.

A water tower's tank is normally quite large. A normal in-ground swimming pool in someone's backyard might hold something like 20,000 or 30,000 gallons (that's a lot of water!), and a typical water tower might hold 50 times that amount! Typically, a water tower's tank is sized to hold about a day's worth of water for the community served by the tower. If the pumps fail (for example, during a power failure), the water tower holds enough water to keep things flowing for about a day.

SOURCE: howstuffworks.com





Mark Your Calendars



VACo's 84TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**REGISTER
TODAY**

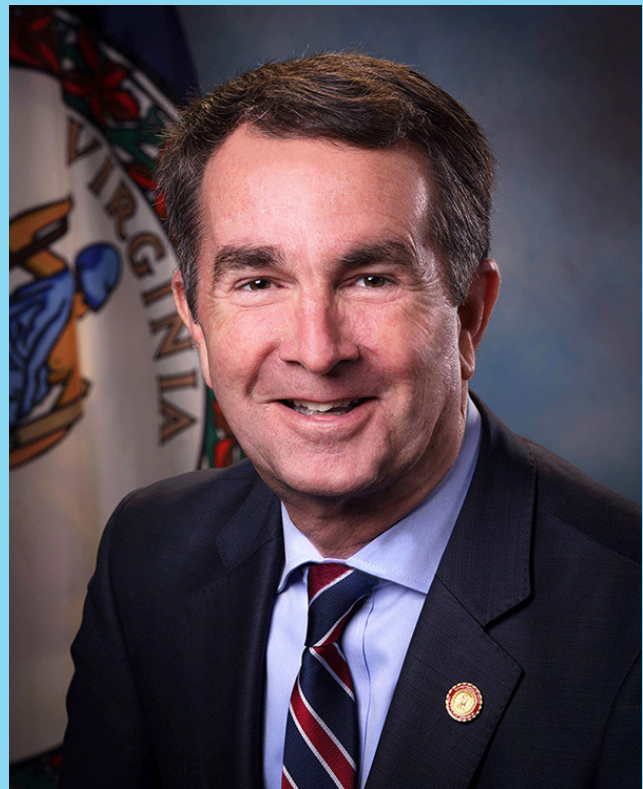
November 11-13 | The Omni Homestead | Bath County

Governor Ralph Northam confirmed as speaker

VACo has also confirmed 7 legislators to speak at the Annual Conference and has invited many more. Political Analyst Bob Holsworth joins the all-star cast to give his take on the federal elections.

Senator Creigh Deeds - Confirmed
Senator Barbara Favola - Confirmed
Senator Emmett Hanger - Confirmed
Senator Frank Ruff - Confirmed

Delegate Terry Kilgore - Confirmed
Delegate Bob Thomas - Confirmed
Delegate Lee Ware - Confirmed



[Annual Conference Registration Form](#) | [Online Conference Registration](#)

[Annual Conference Preliminary Agenda](#)



By Sherrin Alsop | VACo President

Spotlight on Early Childhood Part 2

2018 Presidential Initiative: Healthy Virginia Counties in Action

Earlier this month we marked the traditional “back to school” milestone of the day after Labor Day by examining some of the science documenting the importance of early childhood experiences to long-term health outcomes, as well as the economic returns on investments in high-quality early childhood programs. Counties have long recognized the importance of giving our youngest residents the best possible start in life, and have found creative approaches to work with child care providers, preschool classrooms, and parents to improve young children’s chances of leading successful, healthy lives.

Giles County won a 2015 VACo Achievement Award for its comprehensive approach to community health, a project in which access to pre-kindergarten figured prominently. In its description of its efforts, Giles County explained that it was aiming to improve the conditions affecting too many county residents, and thus the county’s well-being as a whole, such as poverty, low birth weight, limited educational opportunity, and premature death, and that its goal was to bolster protective factors such as “enhanced parental resilience, social connectedness, enhanced education levels and opportunity...improved knowledge of parenting and child development and social and emotional competence of children.” Giles County used federal grant money to build two additional pre-K classrooms, which would provide wrap-around services to students, including complete health screenings (to include vision and dental) and a strong family engagement component.

