

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

July 30, 2019



Welcome to the County Pulse! Listen to the workforce development episode... Page 2



Visit Floyd County and Rakes Mill Pond... Page 5



Board of Education Considers Updated Proposed SOQ Revisions with Potential \$1.2 Billion Fiscal Impact... Page 4



Get to know CGI Technologies and Solutions, Inc.... Page 7



Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 26 recipients of the 2019 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 96 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing high-priority community issues that challenge counties today.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#)

“This is the 17th year of the Achievement Awards, and we couldn’t be prouder of the innovative work done by our member counties,” VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. “I want to thank all who participated. It seems the judges selected winning programs that help unite communities – especially the young and seniors. This tells me that counties continue to put their residents first.”

Tedd Povar, retired Associate Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Larry Land**, retired VACo Director of Policy Development, served as judges for this year’s statewide competitive awards program.

Chesterfield County and its **Chesterfield County Police Experience Program** won this year’s **Best Achievement Award**.

“We need a program like the Chesterfield County Police Experience because it provides a positive perspective for the community and the police officers,” Land said. “Students say they have a better understanding of police interactions, and officers say they have gained a greater feel of the community’s needs and concerns.”

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Louisa County** captured the Best Small County Achievement Award while **Roanoke County** earned the Best Large County Achievement Award.

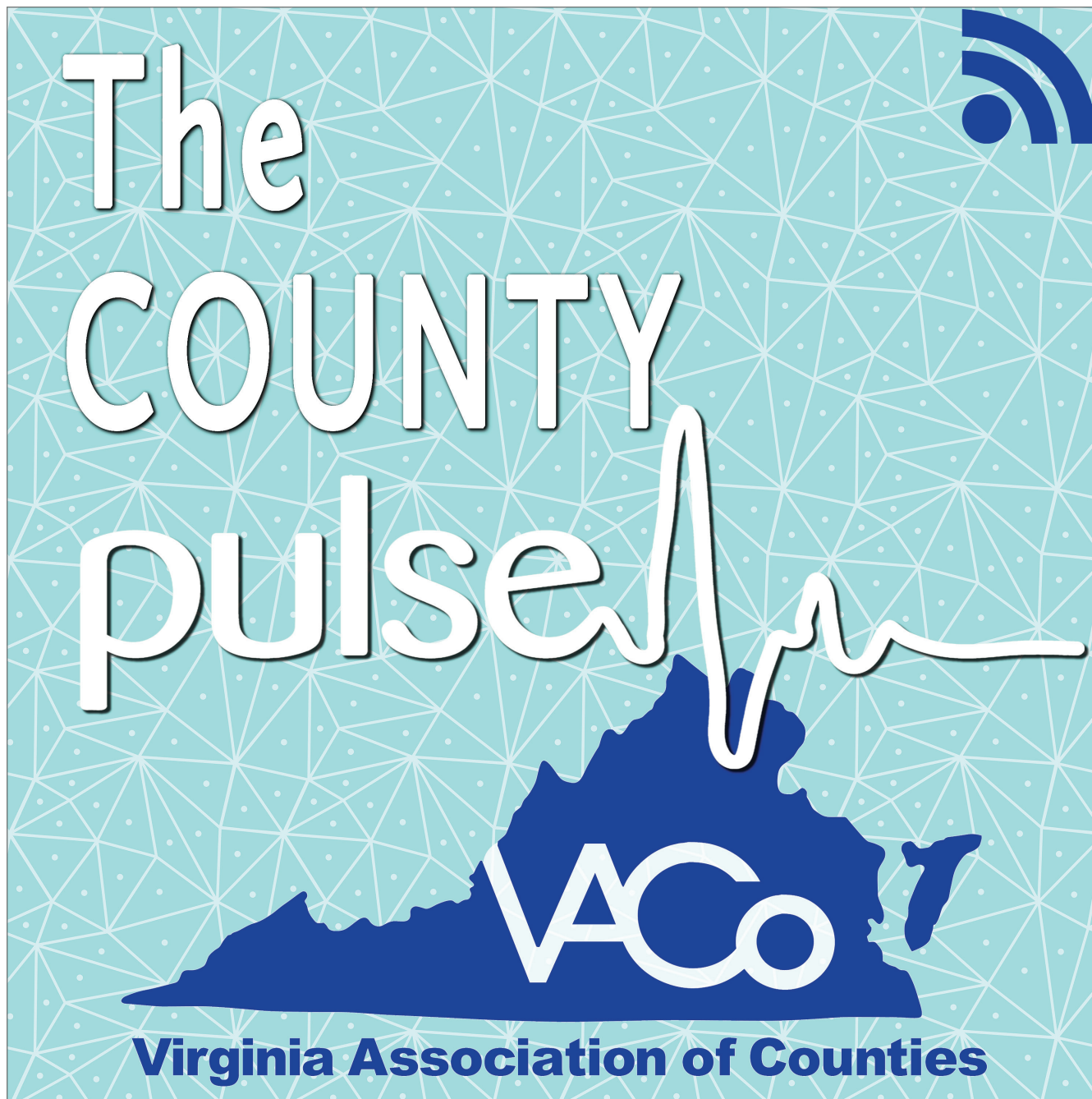
“These two outstanding programs show the deep caring Virginia counties have for their community,” Dr. Bailey said. “Louisa County’s first responder program is one of compassion and understanding. In a year, Roanoke County’s program has exposed 7,000 residents to Artificial Intelligence and coding through library workshops. We are fortunate to have so many county leaders and staff who recognize and believe that serving Virginians well should always be job one.”

