



Clearwater's

# Rural Critical Access Connect

With Jackie Mattingly

EVERY  
QUARTER!

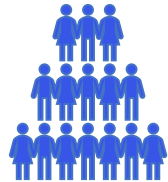
Uniting Cybersecurity Leaders for Resilient Healthcare

# Meeting Logistics



## Microphones

All attendees are on mute for first half



## Open Breakout Room

Second half off mute and on camera for breakout time



## Questions

Type your questions in the chat.



## Resources

Upcoming events & resources linked.



## Recording

Recording of the first half will be provided after event



## Survey

Survey will prompt when you leave

# Agenda & Speakers

- Introductions
- Educational Content: Resilience on a Budget
- Q+A – Open Breakout Room



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# Resilience on a Budget



# Regulatory Pressures Impacting Rural Hospitals



## Big Beautiful Bill

RISKS (Pressures):

### **Medicaid funding changes**

- ✓ Reduces/restructures supplemental Medicaid relied on by rural/critical access hospitals
- ✓ Creates instability compared to prior predictable, state-directed funding

OPPORTUNITIES (Offsets):

### **\$50B Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**

- ✓ STATE-DRIVEN: Applications due 11.5.25; CMS approvals by 12.31.25
- ✓ Half of funds distributed equally to approved states; half distributed competitively based on rural metrics



## CMS Promoting Interoperability

RISKS (Pressures):

### **Annual SAFER Guide Requirements**

- ✓ Required attestation since 2022
- ✓ Often skipped/misunderstood or treated as a checkbox
- ✓ Risks of non-compliance if audited

OPPORTUNITIES (Offsets):

### **Reimbursement Protection and Practical Value**

- ✓ Properly documenting reviews = compliance and double as readiness tools for downtime and resiliency



## Joint Commission

RISKS (Pressures):

### **Downtime Preparedness**

- ✓ Must maintain documented downtime & emergency operations plans
- ✓ Staff must be trained and drilled annually
- ✓ Sentinel Event Alert #67 (Dec 2022): Cyberattacks must be included in emergency preparedness

OPPORTUNITIES (Offsets):

- ✓ Compliance & Accreditation
- ✓ Resiliency = Patient Safety
  - Ensure continuity of clinical operation during cyber events
  - Builds staff confidence and reduces chaos during real incidents



## HIPAA Security Rule – NPRM (Proposed)

RISKS (Pressures):

### **Stronger Requirements**

- ✓ HHS NPRM (RIN 0945-AA22) remains active; final rule targeted for May 2026
- ✓ Anticipated updates (just a few):
  - More prescriptive risk analysis & management expectations
  - Clearer requirements for vendor management
  - Stronger emphasis on governance & leadership accountability

OPPORTUNITIES (Offsets):

- ✓ Hospitals will have time to align (~12 months)
- ✓ Pushes organizations towards best practices already in use
- ✓ Reduces compliance risks and improves resilience

# Understanding Why Resilience Is A Must

Rural hospitals face increasing cybersecurity threats, especially ransomware, which can disrupt operations, compromise patient care, and lead to closures.

**Memorial Hospital and Manor (GA):** A 2024 ransomware attack forced staff to revert to paper records, disrupted care, and exposed data of ~120,000 individuals.

**St. Margaret's Health (IL):** A cyberattack contributed to its permanent closure due to irreparable financial and operational damage.

**Change Healthcare Attack:** This 2024 incident disrupted billing nationwide, hitting rural providers hardest due to limited financial reserves.

## Key Lessons for Business Continuity

- ❑ **Collaboration:** Build networks with other providers and agencies for crisis response.
- ❑ **Resource Prioritization:** Focus limited budgets on cybersecurity and staffing.
- ❑ **Operational Flexibility:** Prepare alternative workflows like telehealth and manual systems.
- ❑ **Vendor Management:** Vet third-party vendors and plan for service outages.
- ❑ **Human Impact:** Account for patient travel burdens and staff stress during disruptions

# The Path to Resilience

Resilience Planning is an ongoing function with an intentional lifecycle. Plans need to adapt as quickly as your environment does.

## **Impact Assessment:**

- ☐ Identify critical functions and their dependencies
- ☐ Understand and align function recovery time objective expectations

## **Strategy Development & Document (Planning)**

- ☐ Develop and document response procedures

## **Training and Awareness**

- ☐ Train staff and leadership on roles & responsibilities, communications process, and response procedures

## **Exercising**

- ☐ Exercise plans twice per year, at minimum
- ☐ Exercise tactical response
- ☐ Exercise Executive and Leadership response.

