

2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit

The Westin – Richmond

April 16, 2025



VIRGINIA HOSPITAL
& HEALTHCARE
ASSOCIATION



Virginia Healthcare Emergency
Management Program



VHHA
FOUNDATION

FOREWORD

Bird flu. Measles. Ebola. Dengue virus. Salmonella. Hurricane Helene. California wildfires. Aircraft accidents. From viral and bacterial outbreaks to natural disasters and tragic accidents, each of these issues have impacted our nation in recent months, prompting public health and emergency responses.

These events remind us that, unfortunately, unexpected calamitous events occur at an alarming frequency. When they happen, professionals from health care, emergency response, public safety, and other disciplines are mobilized to take on typically challenging and even dangerous conditions. Such operations remind us of the strength and resolve of our brave clinicians, first responders, and partners. They also teach us valuable lessons and reveal opportunities to improve and better prepare for future events when they inevitably arrive.

When Virginia has been called on to rise to such occasions, the record shows our people have done their duty – Virginia has consistently been recognized among the states best prepared to respond to public health emergencies by the National Health Security Preparedness Index and Trust for America's Health. Such recognition validates the hard work of many organizations and stakeholders in the public and private sector, including: government preparedness partners, the military, health care providers, first responders, and more. That shared work involves planning, training, readiness exercises, coordination, and resource acquisition so that we are prepared to respond when threats to public health arise in the form of disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or man-made events.

The 2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit brings together health care providers, regional healthcare coalitions (the Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, and the Southwest Virginia Healthcare Coalition), the Virginia Department of Health, first responders, and other professionals for shared learning and collaboration with a focus on "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Impact." Thank you for attending the Summit and sharing your knowledge and experience as we work together to protect Virginians.



Michael Elliott
SVP, COO, VCU Health
VHHA Board Chair



Sean Connaughton
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AGENDA

Registration

Location: Conference Center Entrance

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and VHEMP Exhibits

Location: Blue Ridge Ballroom

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Welcome Remarks

Speakers: Michael Elliott, R. Christopher Lindsay, Robert Hawkins

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Healthcare Response to Hurricane Helene

Speaker: Eric Deaton

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

8:45-9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45-10 a.m.

Understanding and Integrating Public Health Emergency Ethics in Implementing Crisis Standards of Care

Speaker: James G. Hodge Jr.

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

10-11 a.m.

Active Assailant Training: A Collaboration Between Hospitals, Local Law Enforcement, and the Department of Corrections

Speakers: First Sergeant Jeffrey Jones, Kathe Ware, Kimberly Overton

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

CONFERENCE WI-FI DETAILS

Network: MarriottBonvoy_Conference

Password: Westin2025



AGENDA

Lunch and VHEMP Exhibits

Location: Blue Ridge Ballroom

12-1:30 p.m.

Emergencies Don't Take Days Off

Speaker: Dr. Ralph Layman

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30-2:45 p.m.

Restructuring Special Pathogen Response in a Post-COVID Era

Speaker: Christopher James Sulmonte Jr.

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

2:45-3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Speaker: Robert Hawkins

Location: Chesapeake Ballroom

3:45-4 p.m.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE SUMMIT INFORMATION



ETHOS

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SPEAKER



Eric Deaton
Chief Operating Officer
Ballad Health

Eric Deaton is Chief Operating Officer for Ballad Health, with oversight of systemwide operations, including the newly created Behavioral Services Division.

Deaton has served in leadership roles in Tennessee, Virginia, and South Carolina for about two decades, providing vision and strategic thinking to help take organizations to the next level. Previously, Deaton was Wellmont Health System's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

He has also held the title of market president for LifePoint Hospitals. There he directed the collective operations of Danville Regional Medical Center and Memorial Hospital of Martinsville, both in South Central Virginia. He also served as president and chief executive officer of Danville Regional from 2010 until 2013.

Earlier in his career, Deaton was market chief executive officer for North Side Hospital, Johnson City Specialty Hospital, and Northeast Tennessee Rehabilitation Hospital.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Milligan College, a master's degree in business administration from Bristol College, and a master's of healthcare administration degree from the University of Cincinnati.

Deaton is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



SPEAKER



Robert Hawkins
Emergency Preparedness Director
VHHA

Robert Hawkins serves as the Director of Emergency Preparedness for the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association.

He joined VHHA following his tenure as the Executive Director and Regional Healthcare Coordinator for the Southwest Virginia

Healthcare Coalition (SVHC). In that role, he was responsible for the Regional Healthcare Coalition operations, preparedness and response activities, and execution of the Hospital Preparedness Program within the Southwest region.

Robert's background also includes serving as a Local Health Emergency Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health, executive leadership in asset protection, service in the United States military in combat arms and support roles, and civilian law enforcement ranging from patrol operations to investigations.