Povar, who has served as judge since the Achievement Awards inception in 2003, said this year’s batch of 96 entries were some of the best he’s seen. “The quality of programs has definitely gone up and this year was perhaps the best,” Povar said. “Our meeting to decide the winners took almost twice as long because you could make a case for almost every entry to be recognized. It was indeed tough to select winners this year.”

Chesterfield County tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 32. Chesterfield County has won an award in each of the 17-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 27 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 22. **Fairfax County** and **Prince William County** are tied in fourth with 20 awards.

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association. VACo will present awards at Board of Supervisors meetings and recognize award-winning counties at the 2019 Annual Conference in November.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#)
[2019 Achievement Awards Entries](#) | [Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)



Guests share the legislative pulse of Virginia Counties. Click on the link below to listen to the next episode. Thank you for listening to the VACo County Pulse Podcast.

[VACo County Pulse Podcast](#)

Another Option

Frank Bossio (Former Culpeper County Administrator) and Sue Hansohn (Member of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors) jump on the podcast to chat with Angela Inglett about workforce development and to explain why we should encourage young people to explore options apart from the college track. We talk about new methods of delivering career training and the importance of recognizing the dignity of work in all its forms.

Expanded Body-Worn Camera Workgroup Holds First Meeting

A reconstituted workgroup with an expanded scope will revisit the issue of body-worn cameras and their effect on Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices, in addition to tackling the question of how the cameras affect the public safety and judicial systems overall. Budget language enacted in 2019 directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene the workgroup, which held its first 2019 meeting on July 29.

The workgroup is a continuation of efforts that began prior to 2018 to grapple with the effect of body-worn cameras on prosecutors' offices. During the 2018 General Assembly, budget language in both chambers would have required localities to provide additional staff in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices to assist with the workload associated with the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement. Language in the Senate required additional staff to be provided at a ratio of one assistant Commonwealth's Attorney per 50 cameras employed by law enforcement; House Appropriations Committee language, which was ultimately removed on the House floor, required localities to provide additional staff but did not dictate a ratio. After localities objected to the Senate language, the conference report removed the ratio requirement and instead directed the Compensation Board to convene a workgroup to study the issue. That workgroup was convened in fall 2018. (VACo reported on the workgroup deliberations in *County Connections*; articles may be found [here](#) and [here](#).) All members agreed that the state must fully fund staffing in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices in accordance with the Compensation Board's staffing standards. However, prosecutors were adamant about the need for additional staff to address workload issues generated by the cameras. Ethics Counsel for the Virginia State Bar have opined that prosecutors have an ethical duty to review all footage that may be part of a case as part of their responsibility to disclose material that may be exculpatory.

The workgroup's recommendations, which were incorporated in part into the 2019 Appropriations Act, were (i) that the state must fully fund existing staffing standards; (ii) that Commonwealth's Attorneys and their local governments would negotiate the issue of additional locally funded positions, with a default ratio of 1:75 if an agreement could not be reached; and (iii) that the workgroup would be continued in order to gather additional data and develop a longer-term solution to the issue. The 2019 Appropriations Act funded 20 percent of the positions required to fulfill staffing standards. In addition, budget language transferred responsibility for the workgroup from the Compensation Board to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and expanded its scope to include consideration of the effect of the cameras on the public safety and judicial systems as a whole. The budget also includes language barring the deployment of body-worn camera systems by state entities.

