



AHEPP ANNUAL 2026

February 23-25, 2026
Hyatt Regency Frisco-Dallas
Frisco, TX



Welcome to AHEPP Annual 2026

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On behalf of the AHEPP Advisory Board and Planning Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to AHEPP’s annual conference, AHEPP Annual 2026!

The AHEPP Annual Conference is intentionally designed with you at the center. Each year, we bring together seasoned colleagues and new voices from across the healthcare preparedness community to strengthen connections, share hard-earned lessons, and advance our collective practice. This conference is a space to learn from real-world healthcare responses—those that succeeded and those that challenged us—so we can all be better prepared for what lies ahead. We encourage you to engage in meaningful conversations, reconnect with familiar faces, build new professional relationships, and take full advantage of this opportunity to sharpen your skills while supporting the growth of others across our field.

We would be remiss if we did not extend our sincere gratitude to the AHEPP Advisory Board, Conference Planning Committee, keynote speakers, session presenters, and exhibitors for their expertise and dedication. We are also deeply thankful for the many volunteers who generously contribute their time and energy to AHEPP’s Certification, Professional Standards, Tools & Resources, and other essential initiatives throughout the year. Finally, thank *you* for being part of this conference and for the vital work you do every day to ensure we are truly ***Moving Preparedness Forward.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION HOURS

Located in the Regency Foyer

Monday, February 238:00AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, February 247:00 - 8:00 AM
Wednesday, February 257:00 - 8:00 AM

MOBILE APPLICATION

To view the full agenda outlining sessions and to access presenter slides, please download the AHEPP Annual Conference mobile app.

Whether using a smartphone, laptop, or tablet, the mobile app can be downloaded by using the QR code or by visiting:



<https://my.yapp.us/AHEPP2026>

EXHIBIT HALL

Exhibit Hall

Located in the Regency Foyer

Monday, February 23
12:00 - 5:00 PM.....Exhibit Setup

Tuesday, February 24
11:30AMExhibit Hall Open
11:45 - 1:15 PMNetworking Lunch
3:10 - 3:40 PMNetworking Break

Wednesday, February 25
7:00 - 8:00 AM.....Networking Breakfast
9:30 - 10:00 AMNetworking Break
12:00 - 1:30 PMNetworking lunch

SOCIAL MEDIA

We love It when you share!

Be Sure to Tag #AHEPP2026 with your social media posts.

Follow us on Instagram at

https://www.instagram.com/ahepp_1/

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthcarePrepared>

Follow us on X at <https://x.com/AHEPP1>

Monday, February 23 • Pre-Conference

8:00 - 9:00 Pre-Conference Sessions Check In

<p>9:00am - 4:00pm</p>	<p>All pre-conference sessions run concurrently. Please register for only 1 session.</p>	<p><i>Achieving Regulatory Compliance by Preparing for Crisis Response: A Workshop for Healthcare Leaders and their Emergency Managers</i> Presented by: Greg Santa Maria <i>AHEPP Professional Standard: Compliance, Law, Regulatory</i> <i>Room: Regency A</i></p>	<p><i>Leadership Backed Emergency Management Mastery: Strategies for Gaining Leadership Support for Preparedness</i> Presented by: Phil Chaffe <i>AHEPP Professional Standard: Leadership</i> <i>Room: Regency B</i></p>
	<p><i>Behavioral Threat Assessment Management for Healthcare Emergency Managers</i> Presented by: Keith Hansen, MBA <i>AHEPP Professional Standard: Program Management and Governance</i> <i>Room: Juniper C</i></p>	<p><i>Resilient Hospitals: Mastering IT Downtimes Preparedness</i> Presented by: Mark VanDyke <i>AHEPP Professional Standard: Strategic Planning</i> <i>Room: Regency C</i></p>	<p>The 2026 AHEPP Annual Pre-Conference Sessions have been approved for 6 HcEM Re-certification Continuing Education Units</p>

12:00- 5:00pm Exhibit Hall Set Up/Registration Desk Open

When Plans Meet Reality

Hospital emergency managers operate at the intersection of regulatory requirements, leadership expectations, and real world disruption.

Plans look solid on paper, but decisions happen under pressure.

TranscendX equips hospital EMs to turn preparedness into confident decision making during planned and unplanned events.

Preparedness built for the moment it matters.