Washington County has made early childhood a priority in its efforts to reduce poverty in the county. In 2016, the County was one of only ten counties in the nation selected to receive a Rural Impact County Challenge Grant, which provided coaching resources to County leadership and a host of community partners, such as the school system and the local Smart Beginnings program. An early project undertaken by the group was an inventory of community resources and the compilation of a Resource Guide. Supervisor Allison Mays said in a VACo Spotlight interview last year, “We chose this project recognizing that sometimes people who need help are not even aware that these resources exist.” Washington County’s efforts were rewarded by its selection earlier this year by NACo as one of a handful of counties to participate in the Pritzker Children’s Initiative. Through the project, Washington County is expected to benefit from access to expertise from national organizations that are all working to promote kindergarten readiness.

HEALTHY Continued on Page 8

HEALTHY Continued from Page 7

Chesterfield County's "Play Smart with Toddlers" program is a brilliant use of an existing community resource – the public library system – to help parents improve their ability to support their children's cognitive and social development, as well as to introduce them to resources within Chesterfield County. The "Play Smart" sessions allow children to play with a variety of developmentally-appropriate toys, while community professionals educate parents on the benefits of play, as well as topics such as nutrition and language development, all in a fun, low-stress environment. Parents come away with the tools to promote learning at home, and community contacts, such as staff at the Health Department and Mental Health Support Services, who can serve as resources for questions about child development.

In another exemplary community partnership, **Loudoun County** worked with George Mason University faculty and interns to promote a healthy habit early in life, by encouraging children in Head Start or Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) classes to choose water when they are thirsty, rather than sugary drinks such as juice. [An article by GMU staff](#) explains that before the program was implemented, the preschoolers' juice consumption was close to their recommended limit of sugar consumption for the entire day, so swapping out water made a big difference in potential weight gain, as well as the benefit of developing healthy habits at an early age. Instructors developed ways to make "water time" fun for the students, including a penguin mascot named "Captain Hydro." The curriculum has been implemented in all the Head Start and VPI classrooms in Loudoun County. Although the program was implemented relatively recently, it is already demonstrating results: Health Nutrition Coordinator Kris Cadwell noted that children experienced a drop in body-mass index over the course of the year, and the benefits appear to have carried over from preschool to home, based on surveys of parents at the beginning and end of the year reporting an increase in children drinking water rather than juice.

Albemarle County has historically made high-quality preschool a priority. The Bright Stars program, which serves at-risk four-year-olds in classrooms within County elementary schools, has had impressive success in preparing children for kindergarten. A recent report on the program noted that while only 9 percent of participants met the Pre-K benchmarks for the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) test (which measures skills associated with successful reading development) when entering the program, 63 percent met the goals by the spring, and the gains appear to be maintained in kindergarten and beyond. Importantly, all Bright Stars alumni in grades K-5 have been promoted to the next grade level. The program blends funding from VPI (which includes a local match), supplemental local funding, and federal funds, including Title I and Early Childhood Special Education dollars. Participating children benefit from a holistic approach to well-being, which includes health and dental care; dental care is offered through a partnership with Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital.