Robert earned a Master of Management degree from Liberty University, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt from the University of Georgia, and Bachelor of Science degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Radford University. Robert is a Certified Healthcare Emergency Coordinator (III) through the National Disaster Life Support Foundation and completed the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership Political Leaders Program in 2024.



SPEAKER



James G. Hodge Jr., JD, LLM
Law Professor and Director
Center for Public Health Law & Policy
Arizona State University

James G. Hodge Jr., JD, LLM, is the Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law and Director of the nationally-ranked Center for Public Health Law & Policy at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University.

Through scholarship, teaching, and projects, he delves into multiple areas of health law, public health law, global health law, ethics, and human rights. Professor Hodge has published more than 300 articles in journals of law, medicine, public health and bioethics; two books in public health law; more than 25 book chapters; dozens of reports; and guest edited four health law symposium issues.

As an originating member of the National Academies Crisis Standard of Care Committee in 2009, he has worked to define, refine, implement, and assess CSC issues in law and ethics over multiple national and regional emergencies.



SPEAKER



Jeffrey Jones
First Sergeant
Virginia State Police

A proud native of Smyth County, VA, First Sergeant Jones has dedicated more than two decades of service to the Virginia State Police.

A 2019 graduate of the prestigious University of Virginia's National Criminal Justice Command College, he has continuously advanced in law enforcement, with a career spanning multiple regions of the state.

Throughout his 24-year career, First Sergeant Jones has been assigned to several key locations, including South Boston, Wytheville, Norfolk, Franklin, Melfa, and Emporia. These assignments have provided him with diverse experiences, allowing him to effectively address a wide range of challenges and develop strong leadership skills.

Currently serving as the Area Commander in Emporia, First Sergeant Jones is also the Statewide Coordinator for the Crash Reconstruction Team, overseeing critical investigations that ensure public safety on Virginia's roads.

In addition to these duties, he is deeply passionate about building and maintaining strong community relationships. First Sergeant Jones is dedicated to mentoring the younger generation of troopers, guiding them through the complexities of law enforcement and helping to shape the future of the Virginia State Police.





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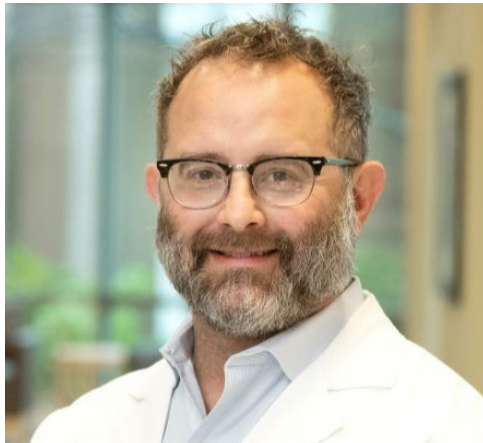
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SPEAKER



Dr. Ralph Layman, MD, FACS
Director, Trauma Surgery and
Kidney Transplant
Henrico Doctors' Hospital (HCA
Virginia)

Dr. Ralph Layman, MD, FACS, is a board-certified and fellowship-trained surgeon with Richmond Surgical Associates and serves as the director of Trauma Surgery and Kidney Transplant at Henrico Doctors' Hospital in

Richmond, VA. Dr. Layman earned his medical degree at The University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. From there, Dr. Layman completed his internship and residency training in General Surgery at The Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where he served as chief resident his senior year and spent time as a research fellow in immunology. While in residency, he also trained abroad at the University of Limerick, completing a colorectal fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He then completed his abdominal organ transplant and hepatobiliary fellowship at The University of Pittsburgh's Starzl Transplant Institute. He received his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Biology and Chemistry from Illinois State University.

Dr. Layman is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Society of Transplant Surgery. Dr. Layman is a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve Medical Corps. In more than 20 years of military service as a trauma surgeon, he has completed multiple combat deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Eastern Europe.

Dr. Layman brings with him more than two decades of experience and expertise. He specializes in trauma care, general surgery, transplant surgery, and vascular surgery. He has a keen interest in hepatobiliary oncology and minimally invasive robotic surgery. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and an active member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, Society of Vascular Ultrasound, Western Trauma Association, Eastern Association of Surgical Trauma and Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.



SPEAKER



R. Christopher Lindsay
Chief Operating Officer
Virginia Department of Health

R. Christopher Lindsay is the inaugural Chief Operating Officer of the Virginia Department of Health in the Administration of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

As COO at VDH, Christopher is responsible for the overall operations of the agency, comprised of nearly 5,000 staff and contractors and a \$1-plus billion annual budget. He has focused on bringing operational efficiencies to VDH by instituting standardized processes, driving accountability, emphasizing the importance of employee engagement strategies, and pushing advancements in administrative functions.

