

**“C”ing the Whole Response: Community, Collaboration, and  
Communication  
May 21-22, 2014  
West Virginia State University  
Institute, WV**

**SPEAKER BIOS**

***Tessa Cooper, Federal Bureau of Investigations***

Victim Specialist Tessa R. Cooper is a native of Lincoln County, WV. She earned her undergraduate degree from West Virginia State College and a Master’s Degree in Social work from the School of Social Work and Public Administration at West Virginia University. VS Cooper entered on duty with the FBI in 2002. She is one of 112 Victim Specialists across the country who provide services to victims of Federal crime identified in FBI investigations. Ms. Cooper is responsible for supporting victims related to FBI cases in the six Resident Agencies throughout West Virginia.

In connection with these duties, VS Cooper has provided services to a wide range of victims, including victims of the 911 Terrorist attacks, child abductions, bank robberies as well as those victimized by child pornography, and economic crime. She also serves as an elected member of the FBI Victims Specialists Working Group. This body serves to provide input on program matters to the FBI’s Office of Victim’s Assistance.

Prior to joining the FBI, Ms. Cooper served as the Victim Services Coordinator for the Lincoln County Probation Office. She also has been employed as a Medical Social Worker/Forensic Interviewer for Charleston Area Medical Center/Woman’s and Children’s Hospital. In addition, Ms. Cooper has worked as a Child Abuse Investigator with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

Ms. Cooper participates in numerous advisory boards and committees designed to enhance victim’s rights and services through collaborative efforts. These include the Victim Assistance Committee of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, the Cabell County Victim Advocate Advisory Board, the West Virginia Hate Crimes Task Force, West Virginia Division of Corrections Victim Assistance Committee, West Virginia Supreme Court Regional Firearms and Enforcement Committee, Sexual Assault Response Teams in both Cabell and Kanawha Counties, and the Kanawha County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force.

Ms. Cooper is married and the mother of two, MacKenzie, age 10 and Gavin, age 6.

***James T. Farrell, Upshur County Office of Emergency Management***

James Farrell currently works for the Upshur County Office of Emergency Management. He has over thirty years of experience as a supervisor in federal, state, and local law enforcement, with a

sideline of firefighting, and emergency medical service in the NY metropolitan area, and is also a military veteran. He helped design the post-2001 counterterrorism training for police in NY State, and traveled about the country teaching terrorist and drug interdiction.

He is a FEMA trained ICS instructor, and has served in various incident command positions of large incidents and events, including the nation's bicentennial, and the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Since moving to West Virginia, he has worked as a RESA instructor, an award-winning newspaper columnist, WV Fusion Center Liaison Officer, and volunteer firefighter.

### ***Molly Gaines-McCollom, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention***

Health Communication Specialist

Emergency Risk Communication Branch

Division of Emergency Operations, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Atlanta, GA

Molly Gaines-McCollom is a health communication specialist with CDC's Emergency Risk Communication Branch. In this role, she has provided communications support during emergency responses such as the 2012 multistate meningitis outbreak, 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and the 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. She has written, adapted, and disseminated critical health information for a range of audiences, including clinicians, community and faith-based organizations, epidemiologists, international populations, state and territorial health departments, vulnerable populations, and the general public.

Prior to her work at CDC, Ms. Gaines-McCollom served over three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mauritania, West Africa, where she coordinated a center for severely malnourished children and provided technical assistance to the country's only association of HIV-positive persons.

Ms. Gaines-McCollom earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Haverford College, and her Masters of Public Health from the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in postsecondary and adult education.

### ***Nikki Grimsley, CHES, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention***

Health Communication Specialist

Emergency Risk Communication Branch

Division of Emergency Operations, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Atlanta, GA

Nikki Grimsley, CHES is a health communication specialist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Division of Emergency Operations, Emergency Risk Communication Branch and is the Joint Information Center (JIC) Coordinator. In this position, she provides risk communication technical assistance to CDC programs and develops trainings to promote the JIC and to prepare emergency

responders to work in the JIC. She also serves as part of JIC leadership during public health emergency responses, including the ongoing 2011 Global Polio Eradication Response.

Nikki previously worked in CDC's Center for Global Health, Office of the Associate Director for Communication, providing expertise and consultation on health and risk communication and education development. She focused on supporting and providing technical assistance to CDC's coordinating country offices and the respective ministries of health to build their communication capacity through the development of health communication products, assessments, planning tools, and trainings. Nikki was also part of CDC's Emergency Communication System and led the Global Team in the Joint Information Center, responding to public health emergencies and outbreaks by providing technical assistance to international partners.