The July 29 workgroup meeting began with a review of the recent legislative history of the issue by Robyn de Socio, Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board, who also provided an update on the negotiations between localities and Commonwealth's Attorneys this spring. Some localities provided additional funding for attorney positions, some provided funding for support staff, some provided additional salary supplements for existing staff, some provided additional technology, and in some jurisdictions, no additional support was requested. Michael Jay of the House Appropriations Committee staff discussed the legislature's approach to the issue, explaining that committee leadership viewed the provision of staff to address the workload associated with body-worn cameras as a local responsibility, since the decision to deploy cameras is made at the local level.

Dorian Dalton with the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court explained the revisions to the criminal discovery rules that have been developed through discussions between prosecutors and the defense bar, but delayed until 2020 at the request of the money committee chairs. The discovery rules do not affect prosecutors' duties to review body camera footage, which would be required without the discovery rules, but they are expected to affect defense counsel's workloads, as they will essentially require prosecutors' files to be provided to defense counsel, with certain exceptions. Body-worn camera footage that may be included in those files will need to be reviewed by defense counsel in order to meet ethical obligations to clients.

Shannon Taylor, Commonwealth's Attorney in Henrico County, provided data her office had collected tracking the number of hours spent by attorneys in her office reviewing body-worn camera footage and outlined her conversations with Henrico County about staffing resources over the past several years. Henrico County Chief of Police Humberto Cardounel added that the County is upgrading its technology so that the review process will be more efficient. He noted that there is a public expectation that cameras will be used by law enforcement, a view echoed by Court of Appeals Judge Robert Humphreys, who pointed out that jurors are accustomed to video evidence in trials.

Issues that are planned to be discussed at future meetings include the effect of the cameras on the defense bar, in particular the public defenders' offices and court-appointed counsel; effects on the court system; potential improvements in technology to expedite review of footage; local policies guiding use of the cameras and the model policy developed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services; and considerations for state agencies in deploying cameras. VACo and VML will be working with local government representatives to make a presentation. The workgroup's next meeting is September 4 and a report is due November 15.

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

Virginia Board of Education Considers Updated Proposed Standards of Quality Revisions with Potential \$1.2 Billion Fiscal Impact

On July 24 and 25, the Virginia Board of Education ([VBOE](#)) met to continue its discussion of priorities and goals for revisions to the Standards of Quality ([SOQs](#)), which set minimum requirements that must be met by all local school divisions for K-12 education in Virginia. The latest [set](#) of Department of Education (VDOE) staff proposals under consideration contain previous recommendations from 2016, revised proposals from earlier this year, as well as four new proposals. If all proposals under consideration were to be adopted and enacted, the estimated fiscal impact to the state budget would exceed \$1 billion. Importantly, this figure does not include any accompanying local efforts that would be required to match state funds.

As previously [reported](#), VBOE reviews the SOQs every two years and typically submits its recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly in September or October as mandated by Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia. The SOQs have wide ranging fiscal impacts to localities, as they determine a variety of factors including school staffing ratios, distribution of state aid, and other requirements for public education. VACo staff and/or members of the VACo Education Steering Committee participated in all four regional meetings held by the Board in May, as well as submitting formal [comments](#) on the process in June. Throughout this process, VACo has stressed the importance of maintaining and creating local flexibility as well as restoration of state funding to pre-Recession era levels of support.

The most recent proposals previewed at last week's meeting contain new mandatory standards for reading specialist ratios in grades K-5 based on the number of students failing third-grade Standards of Learning reading assessments, new state and superintendent region level work-based learning coordinators to advance work-based learning opportunities in all school divisions, moving the K-3 Class Size Reduction program into the SOQs and expanding the program to include grades 4-6, and a new statewide principal mentorship program to support the development of school leaders with a focus on teacher retention and student achievement strategies.

Funding of SOQ requirements is met by a combination of state and local resources. Local ability to pay for standards with required local effort (RLE) is determined by the [composite index formula](#), which is updated every two years to account for the latest available state and local values in real property, adjusted gross income, retail sales, average daily membership of students, and total population.

Even though the SOQs set the minimum standards for K-12 education in Virginia, they do not reflect the actual prevailing costs of maintaining a high standard K-12 education system. No locality in Virginia funds its share of K-12 responsibilities at the minimum standards as prescribed by the state. In FY 2018, 92% of school divisions exceeded RLE by more than 25%. A quarter of all school divisions exceeded the RLE by 75% to 100%. On average this equates to \$4 billion spent by localities beyond state requirements, making Virginia localities one of the top ten supporters of K-12 education by proportion of local funding in the nation according to the latest census data.