Voluntary home visiting programs have been shown to be effective in improving parenting skills and preventing child abuse. Programs vary slightly in the populations they serve and their administrative structure, but generally they involve trained staff, who may be nurses or community health workers, who work with parents with young children, sometimes beginning during pregnancy, to address risk factors that may impede healthy development or lead to Adverse Childhood Experiences. The Virginia Commission on Youth produced [a helpful overview](#) of the programs operating in Virginia, including Healthy Families, Comprehensive Health Investment Project, and Resource Mothers. The state supports these programs with funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, as well as federal funding through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program. Healthy Families Fairfax is a public-private partnership among the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, the Fairfax County Health Department, and two community nonprofits (Northern Virginia Family Service and United Community Ministries). **Fairfax County** funds the program, along with state funding and contributions by donors; the program works with parents who are at risk of abuse and neglect from pregnancy until the child reaches age three, and offers home-based parenting and health education, developmental screenings, and referrals to community resources. The program has been a resounding success: in 2017, less than one percent of the families in the program were later found to have abused or neglected their children, 84 percent of participants demonstrated positive parenting, and 89 percent of women who enrolled in the program while pregnant delivered babies at a healthy birth weight. These encouraging findings are in keeping with a statewide evaluation of the program performed by consultants on behalf of Prevent Child Abuse of Virginia, which found that Healthy Families participants received prenatal care, addressed developmental delays early, and had healthy home environments.

The evidence is clear that our experiences in early childhood lay the foundation for our future success, including our long-term health. Counties are making wise investments in their youngest residents, and it will be exciting to see these investments reap dividends in the future in the form of healthier communities. In my next column, we'll be exploring poverty, an issue that is intertwined with many other aspects of community health, as well as efforts to improve the economic health of our communities.

SCHOOL Continued from Page 9

- Recommend cooperative agreements between school boards and local departments of social services and community services boards (CSBs) to provide mental health services for children.
- Recommend collaboration between school board employees and local fire marshals to ensure that infrastructure improvements comply with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.
- Allow retired law enforcement officers to serve as School Resource Officers without loss of retirement benefits.
- Amend the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act to expand the population of eligible juveniles who would qualify for services.
- Delay the June primary elections from the second to the third Tuesday in June so that elections would be held after the school year has concluded, as schools are frequently used as polling places. A related recommendation would require the November general election date to be a school holiday.
- Require threat assessment training for all school personnel; provide funding for training on de-escalation of student behavior; require mental health training for teachers; require training for School Resource Officers on mental health, interacting with students with disabilities, and bullying, among other topics; and require annual training for students on school safety procedures
- Recommend certain physical safety improvements, such as exploring the possibility of installing ballistic barriers in school buildings; integrating school security cameras with emergency communications centers; requiring a professional trained in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design to review each school capital project; and requiring public safety agencies to include local school divisions in the public safety voice communications system.
- Require certain minimum standards for physical and cybersecurity, similar to the way in which standards for staffing and accreditation are established by the General Assembly and Board of Education.

Below are links to recommendations from each subcommittee.

Infrastructure and Security Subcommittee

http://studiesviriniageneralassembly.s3.amazonaws.com/meeting_docs/documents/000/000/319/original/09_11_18_Infrastructure_and_Security_Recommendations_w_edits.pptx?1536688416

Prevention and Response Protocol Subcommittee

http://studiesviriniageneralassembly.s3.amazonaws.com/meeting_docs/documents/000/000/320/original/09_11_18_Prevention_and_Response_Recommendations_w_edits.pptx?1536688459

Student Behavior and Intervention Subcommittee

http://studiesviriniageneralassembly.s3.amazonaws.com/meeting_docs/documents/000/000/321/original/9-11-18_Student_Behavior_and_Intervention_subcommittee_recommendations_updated_9-10-18.pptx?1536688494

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Under proposed regulations issued by the IRS, transfers to a state agency or charitable organization in lieu of paying state and local taxes would be deductible as a charitable contribution only to the extent that the taxpayer making the donation did not receive a quid pro quo. Contributions that result in a state or local tax credit in return for a contribution would not be deductible for federal tax purposes to the extent of the credit. Contributions that result in a state or local tax deduction may be deductible for federal tax purposes.