Prior to working with CDC, Nikki worked for the Utah County Health Department where she managed their clinician referral and pregnant women smoking cessation programs. She has also worked in Kyiv, Ukraine where she implemented and evaluated an elementary school-level tobacco education program. Nikki is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and has a Bachelor's degree in Health Science with an emphasis in Community Health Education from Brigham Young University.

#### **Dr. Brian Hemphill, *West Virginia State University***

President Hemphill has a strong background in student advocacy, advancing diversity and equity and establishing a solid commitment to shared governance on campus. He has contributed to numerous journal articles and professional presentations in the areas of leadership, crisis management, ethics, and diversity. Most recently, Dr. Hemphill was the editor of the monograph, *Enough is Enough: A Student Affairs Perspective on Preparedness and Response to a Campus Shooting*. He has fulfilled various leadership roles within the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), which named him a Pillar of the Profession in 2009.

President Hemphill came to WVSU following an eight-year tenure as Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and Associate Professor, at Northern Illinois University.

Prior to joining NIU, he served as an associate vice chancellor and dean of students at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, associate dean of students at University of North Carolina-Wilmington, assistant dean of students at Cornell College, and coordinator of minority recruitment and retention at Iowa State University.

Dr. Hemphill served as a member of the Board of Trustees for St. Augustine's College in North Carolina. He currently serves on the Charleston Area Alliance Board of Directors, the Thomas Health System Board of Trustees, and the West Virginia Roundtable Board of Directors.

President Hemphill earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Iowa, a Master of Science degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communication from St. Augustine's College.

President Hemphill is married to Dr. Marisela Rosas Hemphill and has four children: Jada, 17, Jordan, 15, and 1-year-old twins Cruz and Catalina.

### ***David Hoge, West Virginia Homeland Security State Administrative Agency***

David Hoge is the Director of the WV Homeland Security State Administrative Agency where he helps the state to comply with various federal mandates and helps to oversee the US Dept of Homeland Security funds which come to West Virginia. His passion is to create safer communities and build resiliency through stronger working relationships between the volunteer community, the private sector, and the emergency management community. Prior to his employment with the State of WV, he worked for the American Red Cross from 1993-2006 supporting disaster response across the state.

### ***Melissa Kinnaird, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Center for Threat Preparedness***

Melissa Kinnaird currently serves as the Deputy Director for the WV Bureau for Public Health's Center for Threat Preparedness. In that position she provides leadership and direction to staff that administers both the public health and the health care system preparedness initiatives for West Virginia. This includes readying public health and medical entities for large scale natural and man-made emergencies that threaten the public's health. This effort requires oversight and administration of several federal preparedness grants aimed at supporting these efforts. She comes to Public Health after a 20+ year career in long term care including 15 years as a nursing home administrator. Melissa's experience in Public Health also includes supporting preparedness program while serving as the Administrator for the State's Office of Chief Medical Examiner. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration and a Master's Degree in Elder Care Administration.

### ***Thom Kirk, West Virginia Fusion Center***

Thom Kirk is presently the Director of the Intelligence/Fusion Center as part of Homeland Security in West Virginia. He is also General Legal Counsel for the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety in West Virginia. Some of his qualifications include formerly working as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, Assistant State Prosecutor, Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police and Corporate Manager for Toyota. He has over 24 years of law enforcement experience including being Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, being the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety's first Deputy Secretary, begin the founder and the first Bureau Commander for the West Virginia Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and the creator of the West Virginia Intelligence Exchange (WVIX). He is on the first Executive Board of the National Fusion Center Association. He has also taught at a number of universities as well as teaching police officers from Maine to Florida. He has been certified as an expert witness in both federal and state courts in seven states in the areas of undercover operations, drug investigations, organized crime, police administration, behavior sciences and major case felonies. He is a graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, FBI Executive Institute, Northwestern School of Staff and Command, Naval Post-Graduate School and the Washington School of Protocol and Etiquette.