A lifelong Virginian, Christopher earned undergraduate degrees from Hampden-Sydney (Economics and Commerce) and VCU (Health Sciences) before earning his Master's Degree from VCU in Business Administration. He is a graduate of the Political Leaders Program at the Sorensen Institute of Political Leadership at UVA and completed the ALS Intermediate – EMT program through VCU.

He began his career in healthcare as Director of EMS Relations for HCA Virginia Health System before joining Henrico Doctors' Hospitals as an Associate Administrator working with the Emergency and Trauma Service lines. In 2017 he was appointed to the Ethics and Compliance Officer role. In 2018 he took on the additional role of Administrator for operational departments of the Retreat Doctors' Hospital campus.

Christopher previously served with the Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department and completed Basic EMT through the Prince Edward Rescue Squad. In 2009, he became an EMS provider in Henrico County with the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad where he was an active member and Crew Chief until December 2022.

He and his wife, Dr. Angie Lindsay, an emergency physician at VCU, live in Richmond with their son Jackson.



SPEAKER



Christopher James Sulmonte Jr.
Administrative Director of
Biocontainment
Johns Hopkins Special Pathogens
Center

Christopher Sulmonte Jr. is the Administrative Director of Biocontainment at the Johns Hopkins Special Pathogen Center. He is also the Program Director of the Region III Special Pathogen Training and Education Program.

Chris has coordinated the JH BCU operations over the last six years. He also led the development and rollout of the Special Pathogen Training and Education Program which provides free, onsite, hands-on training to help prepare frontline facilities throughout HHS Region III for special pathogen response. In addition, Chris acts as both the co-lead for the Regional RESPTC National Workgroup and a Technical Lead of Frontline Hospital Special Pathogen Assessment within NETEC. Chris has a bachelor's of science degree in Chemistry from Boston College and a Master of Health Administration degree from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.



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SPEAKER



Kimberly Overton
Senior Risk Manager
Bon Secours Southern Virginia
Medical Center

Kimberly Overton is a dedicated Senior Risk Manager with more than 22 years of experience in Patient Safety and Risk Management. She is currently the Senior Risk Manager for Bon Secours Southside Medical Center and Bon Secours Southern Virginia Medical Center.

She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, is a Certified Healthcare Risk Manager (CPHRM), and a Certified Healthcare Emergency Coordinator (CHEC).

Passionate about patient safety and workplace violence, Kimberly collaborates with community partners to improve safety for patients, visitors, and staff. She leads initiatives such as Active Assailant Training, Violence Prevention Programs, Environmental Safety Improvements, and Community Awareness Campaigns.

Her expertise spans emergency preparedness, workplace violence prevention, and proactive strategies to mitigate risks, reduce liability, and improve healthcare outcomes.



SPEAKER



Kathe Ware
Hospital Administrator and Vice
President of Nursing
Bon Secours Southern Virginia
Medical Center

Kathe Ware is a dedicated hospital administrator and nurse executive with 40 years of experience in the healthcare field.

She started her medical career in the Air Force, then served as a professional paramedic/firefighter for more than a decade prior to joining the nursing profession.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree focused in Emergency Management of Medical Systems, Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Nursing, and is currently pursuing her Doctorate.

She is passionate about fostering an environment that is inclusive and supports a collective voice to enhance workplace safety, prevention, and mitigation of violence. Kathe drew on her previous public safety background to support and collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to create real-world solutions to support enhanced safety.

She is focused on ensuring that solutions are workable, make sense, and can be embraced by a diverse team with varied backgrounds.



CE CREDITS

EMT Continuing Education Credits

We are pleased to offer a total of 5 hours of EMT Continuing Education (CE) Credits. Final categorizations (1 or 2) for each session will be posted on the registration page. Please ensure your badge is scanned by the EMS Education Coordinator at the end of each session at the back of the room. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email at mmiddleton@vaems.org or preparedness@vhha.com.

American Society for Health Care Risk Management (ASHRM)

This program has been approved for a total of 5.0 contact hours of continuing education credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of ASHRM designations of fellow (FASHRM) and distinguished fellow (DFASHRM) and towards certified professional in healthcare risk management (CPHRM) renewal.

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)

Participants may earn up to 5.0 ACHE Qualifying Education Hours toward initial certification or recertification of the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) designation.

Certificate of Attendance

We will provide Certificates of Attendance stating that "By attending the 2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit offered by VHHA, participants were eligible to attend 5.0 hours of program content." Please note this certificate is not specific to, or approved by, any licensing or accrediting body.

Summit Evaluation

An evaluation will be e-mailed to all participants following the Summit at which time an application can be made for ASHRM contact hours, ACHE Qualifying Education Hours, and/or a Certificate of Attendance. The appropriate certificate(s) will be e-mailed to qualified participants within 30-days of the evaluation submission. Any questions may be directed to preparedness@vhha.com.



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Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response

The 2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit is funded, in part, under a grant from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Points of view or opinions expressed are those of the authors/presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of ASPR/HPP or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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