

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS & HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Ray Fonseca

CHAIRMAN



36th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands


Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690

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TO: Honorable Hubert L. Frederick, Vice-Chair
Honorable Marvin A. Blyden
Honorable Alma Francis-Heyliger
Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
Honorable Milton E. Potter
Honorable Kurt A. Vialet

FROM: Honorable Ray Fonseca 
Chairman, Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services

DATE: June 8, 2026

RE: AGENDA -Committee Hearing

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a hearing on **Monday, June 01, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Otley Legislative Chambers, on St. Thomas.**

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony from the Department of Health regarding the Territory's mental and behavioral health system, with emphasis on the use of appropriated funds, progress and timelines for facility construction and operational readiness, deployment of behavioral health vans, workforce recruitment and retention, community-based services, interagency coordination, equipment and asset disposition, nursing shortages, staffing stabilization strategies, and relocation plans for personnel affected by ongoing renovation, demolition, or rebuilding projects.

Additionally, the Committee will receive a comprehensive update on the status, operations, and overall progress of the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence (VIDCOE). Testimony should address the Center's current operations, programs, staffing, patient services, community outreach initiatives, funding, infrastructure, partnerships, and measurable outcomes achieved to date. The Committee will also examine any operational shortfalls, service delivery challenges, unmet needs, funding limitations, staffing concerns, equipment or facility issues, and any legislative or administrative support necessary to strengthen the Center's capacity to effectively serve residents of the Virgin Islands.

INVITED TESTIFIERS:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health

Dr. Julia Sheen, DrPH, MPH
Executive Director,
Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence

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BLOCK II

Bill No. 36-0278-An act amending title 19, Virgin Islands Code, to establish immunization requirements for children and students enrolling in educational institutions in the Virgin Islands; to provide for immunization exemptions; and to require electronic reporting of immunization compliance to the Virgin Islands Department of Health through the Virgin Islands Immunization Registry (VIIRS), *Sponsored by Senator Ray Fonseca.*

INVITED TESTIFIER:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion

Commissioner

Department of Health