### **Ted Krafczyk, MS, Monongalia County Health Department**

Mr. Krafczyk received his BS in Biology from Albright College in Reading Pennsylvania and his MS in Clinical Microbiology and Administration from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Krafczyk began his career at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia where he was part of a specialized medical unit investigating the use of antibiotic and physical therapy to prolong the lifespan of children with cystic fibrosis. His last position before coming to the Monongalia County Health Department in 2009 was at West Virginia University Hospitals. At the hospital, he was Manager of the Clinical Laboratory and used his background in infectious diseases to assist the infectious disease department in developing a wide range of laboratory tests to enhance the department's diagnostic capabilities. As a part of hospital threat preparedness, he established an in-house team that responded to biohazard events and a set of diagnostic tests to screen for bioterrorism agents on site.

Because of his infectious disease background, Mr. Krafczyk was asked by the Monongalia County Health Department for assistance during H1N1. He later accepted a full-time position at the health department. Mr. Krafczyk performs several different functions at the health department. He is the Local Epidemiologist, Threat Preparedness Coordinator, Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Coordinator, CERT Coordinator and the Public Information Officer.

As Public Information Officer, Mr. Krafczyk has media responsibility for the Monongalia County Health Department, Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Choose Health initiative.

### **Gary L. Patton, Ph.D.**

Dr. Gary L. Patton is an Associate Professor in the School of Professional Counseling of Lindsey Wilson College. He is also the Director of the Department of Mental Health Counseling and Employee Assistance Program at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, WV. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Kentucky and West Virginia. His certifications are as a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and a National Certified Counselor.

Dr. Patton earned a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Louisiana Tech University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Counselor Education from Ohio University.

He is a Chaplain for the FBI in the region of Southern West Virginia. His son and son-in-law are police officers in West Virginia. He frequently assists first responders with the psychological aspects of critical incidents as well as conducting training for emergency professionals.

He is recipient of an Award for Public Service from the Department of Justice. Dr. Patton has been a speaker for:

- U.S. Attorney's Office in West Virginia
- Numerous FBI conferences
- WV Victim Advocates Academy
- WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute

His article, *A Qualitative Review of Acquired Life Patterns of Veteran Law Enforcement Officers* was published in the FBI Bulletin in 2011.

### **Kevin Peach, *National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster***

Kevin Peach, Program Manager for National VOAD, is an emergency management professional recognized for his ability to effectively lead programs that address preparedness, protection, security, response, recovery and mitigation. Having served in various capacities for various local, state and federal agencies, Kevin possesses extensive and diverse professional experience managing government organizations, complex disaster projects and emergency management programs.

Specifically, Kevin holds experience managing emergency field response activities, and the formulation and development of policies addressing the mobilization of resources during emergencies, the preparation of emergency plans, and the coordination of emergency operations. He regularly advises municipal, regional, state, and federal officials and executives on emergency management. Kevin possesses comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices and organizations that affect emergency management activities in the United States. He has a proven ability to exercise leadership and manage a diverse and complex organization to protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, terrorism, and other man-made disasters through a risk-based, comprehensive management system.

### **Jerry Rhodes, *West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Center for Threat Preparedness***

Jerry Rhodes currently serves as the Director for the WV Bureau for Public Health's Center for Threat Preparedness. In that position he leads and directs the public health preparedness initiative for West Virginia which includes readying health and medical entities for large scale natural and man-made emergencies that threaten the public's health. This effort requires oversight and administration of several federal grants aimed at state and local Public Health and Health Care Systems Preparedness. Prior to that, he served many years as a firefighter/paramedic and retired from the Houston (TX) Fire Dept. with the rank of Captain. His experience included field operations, supervision and EMS administration. He then served 7 years as Deputy Director in the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services in a regulatory capacity. Upon moving into the Center for Threat Preparedness, he served as Deputy Director for 7 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science and Technology and a Graduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina.

### **Joe Samalin, *Disaster Distress Helpline***

Joe Samalin is the Outreach Manager for the Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) with Link2Health Solutions, a division of the non-profit Mental Health Association of NYC. DDH is a program of SAMHSA providing 24/7 disaster crisis counseling and emotional support nationally to anyone affected by a natural or human-caused disaster. Joe was a firefighter and EMT in upstate NY, did volunteer work with 1st responders post 9/11, and is currently a NYC CERT (Brooklyn 3/4). Before joining DDH, Joe worked nationally on the primary prevention of gender-based violence, and additionally he has spent over 4 years living in Japan and is fluent in the language.