In good news, VBOE has consistently considered its 2016 recommendation to eliminate the "support position cap." The cap is budget language first implemented by the General Assembly in 2010 that established an artificial ratio on the number of support staff positions to instructional staff positions that receive state funding support. These positions provide vital assistance for successful student achievement and include but are not limited to teachers' aides, administrative support positions, and operations and maintenance staff. Only 68% of K-12 positions employed by local school divisions are recognized by the SOQ. VBOE is also considering enhancing VDOE data collections regarding school staffing to provide better information regarding local practices.

Elimination of the cap and state support for existing local practices have been consistent priorities for VACo and numerous education associations throughout Virginia since the implementation of the cap and other funding changes during the recession as budget saving measures. The Commonwealth Institute recently published a [study](#) detailing the impacts of this budget policy decision on every local school division in Virginia. In the first year the cap was implemented, nearly 13,000 support positions lost state funding, causing either the elimination of these positions or full funding by localities. Since that time, there are 2,801 fewer support staff positions even as statewide student enrollment has risen by more than 55,000 students.

All the new proposals under consideration by VBOE in their current form would involve a combination of state funding and RLE. Some localities may already have committed to funding some of the proposed requirements, and as such, would be eligible to receive new additional state funding support should they be enacted. However, this may not be the case for all of the proposals and for all localities. Additionally, any new standards approved by the Board would need to be funded by the General Assembly.

In recent years there has been resistance from the General Assembly to fully funding VBOE recommendations. At the VBOE meetings last week, Board members discussed the option of issuing SOQs as prescriptions, not recommendations. This would potentially force the General Assembly to either adopt them as prescribed or to make alterations in the biennial budget. VBOE next meets on September 19, 2019, and will likely entertain proposals for final review. VACo will continue to track and engage on this issue.

In other VBOE related news, VBOE adopted final [regulations](#) governing the use of physical seclusion and restraint. As previously [reported](#), this is a highly emotional issue with the potential for some local fiscal impact. VBOE also reselected Dan Gecker as Board Chairman who was reappointed to the VBOE by Governor Northam and welcomed the administration appointee Pamela Davis-Vaught, principal at Highland View Elementary in Bristol, as the newest VBOE member.

Full meeting materials and minutes of VBOE and the VBOE Committee on the Standards of Quality can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



Visit Floyd County and Rakes Mill Pond

A wooden sign (right) with interpretive historical information about Rakes Mill Pond. The text on the sign reads, "The stone facing of the nearby mill dam was built early in the 19th century by one Jarman Rakes Miller. His operation was notable for a scheme of advertising that would credit a much later day. Rakes we are told allowed his customers the sole privilege of fishing for brook trout in his pond while they waited for their grist." Image taken by Robert G. Bruce in August of 1976. Image taken at milepost 168 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Rakes Mill Pond in Floyd County.



SOURCE: [Driving Through Time](#)



Mark Your Calendars



Become a Certified Supervisor



SIGN UP TODAY! | [The Supervisors' Certification Brochure](#)

VACo is pleased to offer the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program, an educational opportunity for county supervisors who wish to enhance their knowledge of governance, and effectively and efficiently lead their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 75 supervisors, representing more than 40 counties, have completed this training program, earning their credentials as a certified county supervisor.

Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities that constitute the governance challenge.

[Inventing Your County's Future:](#)
The Role of Community Planning

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Opening Session | September 6
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 1
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 27

NEWS

from our Associate Members



CGI Technologies and Solutions, Inc. strives to be recognized by our clients as their partner and expert of choice. Our track record of outstanding delivery, combined with our industry expertise, end-to-end services and IP-based solutions, help deliver significant value to clients' mission-critical and transformative work.

CONTACT

Aaron Mathes | Vice President Consulting Services
1111 East Main Street | Suite 615 | Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 434.841.5215

Email: aaron.mathes@cgi.com

Website: www.cgi.com

Advisory Group on Jail Standards Moves into Second Phase

An advisory group convened to implement legislation enacted in 2019 directing the Board of Corrections to establish standards for medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and behavioral health care has developed in concept a recommended set of behavioral health standards to be considered by the Board. VACo reported on the establishment of the advisory group, which was convened by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), in [an earlier edition of County Connections](#). VACo and VML worked with other interested parties to include language in the 2019 legislation directing the establishment of the workgroup, which is tasked with developing cost estimates for the proposed standards as well.

The advisory group used as a starting point for discussion a list of recommended standards for mental health care that was developed by an earlier workgroup. These standards largely drew from national accrediting bodies' requirements and incorporated some elements which jails are already required to provide (such as mental health screening of all inmates upon intake), as well as some proposals that will likely require additional resources for some jails. Two proposed standards addressing substance use disorder were added in order to comply with the 2019 legislation, which encompassed both mental health and substance use disorder under the category of "behavioral health."

