



Children's Health Insurance Program  
Advisory Committee of Virginia

**Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2025**

*A quorum of the full Committee attended the in-person meeting. A Microsoft Teams link was made available for members of the public to attend virtually.*

**The following CHIPAC members were present at this in-person meeting:**

- **Freddy Mejia** The Commonwealth Institute
- **Sarah Stanton** Joint Commission on Health Care
- **Jennifer Macdonald** Virginia Department of Health
- **Alexandra Javna** Virginia Department of Education (DOE)
- **Jessica Caggiano** Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
  
- **Niani Heath** Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
- **Joanna Fowler** Virginia Health Care Foundation
- **Kelly Cannon** Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- **Emily Moore (Vice Chair)** Voices for Virginia's Children
- **Heidi Dix** Virginia Association of Health Plans
- **Dr. Susan Brown** American Academy of Pediatrics (VA Chapter)
- **Ben Barber** Virginia Health Catalyst
- **Victoria Richardson** Virginia Poverty Law Center
- **Martha Crosby** Virginia Community Healthcare Association

**The following CHIPAC members were present virtually (Reason code 1):**

- **Kenda Sutton-EL** Birth in Color

**I. Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Freddy Mejia called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM, Mejia quickly gave the floor to DMAS Director Cheryl Roberts.

**II. H.R. 1 implications for Medicaid/FAMIS:** Director Roberts welcomed the Committee and members of the public. Roberts reminded the Committee that Medicaid/FAMIS currently cover 1.8 million Virginians, and gave an overview of coming changes under the federal *H.R. 1* (dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act").

- Several changes under *H.R. 1* will impact only adults enrolled in Medicaid Expansion:
  - Beginning in January 2027, Expansion adults will have eligibility redetermined twice annually, rather than annually, as is done now. Virginia will harness lessons learned during the "unwinding" (resumption of Medicaid/FAMIS redeterminations following the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency) to

accommodate this additional work.

- *H.R. 1's* work/community engagement requirements will also begin in January 2027. Certain populations will be exempt from this requirement, which requires a minimum of 80 hours per month of qualified activities (to include education, work, or community service). Additional CMS guidance is expected no later than June 2026, and will likely come much earlier to allow states sufficient time to prepare their eligibility systems.
- Retroactive Medicaid coverage, which is currently available for up to three months prior to the month of application, will be reduced to one month for Expansion enrollees and two months for all others, beginning in 2027.
- States will be required to charge cost sharing (co-pays) to Expansion members, beginning in 2028.
- States will be required to use revised federal systems to ensure individuals are not concurrently enrolled in multiple states, and ensure deceased individuals are identified and disenrolled. (Virginia already screens for both.)
- *H.R. 1* adjusts the federal Medicaid definition of a “qualified alien,” to exclude some immigration statuses that currently meet it. This will impact some existing non-pregnant adult Medicaid members.
- *H.R. 1* places new limitations on provider taxes and state-directed payments. While a portion of Virginia’s Medicaid Expansion is financed by a provider tax, the moratorium on new provider taxes will not impact Expansion funding levels.
- *H.R. 1* establishes a new Rural Health Transformation Program, which will provide \$50 billion in grant funding for states to support rural health initiatives. Half of RHTP funds will be distributed equally among successful applicant states, and the remaining half is competitive (distributed according to states’ level of rurality and relative risk of its rural health facilities). States must submit applications to CMS in early November, with awards announced by December 31.

Virginia’s application efforts are being led by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Janet Kelly, with DMAS, VDH, VDSS, and DBHDS playing a supporting role. Listening sessions will be held throughout the Commonwealth in September.

Roberts noted the importance of communicating that while parents may lose Expansion coverage due to not meeting work requirements, children should not lose coverage, and emphasized the importance of education and messaging.

Mejia thanked Roberts, and agreed that outreach will be critical to ensure that parents of children under age 14 know they are exempt from the work requirement. Mejia reminded the Committee of the evidence base demonstrating strong correlation between parents’ coverage and children’s coverage and utilization.