The proposed rules outline the history of the IRS's and courts' positions on whether a donor has received something of value in return for the charitable contribution in which case the deduction under Sec. 170 must be reduced or eliminated.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck](#)

State General Fund Collections Continue Growth in August

Governor Northam announced on September 12 that state General Fund (GF) revenue collections increased 4.5 percent in August relative to August 2017. Individual income tax payroll withholding, a mainstay of GF revenues, grew 5.1 percent in August. On a fiscal-year-to-date basis, payroll withholding collections are flat relative to the same time period the year before, but this apparent underperformance is likely attributable to a quirk in the July calendar. In his presentation to the money committees in August, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne explained that the timing of the July 4 holiday had likely pushed some July withholding payments into June, so they were captured in the previous fiscal year. Sales and use taxes turned in an unusually strong performance, growing 7.5 percent for the month, and also 7.5 percent on a fiscal-year-to-date basis.

During his presentation to the House Appropriations Committee on September 17, Secretary Layne suggested that September revenues will provide a clearer picture of how Virginia's economy is performing, since estimated nonwithholding payments are due in September, and sales tax collections (reflecting August sales) will allow an analysis of sales over the summer tourism season, but he was optimistic that revenues would meet the annual estimate. He sounded a note of caution later in his presentation, when he outlined the list of expected commitments and demands on the state budget in the upcoming session, including promised economic development incentives, costs to unwind the state's relationship with its former IT contractor, Northrop Grumman, and state costs to respond to Hurricane Florence (some of which are expected to be reimbursed by the federal government). Dr. Jennifer Lee, Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, discussed another possible claim on the state budget in her presentation on the potential for the federal government to claw back Medicaid funds spent at Piedmont and Catawba hospitals over a dispute about how the facilities should be categorized with respect to Medicare and Medicaid.

After the September revenue report, the Joint Advisory Board of Economists (JABE) will meet in October to review the economic outlook for FYs 2019-2022, followed by a meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE) in November. Governor Northam is scheduled to present his budget proposal to the money committees on December 18.

Secretary Layne's revenue report is available at [this link](#) and his presentation to the House Appropriations Committee is available at [this link](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

MENTAL HEALTH Continued from Page 1

on how these services would be funded and how they would fit with the existing set of required CSB services that is being phased in as part of the STEP-Virginia plan. The bills, which were ultimately left in the House Appropriations Committee, also would have required the Board of Corrections to adopt standards for the provision of mental health and substance abuse services in local and regional jails.

The Joint Commission on Health Care received a report this week on a two-year study of health care in correctional facilities, to include the question of whether CSBs should provide mental health care in all jails. The [staff report](#) notes that CSBs provide the majority of mental health treatment within jails, but do not serve all jails, some of which use contractors or jail mental health staff to meet their treatment needs. The report does not recommend that CSBs be required to provide services within jails, but includes as a policy option for consideration requiring the Board of Corrections to impose minimum health care standards for local and regional jails that are not accredited. In a related effort, a work group formed by DBHDS earlier this year recommended 14 mental health care standards for local and regional jails, several of which [the report](#) acknowledges would require additional resources to implement. This topic is expected to be the subject of a presentation to the Joint Subcommittee this fall, and legislation on this issue can be expected during the 2019 Session.

The Joint Commission on Health Care is soliciting public comments on its policy options until October 15, 2018. Comments may be provided by email to jchcpubliccomments@jchc.virginia.gov; via fax to 804.786.5538; or via U.S. Mail to the Joint Commission on Health Care, P.O. Box 1322, Richmond, Virginia 23218.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Medicaid Expansion Q&A by DMAS

Who will be covered under the new eligibility rules for Virginia Medicaid? Beginning January 1, 2019, Virginia adults are eligible for coverage if they are between the ages of 19 to 64, meet income requirements and are not eligible for Medicare. Under the new guidelines, a single adult making at or below \$16,750 annually may be eligible. A parent in a family of three with a household income at or below \$28,700 may also qualify. For more information about income requirements, visit coverva.org and check out the [Eligibility Screening Tool](#) to see if you or someone you know might meet the income requirement.

How many people will benefit from the new eligibility rules for Medicaid? New Medicaid eligibility rules will give up to 400,000 Virginia adults access to health coverage.