## **Governance & Maintenance**

- ☐ Review and update quarterly and/or when material changes occur



# How To Get Started On Your Resilience Journey

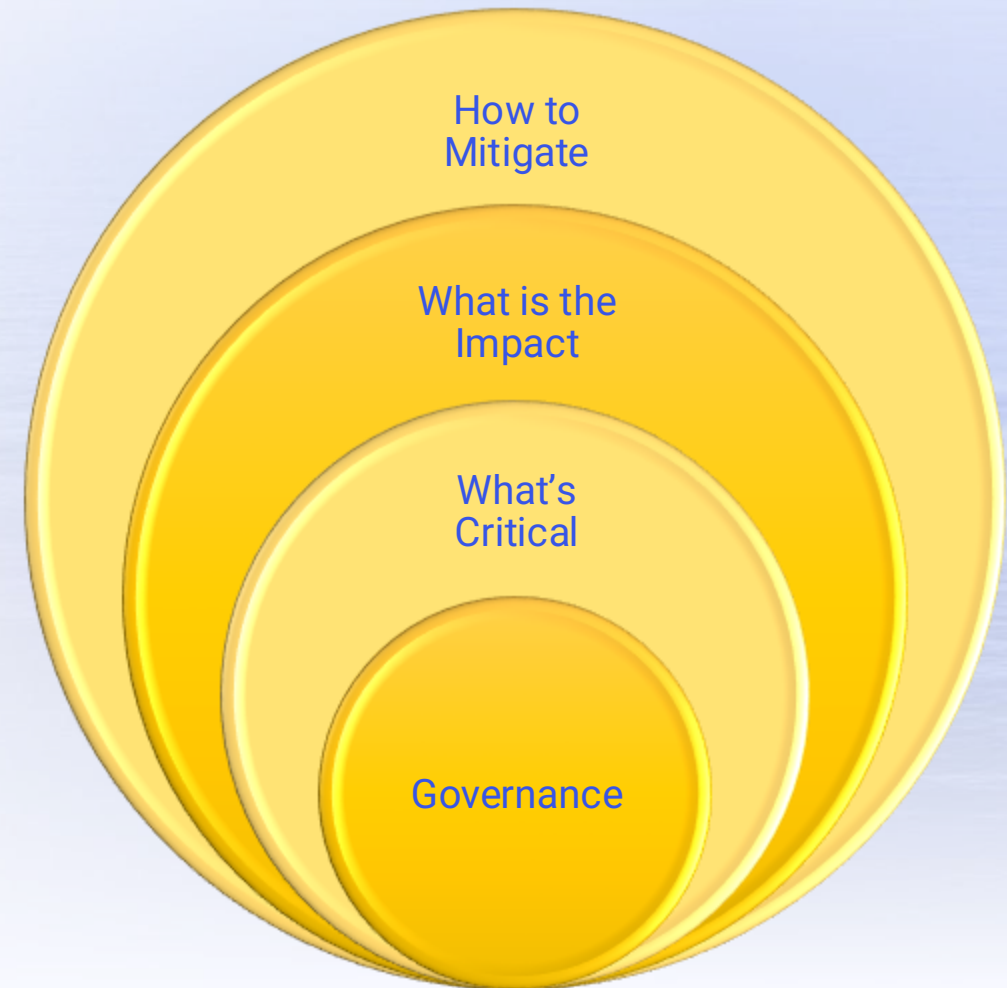
Especially with rural hospitals, understanding where to start is key.

## Clinical Disruption

- ❑ Patient Safety
- ❑ Downtime Procedures
- ❑ Logistics

## Operational Resilience

- ❑ Critical Functions & Processes, People
- ❑ Service Impacts
- ❑ Dependencies
- ❑ Downtime Estimates
- ❑ Tiered Recovery Priorities
- ❑ Response & Recovery Capabilities







# Breakout Session Time- Move to the Connect Lounge



If you are just joining, please enter the breakout room now.

# Upcoming Webinars



**AHLA Webinar: Health Care's Due Diligence Dilemma | September 16, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET**

- Andrew Mahler, VP Privacy and Compliance Services presenting on how organizations can address cybersecurity and data privacy challenges during health care mergers and acquisitions.
- Register [here](#)



**Secure and Compliant: OCR-Quality® Risk Management in Action | October 1, 2025 | 12pm – 1pm CT**

- Steve Cagle, CEO, Clearwater
- Lori Dutcher, CCO at Beth Israel Lahey Health
- Dave Bailey, VP Security Services, Clearwater
- Will Explore how healthcare organizations can build and sustain OCR-quality risk management programs that go beyond checkbox compliance

- Register [here](#)



**Speaking the Same Language: Building Trust Between Security and the Enterprise | Monthly Cyber Briefing | October 9**

- Fireside chat with Clearwater's CEO, Steve Cagle and Tracy Touma, Cybersecurity Business Liaison, Cleveland Clinic
- [Register Here](#)

# Upcoming Events



Nashville Healthcare Sessions |  
September 29-30, 2025 |  
Nashville, TN

- Several Clearwater Colleagues attending **Nashville Healthcare Sessions**, the nation's premier healthcare innovation event.
- Learn More & Register [here](#)



Hospital Horizons Symposium  
2025 | October 6-7, 2025 |  
Washington, DC

- Clearwater is proud to sponsor the second annual **Hospital Horizons Symposium**, hosted by Holland & Knight.
- Andrew Mahler speaking on an Innovation Panel on Oct 7th.
- Register & learn more [here](#)



SCALE Healthcare Leadership  
Conference | October 14, 2025 |  
New York, NY

- Clearwater is a proud sponsor
- Clearwater leading a panel discussion "Understanding Cyber Security Risks in a world of AI"
- Learn more & Register [here](#)



We are here to help.

*Moving healthcare organizations to a  
more secure, compliant, and resilient  
state so they can achieve their  
mission.*





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