Key elements in the draft list recommended by the advisory group include:

- A general requirement for inmates to have access to mental health care
- A requirement for jails to have written policies and procedures regarding mental health care services
- Requirements for appropriate communication between jail administration and mental health professionals regarding inmate mental health needs
- Requirements for mental health-related training for correctional officers
- Requirements for the timely administration of medications
- Requirements for screening of all inmates upon intake and assessment of those inmates who screen positive for potential mental health concerns
- Requirements for monitoring of inmates held in restrictive housing
- Requirements for discharge planning
- Required elements of jails' suicide prevention programs
- Requirements for identification and treatment of substance use disorders
- Requirements for the management of intoxication, withdrawal, and overdoses

Each proposed standard includes a set of proposed compliance indicators. DBHDS staff are preparing a final draft of the standards and compliance indicators based on the discussion at the advisory group's meetings, which will be circulated for final revisions by the advisory group before submission to the Board of Corrections for consideration.

DBHDS is also preparing a survey of sheriffs and regional jail administrators to determine what resources they expect to require in order to meet the proposed standards; the survey results will be used to develop cost estimates. The Department of Criminal Justice Services has been tasked separately with developing cost estimates, based on its experience administering pilot projects to enhance mental health services in several jails, and providing those estimates to the money committees chairs by June 30, 2020. VACo has consistently maintained that the state needs to improve its assistance to localities for jail operations, particularly as the majority of current mental health care spending in jails is supported by local funds.

DBHDS next will turn to the development of recommended standards for inmate medical care. VACo will continue to participate in the second phase of the advisory group and will provide updates to members.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Discussions Continue About State Hospital Overcrowding

As reported in [an earlier County Connections article](#), legislation enacted in 2019 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to examine the issues surrounding overcrowding in Virginia's state hospitals, which provide the "bed of last resort" in accordance with statute, and are operating close to capacity. As an indication of the scale of the problem, leadership in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) were concerned in the days leading up to the Independence Day holiday weekend that no state hospital beds might be immediately available for individuals in crisis. In such a scenario, it is unclear what would happen to an individual who was held under an Emergency Custody Order (ECO) when it expired if the state hospital could not accept the person, as the "bed of last resort" statute was enacted to prevent such a situation. Fortunately, DBHDS was able to work with several private hospitals to secure beds, among other efforts, and the shortage was avoided, but concerns remain about the sustainability of state hospital usage in the long term. The workgroup established to examine this issue has met several times over the summer to review aspects of the issue and potential options for addressing the problem.

At the June 24 workgroup meeting, Dr. Michael Schaefer, Assistant Commissioner for Forensic Services at DBHDS, briefed members on options for law enforcement to assist individuals in crisis and, if possible, to divert them to treatment options outside of the criminal justice system. Crisis Intervention Team training, which equips law enforcement officers with an understanding of behavioral health conditions and techniques to de-escalate confrontations, is widespread in Virginia, with 35 active programs; Dr. Schaefer pointed out that Virginia has the largest number of CIT programs and CIT assessment sites in the nation. CIT assessment sites, which may be located within or near hospital emergency departments or in CSB offices, provide an alternative to arrest in certain situations and allow patrol officers to return to duties by assuming custody of the person in crisis. Some centers also accept voluntary admissions or accept individuals who are brought by family members. There are 37 CIT assessment sites in Virginia, with five under development, and they are spread throughout the Commonwealth, but only seven are able to operate 24/7, and most can only accommodate three or fewer individuals at a time.

The workgroup discussed a set of policy options but came to no consensus. Workgroup members generally expressed support for the concept of expanding the capacity of CIT assessment centers. There was significant opposition to a proposal to extend the ECO time period from the current eight hours to 24 hours, which proponents contend would allow more time for an individual in crisis to enter a hospital voluntarily. Law enforcement representatives were concerned that the expanded time period would translate to more hours where an officer must remain with the individual in crisis; hospital representatives suggested that patients would spend more time in an emergency department environment, which can be noisy and stressful; and CSB representatives pointed out that more time to complete an evaluation is unnecessary, since most of the eight hours are consumed with searching for an available bed.