What services are included in the coverage? Hospital stays, primary care doctors, specialists, prescriptions, mental health services, addiction treatment and many more.

When does the new coverage begin? Coverage begins January 1, 2019.

How can people apply for coverage? We hope to begin accepting applications for the new coverage before January 1, 2019. Information on when adults can begin applying for the new coverage will be available soon on coverva.org. Individuals can also sign up on coverva.org to receive the latest updates by text or email, including updates on when adults can begin applying for the new coverage.

You can review all of the ways to apply for Medicaid by phone, online, or in person, by visiting our website at coverva.org.

- 1. By phone:** Cover Virginia call center at 1.855.242.8282 (TDD: 1.888.221.1590)
- 2. Online:** Visit commonhelp.virginia.gov OR healthcare.gov
- 3. In Person:** Visit your local department of social services agency in your community. You can search for the agency location in your community by visiting coverva.org.

How is DMAS working with local departments of social services to improve the eligibility and enrollment process? DMAS eligibility and enrollment leaders recently collaborated with Department of Social Services officials on detailed informational sessions for 300 local department of social services staff, and DMAS is continuing that collaboration for a series of similar meetings across the state this fall.

How is DMAS working with our local community services boards (CSBs) to ensure that they are able to provide behavioral health services and receive reimbursements promptly? The CSBs are well positioned to continue to be one of our most important partners in serving Medicaid members. Most CSBs in Virginia are in-network providers in all six of the health plans that will serve our new adult members as well as existing members. CSBs will **not** need to obtain new contracts to serve the new adult enrollees. The processes that the CSBs use today for current Medicaid members will be the same for the new adults. The primary impact of this change for CSBs will be an increase in the number of individuals covered by Medicaid and a decrease in the number of individuals who pay out-of-pocket for care. We know from other states that have already expanded adult Medicaid eligibility that public mental health providers are able to generate new revenues, as a larger percentage of their clients have coverage.

CSBs are an important partner in our work to provide coverage to Virginians, and we see that partnership growing stronger. We are planning a series of town halls this fall specifically for our CSB partners so that we can share information and support CSBs as they train staff to assist with enrollment. We are committed to working closely with the CSBs so they can help their eligible patients enroll in Medicaid and gain coverage. We want to give CSBs the support they need to enroll all of their eligible clients and be ready to bill Medicaid for services for the newly eligible adults on January 1, 2019.

How will local jails be affected by the new coverage? Jails have historically been able to bill Medicaid for incarcerated individuals who require hospitalization and who are eligible for coverage. Now, a larger percentage of the incarcerated population will be eligible for coverage of hospitalizations. We also are working with state, regional and local officials to streamline the process for accepting and processing applications for individuals as part of the pre-release process.

What is the status of Virginia's § 1115 Waiver request and when will that take effect? We remain focused on the work necessary to ensure that new health coverage for Virginia adults is available beginning on January 1, 2019. Developing a waiver is a separate, ongoing process, as described in the state budget, and the development of the waiver proposal remains on schedule for submission this fall. The state budget clearly envisions that new coverage for adults will begin on January 1, 2019, when the waiver is still under development, and that sequence of events remains unchanged.

What is the cost of Medicaid expansion in Virginia? Expanding coverage in the Commonwealth will result in state budget savings. The state budget anticipates a net savings to the state of \$355 million for fiscal years 2019-20, and Virginia will benefit from an additional \$2.4 billion in new federal funds that will go directly to health care providers for the care they give to the newly covered adults. Now, Virginia can obtain new federal funds for behavioral health services and other health-related costs that were previously paid through state tax dollars. Virginians are expected to see savings in areas including temporary detention orders, services for some pregnant women, coverage for inpatient hospital care and behavioral health services at CSBs, and indigent care payments.