transcend 



Tuesday, February 24 • Conference

7:00 - 8:00am Registration, Breakfast & Networking - Regency Foyer			
8:00 - 8:30	Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions		
8:30 - 9:30	P.A.C.E. Planning as a Strategic Framework for Hospital Preparedness and Response Presented by Kevin Arthur, BSHM, HcEM- M, Portneuf Medical Center (Greater Idaho Healthcare Coalition) CHEC-III & Phil Chaffee, University of Utah Health Sciences, Hospitals and Clinics <i>Room: Regency Ballroom DE</i>		
9:30 - 9:45am Break & Networking - Regency Foyer			
9:45 - 10:45	Collaborate with Colleagues <i>Room: Regency Ballroom DE</i>		
10:55 -11:45	Reimagining Business Continuity Management in Healthcare Presented by Richard Karsseboom, HcEM-M <i>Room: Regency A</i>	Concrete Scenarios Bring Exercises to Life By Arthur Ditzel <i>Room: Regency B</i>	Rapid Response: Hospital Evacuation By Cesalie Jenkins & Lauren Yeagle <i>Room: Regency C</i>
11:45 - 1:15pm Lunch & Networking with Vendors - Regency Foyer			
1:15 - 2:15	North Carolina Response to Hurricane Helene Presented by David Marsee MHA, HcEM-P, Central Carolina Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, Durham, North Carolina <i>Room: Regency Ballroom DE</i>		
2:20 -3:10	Refining EMS Interstate Transport of Patients with High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCIDs) By Jory Guttzman, HcEM-P & Anthony Lo Piccolo <i>Room: Regency A</i>	What Next? Lessons Learned from a Systemwide 30-day Network Outage Functional Exercise By Julie Bulson, HcEM-M & Amanda Lemkuil <i>Room: Regency B</i>	Meeting Regulatory Compliance in the Wake of Federal Restructuring By Greg Santa Maria <i>Room: Regency C</i>
Sponsored by: 			
3:10 - 3:40 Break and Networking with Vendors - Regency Foyer			
3:40 - 5:30pm	Design and Efficacy of Pocket Exercises to Enhance Emergency Department Readiness Presented by Jennifer Shearer & Teresa Klink <i>Room: Regency A</i>	The Hospital Expansion Solution (HxS) Project: A Practical Solution for Medical Surge Presented by Jenny Schmitz, Charles Little, Megan Nies, Amy Herron, Elaina Huffman, & David Buettner Room: Regency DE	
5:30 - ?? Collaborate with Colleagues - On Your Own			
Please make and effort to network with colleagues. Dinner is on your own.			

Wednesday, February 25 • Conference

8:00 – 8:30 Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions

8:30 –
9:30

Behavioral Threat Assessment in Healthcare: Emerging Risks and Practical Strategies

Presented by Mario Scalora, PhD, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska

Room: Regency Ballroom DE

9:30 – 10:00am Break & Networking – Regency Foyer

10:00 –
10:50

Trauma Transfer Triage During a Regional MCI: Seeing the Trauma Center as a Rate Limiting Factor in Delivering Patient Care During a Regional MCI

By Paul Mikita, HcEM-M
Room: Regency A

When Critical Resources are not Available: A Command Center Response to the Baxter IV Shortage

By Julie Bulson, HcEM-MBA & Pauline Lai
Room: Regency B

A River Runs Through It

By David Marsee, HcEM-P

Room: Regency C

11:00–
11:50

The Goal Standard: Aligning Continuity Wins with Performance Expectations

By Cherie Plouff & Angela Cone

Room: Regency A

Building a Pediatric Mass Casualty Dream Team: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Hospital Readiness

By Michele Tanton
Room: Regency B

Chaos in Cowtown: A Focus in Crisis Communications. Lessons Learned from the Largest Multi-Agency Disaster Exercise in Fort Worth

By Kaysey Pollan & Kim Brown
Room: Regency C

Sponsored by:



12:00 – 1:30pm Lunch & Networking with Vendors- Regency Foyer

12:45–
1:15

Resilient Healthcare: Bridging the Gap with AI

Presented by: Anthony DeGeorge

Room: Regency Ballroom DE

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1:30 –
2:30

Dynamic Environment, Supply Chain, and Workforce: Adapting Your Facility's Emergency Response to New Challenges

Presented by: Jacquelyn Marchand, PhD, HcEM-B, Poydras Home, New Orleans, LA

Room: Regency Ballroom DE

2:40–3

Final Announcements & Prizes – Room: Regency Ballroom DE

3:05–
3:55

Preparedness on Call: A Guidebook for Hospital Emergency Management

By Rachel Lehman & John Hick

Room: Regency A

Pediatric Preparedness in Action: Using Live Child Actors in a Full-Scale Exercise

By Rebekah Reynosa

Room: Regency B

An All-Hazards Approach to Ambulatory Evacuation Planning Cyber Crisis Rx: Tools for Healthcare Resilience

By Eva Stanton & Haylee Manning

Room: Regency C

4:00 –
4:50

Beyond the Tourniquet: Equipping Staff with Tools, Training, and Support for Armed Intruder Response

By Meghan McPherson

Room: Regency A

Empowering Healthcare Emergency Management through the Bronze-Silver-Gold (BSG) Framework: A Hospital-Based Model for Crisis Response

By Richard Karrseboom, HcEM-M

Room: Regency B

Outages with Intention: Turning Planned Disruptions into Business Continuity Practice

By Angela Cone

Room: Regency C

The 2026 AHEPP Annual Conference has been approved for 12 HcEM Re-certification Continuing Education Units.

Thank you AHEPP Annual 2026 Planning Committee

We appreciate your hard work on this AMAZING Program!

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Jane Wade, BSHS, RMA, EM-PDS

Emergency Preparedness
Manager, Wellstar Medical Group



Healthcare Emergency Management (HcEM™) Certification

Advance Your Career • Validate Your Expertise • Elevate Preparedness

The AHEPP Healthcare Emergency Management (HcEM™) Certification is a professional credential that verifies your knowledge and competence in healthcare emergency preparedness and response — advancing both your career and the profession. Certification is based on the AHEPP Professional Standards and designed by experienced healthcare emergency managers.

Why Become Certified?



Advance Your Career

Gain a designation that demonstrates real expertise in healthcare emergency management.



Build Competence & Confidence

Certification verifies you have the knowledge and capability to perform in disaster planning, response, and resilience roles



Professional Recognition

Certified professionals are recognized for their commitment to excellence and preparedness.



Connect with a Community of Peers

Join a growing network of professionals committed to elevating preparedness within the healthcare sector.



Learn more & apply: www.hcemcertification.org

Thank you AHEPP Annual 2026 Sponsors

We couldn't have done it without you!!

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Gold Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



The Top 10 Things I learned at AHEPP were...

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

People I want to stay In touch With.....