Narrower policy proposals that would extend the ECO period for individuals who are intoxicated (whether from alcohol or other substances) or have complex medical conditions were not fully discussed in June, but the workgroup's meeting on July 22 focused on issues surrounding the civil commitment process for individuals in these categories. Dr. Alexis Aplasca, Chief Clinical Officer for DBHDS, discussed the advantages of an acutely intoxicated individual who presents at a hospital emergency department having time to sober up, engage in the CSB worker's assessment, and possibly be discharged, rather than being placed under a TDO because the ECO expired while he was still in a state where he was unable to care for himself. Dr. Aplasca also explained the challenges posed by an individual in crisis who has complex medical needs, as it may take more than eight hours to stabilize the individual for transportation to a state hospital, coordinate appropriate equipment and medications, and consult with specialists on a treatment plan. Psychiatric hospitals are generally limited in their ability to care for patients with complex medical needs, and often cannot accept such patients, whose care then falls to the state hospitals. Workgroup members discussed medical TDOs, which allow short-term testing, observation, or treatment to be provided to prevent serious harm to individuals who are incapable of making decisions for themselves, as a potential alternative to psychiatric TDOs, although there appears to be some variation across the state in how the statutory criteria are applied, and physicians on the workgroup expressed a desire for more clarity in the statute. Hospital representatives encouraged exploration of sobering centers as another option for individuals who are in crisis and also intoxicated.

The workgroup plans to have further discussion about medical TDOs and sobering centers at a future meeting, in addition to exploring issues surrounding transfers of custody. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction Discusses Emerging Concerns, Promising Collaborations



The Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction met on July 26 and received briefings on efforts to address hepatitis A and C in Virginia; work underway to coordinate an emerging coalition of advocates; and current use and future plans for a data analytics system to inform local and state responses to the addiction crisis.

Andy Pavord discussed his work with a coalition of advocates who are developing a "Virginia Recovery Agenda" for 2021. The newly-formed Virginia Recovery Coalition aims to gather existing groups with common interests to coalesce around a shared platform that would promote addiction treatment and recovery. As part of developing the unified agenda, the coalition is developing a formal structure and meeting with candidates for public office.

Marshall Vogt and Rachell Stallings, epidemiologists with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), presented information on cases of hepatitis A and C in the Commonwealth, conditions that are linked to injection drug use. Hepatitis viruses cause liver inflammation that can be life-threatening if left untreated. Hepatitis A is usually spread through contaminated food, although Virginia has recently seen an increase in cases transmitted through other means among high-risk populations, such as correctional inmates and people who are homeless or housing-insecure. Injection drug use is a risk factor for contracting hepatitis A, and in many cases individuals with hepatitis A also have co-occurring hepatitis C infections. Fortunately, a vaccine is available for hepatitis A, and Mr. Vogt explained that numbers of cases appear to be levelling off, a positive development he attributed to a coordinated effort among local health departments, Community Services Boards, and jails to encourage immunizations.

Ms. Stallings explained that numbers of hepatitis C cases have been increasing in recent years, and that the primary risk factor for contracting the infection is injection drug use. Even the large numbers of reported cases are likely an undercount, as the Centers for Disease Control estimates that there are 14 unreported cases for every reported case. Hepatitis C infections frequently co-occur with HIV infections, and this co-infection increases the risk of liver failure. Incarcerated populations are disproportionately affected by the virus.

VDH is responding to these public health issues by expanding testing and treatment for hepatitis at local health department clinics, working with faculty at the University of Virginia to train primary care providers on screening for and treating hepatitis C, and working with Walgreens to offer rapid testing in local pharmacies. VDH also operates several comprehensive harm reduction programs that supply clean needles and offer counseling and other services to injection drug users who seek assistance.

Adam Roy, Chief Technology Officer with Qlarion, the company contracted to develop a data analytics platform to assist with local and state prevention and treatment efforts, led a discussion about what Commission members would like to see incorporated into the system. Lauren Cummings, Executive Director of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition, discussed how the application, the Virginia Framework for Addiction Analytics and Community Transformation, is used in her community. The platform allows community leaders to track overdoses as well as successful administrations of naloxone, so that they can monitor spikes in overdoses and take action, as well as predict months in which spikes can be expected and take proactive measures. The application also assists in identification of emerging threats, such as stimulants.

The Advisory Commission's next meeting is planned for September.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Digital Counties Survey 2019 – Winners Announced



The Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) announced the winners of the 17th annual Digital Counties Survey. The survey, conducted by CDG in partnership with NACo, identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of government services, encourage collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity and contribute to disaster response recovery efforts.

“Innovative counties across the U.S. are leveraging technology and data to complete unique projects that better serve citizens, save taxpayer money and protect citizen data,” said Teri Takai, executive director, CDG. “The Center for Digital Government congratulates this year’s winners for their work to make government work for the citizens and businesses they serve.”

“We applaud this year’s Digital Counties Survey winners for maximizing the value of technology in serving our residents,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. “Technology plays an important role in achieving healthy, safe and vibrant counties. The Digital Counties Survey demonstrates how we embrace cutting-edge approaches to strengthening our communities.”