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

The Westin Richmond | 6631 W. Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23230
10:30am - 3pm

The first-ever Virginia Local Government Investment Conference will bring together Treasurers, investment officers, and other local leaders to hear the latest on fixed income and long-term investing strategies for Virginia localities and authorities. The one-day event is sponsored by the **Virginia Investment Pool (VIP)**, the **Virginia Pooled OPEB Trust**, and **VML/VACo Finance**. Updates will be presented on the VIP and OPEB Trust portfolios – *a combined \$2.5 billion in invested assets* – along with presentations from industry experts.

[Click here to RSVP by September 28.](#) For more information, call Timothy Bunch at 804.648.0635 or email tbunch@valocalfinance.org.

Health options made easier



A new offering for VACo members

For more than 160 years, Aetna has helped people lead healthier lives. And now, our **dedicated Public Sector team is providing health solutions to VACo members**, with a focus on long-term cost sustainability, innovative benefit options, and **improved experiences for your members**.

The heart of our VACo offering is consumer-directed coverage, which combines industry-leading health and condition management programs with cost-conscious behavior that **helps Virginia's working families save** for future medical expenses.

Bottom line? The right health plan should do more than just pay medical bills. It should also give you the facts and support you need to make the right decisions. Our customized offer for VACo members – with special programs and online services – will help you understand and use your health care benefits to the fullest. All to help simplify the process, eliminate the guesswork, and bring your health ambitions to life.

As a VACo member, you'll have access to all this, plus some of Aetna's industry-leading interactive member tools, including:

Aetna Member Services Concierge

Think of this feature as your personal assistant to guide you through the health care process. Your concierge will help answer all your questions, and help find solutions that fit your budget and needs. It's simple – just call one number to get the answers you need, from understanding your benefits to finding the right resources available to you.

Member Payment Estimator tool

Compare and estimate costs of up to 10 different network doctors or facilities at once. This way, you can make better health care decisions that will help you save on out-of-pocket costs.

Aetna In Touch CareSM program

We help members with the greatest acute and chronic needs to work toward their best possible outcomes. This means you don't need to buy disease or case management to go with it.

For more information, contact:

Marcus Duckworth, Vice President of Client Management

Phone: (770) 685-9877

Email: DuckworthM@aetna.com

Health benefits and health insurance plans contain exclusions and limitations. Providers are independent contractors and are not agents of Aetna. Provider participation may change without notice. Aetna doesn't provide care or guarantee access to health services. Health information provides general health information and isn't a substitute for diagnosis or treatment by a physician or other health care professional. Information is believed to be accurate as of the production date; however, it's subject to change. For more information about Aetna plans, refer to **aetna.com**.



aetna[®]

aetna.com

How to Save Time & Money While Giving Employees Benefits They Want

Benefits are an important part of retaining and attracting valuable employees. Budget cuts and the rising costs of healthcare are making it hard for employers to provide their workforces the competitive benefits they expect and deserve. It sometimes seems that the only way to provide these benefits is to shift some of the healthcare cost to the employees.



Pierce Group Benefits' goal is to help our clients navigate through these challenges. We are a family operated, full-service benefits consulting firm that specializes in building comprehensive benefits packages and customized solutions for public sector employees. Pierce Group Benefits is the leading regional provider of employee benefits to the public sector, currently serving over 150,000 employees. Our buying power is a tremendous advantage to both employers' and employees' budgets. We consistently enhance our clients' benefits packages in several ways, often increasing the benefits while reducing or maintaining current rates.

Here are some examples of how Pierce Group Benefits has successfully implemented strategies with our public sector clients:

Customized Benefits Package - Benefits should be comprehensive and customized to the age and circumstances of each employee. In evaluating health plans, offering multiple plan designs is an important component in lowering employer costs while meeting the needs of all employees.

Moving non-core benefits to employee-paid voluntary benefits and offering value-added programs are two ways the public sector can provide more customization to offset employees' benefits costs. Voluntary benefits can augment employee benefit portfolios at no additional cost to the employer, and they can help employees avoid higher deductibles and increased out-of-pocket expenses.