### III. CHIPAC Business:

- **Review/Approval of minutes from June 5, 2025 meeting.** Mejia invited updates or corrections but none were expressed. Emily Moore introduced a motion to approve the minutes, with Kelly Cannon seconding. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.
- **Membership updates.** Mejia welcomed Ben Barber of Virginia Health Catalyst to his first meeting as a CHIPAC member, and noted that Emily Moore (vice chair) had agreed to continue serving on CHIPAC for a second two-year term beginning in December 2025.
- **Review and approval of 2026 meeting dates.** Mejia offered the below dates for CHIPAC's 2026 Full Committee and Executive Subcommittee meetings:

#### **Full Committee Meetings**

Thursday, March 5, 2026 (1:00–3:30 pm)

Thursday, June 4, 2026 (1:00–3:30 pm) *Virtual Meeting*

Thursday, September 10, 2026 (1:00–3:30 pm)

Thursday, December 10, 2026 (1:00–3:30 pm) *Virtual Meeting*

#### **Executive Subcommittee Meetings**

Friday, January 16, 2026 (10:00–11:00 am) *Virtual Meeting*

Friday, April 17, 2026 (10:00–11:00 am)

Friday, July 17, 2026 (10:00–11:00 am) *Virtual Meeting*

Friday, October 16, 2026 (10:00–11:00 am)

Emily Moore introduced a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates, which Sarah Stanton seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the dates.

- IV. Cardinal Care Correspondence Center (CCCC):** Danielle Nowell, Operations Lead for Administration and Coverage at DMAS, gave an update on the legislatively mandated centralized mailroom to manage administratively returned and inbound mail. DMAS modified its Cover Virginia contract to implement the mailroom using a phased approach. Contractual requirements include strict timelines for mail handling, with most applications and renewals required to be entered into the eligibility system within two business days (one business day for applications or renewals on which an individual attests pregnancy).

Approximately 40% of new applications, and 10% of renewals, are anticipated to be submitted by mail to the CCCC. The timelines for application and renewal processing are the same regardless of the method of submission (online, mail, or telephonic). The CCCC, in collaboration with VDSS, will be able to update member mailing addresses as they are received (without eligibility worker intervention).

- V. Cardinal Care Managed Care and Foster Care Specialty Plan:** Christine Minnick, Child Welfare Specialist in the DMAS Maternal and Child Health Unit, shared about updates to Virginia's Medicaid/FAMIS managed care program. Beginning in 2023,

Cardinal Care transitioned Virginia Medicaid/FAMIS to a single managed care delivery system. In July 2025, the new Cardinal Care Managed Care (CCMC) contract period began, with five Medicaid/FAMIS managed care organizations (MCO) offered statewide (Humana Healthy Horizons, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Aetna Better Health, Sentara, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan). Other changes include full alignment of regional MCO open enrollment periods (including for FAMIS members, who had previously been allowed to change MCOs only at their annual renewal). Under CCMC, care coordination and/or management is available to all members based on individual need regardless of diagnosis or eligibility group.

Anthem Healthkeepers Plus was chosen to manage a Foster Care Specialty Plan (FCSP), which will include children and youth in foster care, adoption assistance, and former foster care. The FCSP includes value-added benefits to support family preservation, reunification, employment, permanency, and clothing stipends. The FCSP also includes a dedicated support line and community-based regional teams.

- VI. Update on Virginia’s School-Based Health Centers:** Dr. Bern’Nadette Knight, DBHDS Child and Family Program Specialist, shared that school-based health centers complement existing school health services by expanding access to primary care, behavioral health, vision, and other services. Virginia’s state-funded school-based mental health pilots began in 2022 and have since transitioned to a school-based health clinic (SBHC) model. DBHDS and VDOE are collaborating to provide direct contracts to school divisions, with RFPs open until October 13 for onsite or mobile SBHCs by Federally Qualified Health Centers or other healthcare providers.

**Medicaid/FAMIS 2025-2026 Back-to-School Outreach:** Rachel Lawrence, DMAS Strategic Initiatives Specialist, gave an overview of the Cover Virginia website’s Back-to-School page, including new outreach materials. DMAS’s Back-to-School campaign is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, with a goal of spreading the word about Medicaid/FAMIS for schoolchildren and their parents. To-date, more than 25,000 2025-26 outreach flyers have been mailed to schools for distribution. These are complemented by scripts, sample text messages, and digital outreach materials for schools and districts to use. Outreach materials can be ordered directly via [coverva.dmas.virginia.gov](http://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov).

- VII. Agenda for Dec 11, 2025 CHIPAC meeting (all-virtual):** Possible topics include updates on children’s immunization policies and coverage, and updates on the VDH Title V Maternal and Child Health state plan.

- VIII. Public Comment:** Mejia invited public comment beginning at 2:48 PM. No public comments were made. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.