### **Christina Smith, *The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley/The Arc of West Virginia***

Christina has been the Executive Director of The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley for close to 12 years and has overseen services of The Arc of West Virginia for the past 7 years. From more

than 60 years, The Arc has provided programs, services, advocacy, and supports to children and adults with intellectual, cognitive, and developmental disabilities to ensure they can participate with their peers in all activities in their community. Serving over 3,500 families annually, The Arc's mission is to make a critical difference in the lives of those served, by encouraging, assisting and empowering them to live, work, learn, play and worship in their communities. In addition, The Arc is the lead agency for WV Birth to Three's Region II RAU.

Christina brought with her to The Arc, first-hand knowledge and experience of the issues families and individuals with disabilities face daily. Her daughter, Anna, was born with Down syndrome and she has had to navigate the system through multiple health issues and developmental delays since her birth. While her daughter is not the only family member with a disability, Christina understands as a sibling also, the important role of advocacy when assisting families and individuals who are seeking supports and services in the community.

A native of Parkersburg, she and her husband, Tim, reside on their farm in Belleville with their two daughters – 14 year old, Olivia, and 12 year old, Anna – and a plethora of animals! Christina has a bachelor's degree in business from WV State College and a minor in communications, and prior to her position at The Arc, worked primarily in healthcare and non-profit marketing and development.

#### ***Jim Sowards, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Center for Threat Preparedness***

Jim has over 18 years of preparedness/response experience with state government. His career started with the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and during his 13 year career participated in emergency management helping to coordinate DHHR response activities in over 40 federally declared emergencies and numerous other incidents. For the last 5 years Jim has been the Medical Countermeasures Coordinator assisting in the implementation of policy and processes related to the federal Strategic National Stockpile program in West Virginia. Jim also participates as a member of the DHHR Incident Command Structure.

#### ***Alfred A. Villacara, DMD, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital***

Alfred Villacara, DMD is the Director of Emergency Preparedness for the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System and the Lower Manhattan Hospital Division of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. In his System role, Dr. Villacara promotes emergency management initiatives and coordinates emergency preparedness grants across network healthcare facilities in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. With the Hospital, he coordinates emergency management efforts at the NYP/Lower Manhattan campus (located near the Brooklyn Bridge, Wall Street, and One World Trade Center).

Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian in 2009, Dr. Villacara worked as a Health and Medical Planning and Preparedness Specialist with the New York City Office of Emergency Management. In this position, he worked with the (then) 65 hospitals of New York City on a variety of emergency preparedness projects and notably helped to develop the Healthcare Facility Evacuation Plan (part of the NYC Coastal Storm Plan). Additionally, Dr. Villacara served as a dentist and officer in the United States Air Force, where he was involved with disaster preparedness and wartime readiness for multiple Medical Groups.

He holds a BS in Biology from Georgetown University (Washington, DC) and a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine (Boston, MA).

**Edwin “Bo” Wriston, *Wirt County Office of Emergency Services***

Edwin L. “Bo” Wriston is the current Emergency Manager (EM) and Floodplain Manager (FPM) for Wirt County, WV. In addition, he serves as Chapter Head for Wirt County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, a part of the larger Mid-Ohio Valley Regional CERT program.

Bo is a 14 (+) year veteran, having served as a Mass Communications Specialist for the US Navy, including tours of service in Iraq and the Middle East where he captured over 27,000 images and over 100 hours of video coverage documenting the US war effort.

A professional photographer for more than 20 years, Bo has worked within various media genres during his career. After assuming responsibilities as EM for Wirt County in 2011, Bo has aggressively pursued Social Media integration into policies and procedures, especially for Public Information and Warning. In late 2013, Bo became involved with the growing VOST or Virtual Operations Support Team community, and is working towards the establishment of a VOST team in West Virginia.

**Humbert Zappia, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Center for Threat Preparedness***

Mr. Zappia (ZAP) has 10 years of experience in Public Health Preparedness and Response (medical countermeasures and zoonotic epidemiology) at the state and federal level. Previously he worked in the environmental field at the state and federal level, with a focus on contaminants, and community and organismal health. For the past 5 years Zap has been a CDC Public Health Advisor assigned to the WV SNS/Medical Countermeasures Program, assisting the Program Coordinator in the implementation of policy and processes related to the federal Strategic National Stockpile program in West Virginia, and serves as a member of the DHHR Incident Command Structure during events.