Enhanced Employee Experience – Modernizing benefits enrollment improves employee satisfaction and saves money for local government employers. A successful benefits program begins with a strong benefits communication strategy. Effective benefits communication encompasses online tools (websites & videos), written materials (benefit booklet), and face-to-face conversations (on-site benefit counselors). Employees of different generations rely on different modes of communication to educate themselves and make benefits decisions.

With the right benefits and cost, an employer can attract and retain the best personnel. But, planning a benefits package is complex and involves making decisions that will impact employers and employees alike. When you partner with Pierce Group Benefits, you can obtain a comprehensive employee benefits package without making sacrifices, without creating more costs, and without having to make cuts elsewhere.



Please visit us at www.piercegroupbenefits.com
or call at 800-387-5955 to learn more.



Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

2018 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) “RECORDS” TRAINING

October 3 | October 10 | November 7 | November 14

The Commonwealth of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Advisory Council will conduct its 2018 FOIA “Records” training in Richmond starting July 25. The training sessions will be held at the Pocahontas Building located at 900 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219, near the Virginia State Capitol.

Citizens, media representatives, public officials, and public employees with an interest in learning more about access to public records under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are invited to register for this free training presentation. The presentation will provide an overview of the legal requirements regarding access to public records under FOIA, including what is a public record, how to make a public records request, how to respond to records requests, information on exemptions from mandatory disclosure, and the remedies available should a violation occur.

The training sessions are scheduled for October 3, October 10, November 7 and November 14. Each session will provide 1.5 hours of continuing legal education credit for attorneys, and will also count as the required annual training for FOIA officers.

For registration information, check the FOIA Council’s website at <http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/foiacouncil.htm> OR contact the FOIA Council directly at 866.448.4100.

Contact: Darlene Jordan

Organization: Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Telephone No: 804.698.1810 / 866.448.4100

Email: djordan@dls.virginia.gov

Website: <http://foiacouncil.virginia.gov>

Upcoming broadband conferences focus on increasing internet access



Two separate summits scheduled for this fall will be bringing public and private partners together to seek solutions on providing high speed internet access to unserved areas.

On September 25-26 the Botetourt Broadband Commission (BBC) will be hosting the [Rural Broadband Technology Solutions Summit](#) at the [Greenfield Education & Training Center](#). The objective of the summit is the implementation of advanced, affordable, high capacity internet for all Botetourt County. To achieve this, the BBC is inviting all parties involved and interested in the planning, buildout, procurement, and implementation of high capacity internet in Botetourt County. The BBC will serve to host, facilitate, and connect all components and parties for a collaborative union in an effort to enable a path to meet the summit objective. For more information go to www.BoCoSummit.com.

On October 30, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's [BroadbandUSA Program](#), in partnership with Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, will host the [Virginia Broadband Summit in Roanoke](#) at the [South County Library](#). The purpose of the Summit is to engage the public and stakeholders with information to accelerate broadband connectivity, improve digital inclusion, and support local priorities. The Summit will provide information on topics including local broadband planning, funding and engagement with service providers. Speakers and attendees from Virginia, federal agencies and across the country will come together to explore ways to facilitate the expansion of broadband capacity, access and utilization. The Virginia Broadband Summit is open to the public. [Pre-registration](#) is required and space is limited. Registration information, meeting updates, including changes in the agenda, and relevant documents will be available on NTIA's website at [Virginia Broadband Summit – Partnerships for Connecting the Commonwealth](#). For more information, contact: BroadbandUSAevents@ntia.doc.gov.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

employment opportunities



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES JOB FAIR** | Fauquier
County | Posted September 18



JOB FAIR
| Fauquier County Public Schools |
Posted September 18



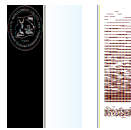
**DIRECTOR OF
TRANSPORTATION** | Richmond
Regional Planning District
Commission | Posted September 17