This year’s [first-place winners](#) include:

- **Montgomery County, Md. (1,000,000 or more population category):** The county is using analytic tools to improve citizen services. For example, predictive modeling is being used to determine if new cellular networks are truly necessary. The County Executive and County Council are asking carriers to demonstrate that deployments are needed to improve capacity - to prevent speculative builds that bring unnecessary intrusions into residential neighborhoods.
- **Snohomish County, Wash. (500,000 – 999,999 population category):** The county adopted a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy that includes creative solutions, extensive collaboration, excellent transparency and privacy measures and strong ROI. In addition, the county’s annual Information Services Plan and Report, a supplement to the IT Technology Plan, serves as a model for other counties to consider.
- **Dutchess County, N.Y. (250,000-499,999 population category):** IT alignment with county goals is exceptional, including a “healthier and kinder” philosophy and strategy. County collaboration/shared services efforts are strong and include positive ROI. For example, the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department has an agreement to use the County’s Public Safety platform, which saved the town more than \$500,000 in the first year.
- **Cabarras County, N.C. (150,000-249,999 population category):** The county’s data governance measures for cybersecurity include maintaining staff training and awareness, balancing security while providing usability and creating government transparency while protecting data security. Security measures include phishing/penetration testing.
- **Nevada County, Calif. (up to 150,000 population category):** Nevada County’s submission mimics one equal to a larger county with more resources. A crowd-sourcing site for community input is an excellent example of ways to leverage technology to make the county more responsive to residents. In addition, the county developed a strong ICT strategic plan for 2017-2020.

[Click here to see who won from Virginia.](#)

The 2019 VACo County Officials' Summit

AUGUST 15, 2019

DELTA HOTELS RICHMOND DOWNTOWN



HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 2019 VACO COUNTY OFFICIALS' SUMMIT?

Join us on August 15, 2019, as we dive into dynamic discussions with representatives from the General Assembly, discover more about the common challenges of rural and urban counties, and deliberate the policy goals and positions of each VACo Steering Committee.

The Summit is a must-attend-event for every VACo Member, providing context for November's elections and important insight about how this year's electoral issues may impact your locality. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn more about political decisions facing our Commonwealth.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Visit [VACo's website](#) to learn more about the event's agenda, download the [registration form](#), or reserve accommodations at the Delta Richmond Downtown through VACo's [special group rate](#).

VACo's group rate has been extended to August 1.



SAVE THE DATE

BROADBAND SUMMIT

2019

SEPT. 5

RICHMOND MARRIOTT

Registration and details coming soon.

Co-sponsored by VML, VACo and VCTA this summit will discuss innovative and economical ways for local government to offer connectivity to their communities.





THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 | 6-8PM
VACo REGIONS 10 & 11
MEETING | HENRY COUNTY

THANK YOU HENRY COUNTY FOR HOSTING!

Join us at the 2019 VACo Regions 10 & 11 Meeting on Thursday, August 29, at the New College Institute located at 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Attendees will engage in discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing communities in VACo Regions 10 & 11.

REGIONAL MEETINGS SPONSORS



REGIONAL MEETINGS PARTNERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS



REGIONS 10 & 11
AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS

Jim Adams | Chairman
 Henry County

Dean Lynch
 VACo Executive Director

CONVERSATIONS WITH
STATE LEGISLATORS

EDUCATION
 TBA

TOP ISSUES

VACo STAFF UPDATES

VACo REGIONS 10 & 11

Region 10

[Appomattox County](#) | [Campbell County](#) | [Floyd County](#) | [Franklin County](#) | [Halifax County](#) | [Henry County](#) | [Montgomery County](#) | [Patrick County](#) | [Pittsylvania County](#)

Region 11

[Bedford County](#) | [Botetourt County](#) | [Craig County](#) | [Giles County](#) | [Roanoke County](#)



Annual Institute and Academy

October 9 – 11, 2019

Virginia Beach

www.vmca.com

The Virginia Municipal Clerks Association will hold its Annual Institute and Academy October 9 – 11, 2019 in Virginia Beach. A Pre-Institute and Academy Workshop, (The Power of “Yes, And” – Improving Communication Through Improv Comedy, facilitated by David Webster) will be held October 8, 2019. In addition to the Pre-Institute and Academy, clerks may also participate in an Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue on Saturday, October 12, 2019 facilitated by Dr. Jane Long, IIMC Education Director and VMCA Clerk Libby Hume, MMC, from Cape Charles. For additional information regarding these events, please visit www.vmca.com.

