

# SVHC Coalition Meeting Summary

## Southwest Virginia Healthcare Coalition Coalition Business Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Format:** Virtual (Microsoft Teams Webinar)

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## 1. Welcome & Meeting Overview

Mary Kathryn Alley opened the Coalition Business Meeting, reviewed the agenda, and provided an overview of new functionality using the Microsoft Teams webinar platform. Meeting recording procedures and attendance tracking through webinar registration were explained. Participants were reminded that all meeting archives, including recordings and summaries, are housed on the SVHC website. ([svhc.vhass.org/coalition-meetings](https://svhc.vhass.org/coalition-meetings))

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## 2. VHHA Program Updates

Scott Cormier, Vice President of Emergency Preparedness at VHHA, introduced himself and provided program updates, including:

- Recent VHASS cybersecurity enhancements (removal of non-organizational email accounts, multi-factor authentication, and training platform migration).
- Planning for the next generation of VHASS focused on improved usability and automated data feeds.
- Establishment of a VHASS Oversight & Change Committee to incorporate end-user feedback.

Robert Hawkins (VHHA) shared information on the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Summit and noted continued statewide project coordination.

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## 3. Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Updates

John Cooke provided updates on behalf of VDH/DBHDS:

- Community-Based Emergency Response Seminar (CBERS) scheduled for **May 12 (Roanoke)** and **May 14 (Abingdon)**, focusing on mass casualty/mass fatality response.
  - Promotion of the ChemPack Toolkit resource, available through local health emergency coordinators.
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## 4. Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Updates

Jonathan Simmons reported regional updates, including:

- Mike Guzo's promotion to Western Division Director.
  - Personnel changes and onboarding of a regional Search & Rescue Duty Officer.
  - Ongoing training efforts, with some course delays due to federal funding challenges.
  - Seasonal preparedness focused on hurricane season readiness.
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## 5. Regional EMS Council Reports

Debbie Akers, Executive Director for OMS Region 2 EMS Council, provided updates:

- Expansion of Region 2 to include additional Planning District 11 localities.
  - Continued operation of an active pharmacy program.
  - Recent celebration of the Council's 50th anniversary.
  - Confirmation that Southwest Virginia EMS Council is now designated **Region 1**.
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## 6. Coalition Funding & Work Plan Update

Mary Kathryn Alley reviewed the current budget period and work plan:

- Confirmation that delayed federal funding has been received and projects are underway.
- Overview of major work plan categories:
  - Operations
  - Training & Exercises
  - Health & Medical Coordination
  - Medical Surge Response
- Emphasis on full expenditure of funds by June 30, 2026.

- Discussion of adjusted but unchanged ASPR deliverables.

VHHA leadership confirmed expectations of relatively level funding (+/- 5%) and noted increased efforts to standardize equipment procurement statewide.

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## 7. Planning & Deliverables

Upcoming and ongoing deliverables include:

- Regional Medical Surge Exercise scheduled for **April 30, 2026**.
  - Updates to Information Sharing, Resource Management, Medical Surge Support, Trauma Triage, and Recovery Plans (due June 30).
  - Transition to five-year MOUs for all hospital and non-hospital partners.
  - Fixed infrastructure projects, including generator quick-connect installations and evacuation chairs for multi-level long-term care facilities.
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## 8. Inventory & Asset Management

Coalition leadership provided updates on regional inventory:

- Surplus and near-term expiring PPE (including N95s, gowns, gloves, face shields) available upon request.
  - Upcoming spring warehouse days for surplus equipment review.
  - Decommissioning and redistribution of select equipment (trailers, cots, decontamination cabinets, stretcher carriers, PAPRs).
  - Final calibration and repair of Geiger counters and radiation equipment prior to June 30, after which maintenance responsibility transitions to asset holders.
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## 9. RHCC & Communications Updates

- RHCC dispatch operations transitioned to an answering service model while maintaining the existing phone number.
  - Recorded messages are distributed directly to on-call coalition staff.
  - Feedback on the updated process has been positive and remains encouraged.
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## 10. MVP Workcenter Report

Updates included:

- Generator Quick Connect installations for ventilator-dependent facilities.
  - Evacuation chair deployments for multi-level long-term care facilities.
  - Participation in the Pediatric Pandemic Network virtual tabletop exercise.
  - Pediatric Work Group meeting scheduled for **May 20**.
  - MVP Work Group meeting scheduled for **June 4**.
  - Ongoing planning for the CMS Exercise Series.
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## 11. Training & Exercises

- NDLSF Certified Healthcare Emergency Coordinator (CHEC) Course: **May 19–21 (Roanoke)**.
  - Basic & Advanced Disaster Life Support Courses: **June 9–11 (Roanoke)**.
  - Goal to offer a DECON course prior to June 30.
  - Continued support of regional and statewide exercises, including the VDH Bio 200 exercise.
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## 12. Radio & Communications Projects

- Continued progress on the Crisis Radio Project with phased infrastructure upgrades.
  - No formal regional HAM radio workgroup planned; informal support and equipment upgrades remain available.
  - Exploration of EOC radio cache kits for long-term care facilities.
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## 13. Regional Events & Situational Awareness

- Blue Ridge Marathon (April 18) – elevated heat concerns noted.
  - Rooster Walk (May 21).
  - CBERS events in May.
  - Emergency Preparedness Summit scheduled for the following week in Richmond, with travel reimbursement available for MOU partners.
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## 14. Open Discussion & Q&A

Topics included:

- Potential future development of a VHASS mobile app (not currently feasible but under consideration for future platforms).
  - Situational awareness related to large regional events and potential EMS surge impacts.
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## 15. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with reminders about meeting archives and future coordination opportunities. The next Coalition Business Meeting is scheduled for **July 21, 2026**.