**SAFETY
& SECURITY SPECIALIST** | Fauquier
County | Posted September 17



DEPUTY I | Frederick
County | Posted September 17



**FIRE PROTECTION
CODE INSPECTOR I/II/III** | City of
Alexandria | Posted September 17



**COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER** | New River Valley Regional
Authority | Posted September 14



**RECREATION PROGRAM
SUPERVISOR II (ATHLETICS)**
| Montgomery County | Posted
September 14



**IT PROJECT MANAGER
- GIS** | Hanover County | Posted
September 14



**ADMINISTRATIVE
PROGRAM ASSISTANT I** | New Kent
County | Posted September 14



EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
| Shenandoah County | Posted
September 13



**DEPUTY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE** | Fairfax County | Posted
September 13



**DIRECTOR OF
ELECTIONS/GENERAL REGISTRAR**
| Westmoreland County | Posted
September 13



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS** | Prince
William County | Posted September 13



**PUBLIC UTILITIES
OPERATIONS MANAGER** |
Shenandoah County | Posted
September 13



**FAMILY SERVICES
SPECIALIST III** | James City County |
Posted September 12



**PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER/ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT** | Amherst County | Posted
September 10



LEAD GROUNDSKEEPER

James City County | Posted September 10



FAMILY SERVICES

SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted September 10



SOLID WASTE DIVISION

MANAGER | Bedford County | Posted September 7



ASSISTANT CITY

ATTORNEY III | City of Chesapeake | Posted September 7



REVENUE SPECIALIST/ DEPUTY COMMISSIONER I

| New Kent County | Posted September 7



CERTIFIED POLICE

OFFICER I/II | James City County | Posted September 7



PLANNING DIRECTOR

| Town of Christiansburg | Posted September 6



REAL PROPERTY FIELD

INSPECTOR | New Kent County | Posted September 6



COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR | Bedford County | Posted September 5



COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR | Surry County | Posted September 5



DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

- OPERATIONS | Bedford County | Posted September 5



TRANSIT MANAGER

| Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted September 5



COMMERCIAL SENIOR

REAL ESTATE APPRAISER | Fairfax County | Posted September 5



PLANNER I/II/III

| James City County | Posted September 5



SENIOR UTILITY

LOCATOR | James City County | Posted September 5



UTILITY LOCATOR

| James City County | Posted September 5



CONVENIENCE CENTER

ATTENDANT | James City County | Posted September 5



MIDDLEBURG TOWN

ADMINISTRATOR | Town of Middleburg | Posted September 4



BENEFIT PROGRAMS

SUPERVISOR | New Kent County | Posted August 30



UNIT SUPPORT STAFF

| Virginia Cooperative Extension | Posted August 30



DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | Albemarle County | Posted August 30



INDUSTRIAL

PRETREATMENT COORDINATOR | Stafford County | Posted August 30



VICTIM WITNESS

PROGRAM DIRECTOR | Westmoreland County | Posted August 29



GIS ANALYST/PUBLIC

SAFETY HELP DESK SPECIALIST | Orange County | Posted August 29



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC

WORKS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted August 28



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Sherrin C. Alsop | King and Queen County

President-Elect: Tim A. Reeves | Wythe County

1st Vice President: Stephen W. Bowen | Nottoway County

2nd Vice President: Jeff C. McKay | Fairfax County

Secretary Treasurer: Donald L. Hart | Jr., Accomack County

Immediate Past President: Mary W. Biggs | Montgomery County

STAFF

Executive Director: Dean A. Lynch, CAE

General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

Director of Administration and Finance: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA

Director of Communications: A. Gage Harter

Director of Government Affairs: Katie Boyle

Director of Government Relations: Chris J. McDonald, Esq.

Director of Local Government Policy: Joe Lerch, AICP

Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron

Director of Program Development: Angela Inglett

Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA

Administrative Secretary: Valerie M. Russell

VACORP: Chris Carey, Administrator, 888.822.6772

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: A. Gage Harter
804.343.2502