VACo and **OPTUMRx** Team Up
To Offer Prescription Savings Card
-- FREE TO VIRGINIA COUNTIES --



VACo prescription discount cards are available at no cost to Virginia counties. To order your free cards, contact us with the number of cards required & shipping address to have them mailed to your county.

Bring the card to your favorite pharmacy every time you fill a prescription. Show the card to the pharmacist along with your prescription and ask for a discount on your prescription. You may save up to 75% on your prescription medications.

Claims are processed by OptumRx. Your privacy is protected. OptumRx does not rent or sell your personal information.

Contact Valerie Russell: vrussell@vaco.org or call 804.788.6652

Virginia Association of Counties | 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

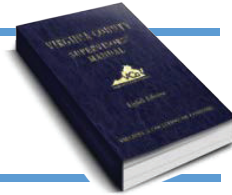


**ORDER YOURS TODAY
\$75 EACH**

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019



The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual*, is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION): _____
SHIPPING ADDRESS: _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies _____.

Check enclosed for \$_____ Make payable to **VACo Services, Inc.**

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:
Charge Options: _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA
Card No: _____ Exp. Date _____
Cardholder Name: _____
Authorized Signature: _____
Email for credit card receipt: _____

Mail completed form to: Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



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).



SENIOR ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 29



ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY | City of Fredericksburg | Posted July 26



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | Arlington County | Posted July 26



DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY & ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY II | City of Chesapeake | Posted July 25



TRANSPORTATION PLANNER | Fauquier County | Posted July 30



FAMILY ASSESSMENT & PLANNING TEAM (FAPT) COORDINATOR | Orange County | Posted July 25



UTILITY OPERATOR | Montgomery County | Posted July 30



ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR | James City County | Posted July 26



BENEFITS PROGRAM SUPERVISOR | Montgomery County | Posted July 25



BUILDING INSPECTOR | Montgomery County | Posted July 30



SPRAY TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted July 26



CHIEF OF ZONING/ DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Albemarle County | Posted July 23



WASTEWATER PRINCIPAL PLANT OPERATOR | Chesterfield County | Posted July 30



WASTEWATER FACILITIES APPRENTICE/SPECIALIST I/SPECIALIST II | James City County | Posted July 26



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION | Spotsylvania County | Posted July 26



HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST | Amherst County | Posted July 23



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY | Albemarle County | Posted July 29



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | City of Colonial Heights | Posted July 26



NETWORK SPECIALIST | Amherst County | Posted July 23



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY | Henry County | Posted July 23



SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR II | York County | Posted July 23



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Amherst County | Posted July 22



PLANNER II | Fauquier County | Posted July 22



ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR (FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT) | James City County | Posted July 19



ASSISTANT RECREATION SUPERVISOR PT Regular | James City County | Posted July 19



ASSISTANT RECREATION SUPERVISOR PT Temporary | James City County | Posted July 19



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN II/III | James City County | Posted July 19



CLINICAL ASSISTANT | James City County | Posted July 19



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANT | James City County | Posted July 19



RECREATIONAL LEADER (BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL) | James City County | Posted July 19



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LEADER | James City County | Posted July 19



WATERWORKS OPERATOR (APPRENTICE I/II/III/IV) | James City County | Posted July 19



FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST | New Kent County | Posted July 19



DIRECTOR OF OFFICE ON YOUTH/HUMAN SERVICES | City of Colonial Heights | Posted July 19



BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST | New Kent County | Posted July 19



ENGINEER CADD TECHNICIAN II | City of Chesapeake | Posted July 19



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Albemarle County | Posted July 18



DIRECTOR | The Greater Williamsburg Partnership | Posted July 18



ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PURCHASING CLERK | Botetourt County | Posted July 18



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Botetourt County | Posted July 18



OPERATOR/CLERK FULL TIME & PART TIME | Botetourt County | Posted July 18



ACCOUNTANT | New Kent County | Posted July 18



BUILDING INSPECTOR | Montgomery County | Posted July 17



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Goochland County | Posted July 16



FISCAL/PURCHASING ASSISTANT | King & Queen County | Posted July 15



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY | Patrick County | Posted July 15

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

1207 East Main St., Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Tim A. Reeves | Wythe County
President-Elect: Stephen W. Bowen | Nottoway County
1st Vice President: Jeff C. McKay | Fairfax County
2nd Vice President: Meg Bohmke | Stafford County
Secretary Treasurer: Donald L. Hart Jr. | Accomack County
Immediate Past President: Sherrin C. Alsop | King and Queen 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 Intergovernmental Affairs: Jeremy R. Bennett
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