

# Tackling the Epidemic of Healthcare WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Thursday, April 9  
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., CDT  
UT Southwestern  
Gooch Auditorium

- 81% of healthcare workers face workplace violence.
- 3 nurses are assaulted every hour in the U.S.
- Healthcare workers are 5 times more likely to be assaulted than in any other industry.
- Workplace violence costs U.S. hospitals \$18.27 billion a year.

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other disruptive behavior that causes a Workforce Member to reasonably fear for their safety or the safety of others, that results in material property damage, or that involves a dangerous weapon including a firearm.



INFORMATION



Breakfast will be provided.  
CE Credits applied for.

# SPEAKERS

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**8:00 a.m. – 8:05 a.m.**  
Opening Welcome



**Jonathan Efron, MD**, Executive VP for Health System Affairs, UT Southwestern

**Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Jonathan Efron, M.D., a noted colorectal cancer surgeon, joined UT Southwestern as Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs in December 2023. Dr. Efron provides leadership over the clinical enterprise, including UTSW's Medical Group, hospitals, regional medical centers, and clinics. UT

Southwestern physicians provide care in more than 80 specialties to more than 120,000 hospitalized patients, more than 360,000 emergency room cases, and oversee nearly 5 million outpatient visits a year. Dr. Efron, Professor of Surgery at UT Southwestern and with the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, specializes in the treatment of colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, fecal incontinence, and anorectal disorders, with expertise in minimally invasive and robotic procedures and colostomy-sparing procedures, such as ileal pouch anal anastomosis. His research interests include sphincter-preserving surgery, recurrent rectal cancer, and minimally invasive surgery, among others, and he has published more than 71 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 11 book chapters, and over 104 abstracts. Prior to joining UT Southwestern, Dr. Efron served as Senior Vice President for Johns Hopkins Medicine's Office of Physicians, President of the Johns Hopkins Clinical Practice Association, and Interim Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs as well as Professor of Surgery and Urology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, completed residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, and did his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic of Florida. He was later appointed to academic and surgical positions at Cleveland Clinic Florida and Mayo Clinic Arizona. He is certified by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery and American Board of Surgery.

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**8:05 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Panel Discussion

“Workplace Violence in Healthcare – the Federal, State and Local Perspective”



**John Creuzot**, Dallas County District Attorney

**John Creuzot** is a retired Judge and an award-winning lawyer now serving his second term as Dallas County Criminal District Attorney after first being elected in 2018. His background also includes more than 21 years as a Felony District Court Judge, seven years of service as a Dallas County Assistant District Attorney and Chief Felony Prosecutor as well as a criminal defense lawyer in private

practice. In addition to his trusted service, Creuzot has earned a national reputation for his innovative work on drug courts, criminal justice reform and evidence-based sentencing. He regularly appears in the news and on television as an expert on these and other criminal justice topics.



**Jack Frazee**, Director of Government Affairs, General Council, Texas Nurses Association

**Jack Frazee** is a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center. He began his legal career serving as a healthcare policy analyst for Texas State Representative Garnet Coleman in the Texas House of Representatives. Since obtaining his law license in 2018, Jack has advised healthcare non-profits and elected officials on emerging

policy issues and litigated a wide range of issues in state and federal courts. Jack currently serves as the Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Texas Nurses Association and advocates for better laws and safety for nurses.

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**Dr. Joseph Chang**, CMO, Parkland Health

**Dr. Joseph Chang** earned his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine including completing his OB/GYN residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital, and his Master of Business Administration degree from George Washington University. He is board certified, is a Fellow of the American College of

Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is a member of The American Association of Physician Leaders. Dr. Chang is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Parkland Health. He is responsible for the oversight of all hospital and ambulatory clinical care operations. He is also responsible for all medical staff office functions including credentialing, privileging, and peer review, and the oversight of Graduate Medical Education.



**Stephen Love**, President/CEO, DFW Hospital Council

**Stephen Love** is currently President/CEO of the DFW Hospital Council which promotes collaboration, cooperation and advocacy on behalf of its 90 member hospitals. The Council also has 100 Associate Members, including prominent accounting, legal and consulting firms. The primary mission is to promote patient safety, quality healthcare and coordination in the delivery of healthcare in

North Texas. He served as 2015 Chair for the Conference of Metropolitan and Regional Hospitals Association in the U.S. He also previously served on the Children at Risk Board for North Texas. He serves on the Southwest Region Board for the American Heart Association; Southwest Transplant Alliance; Cure Glaucoma Foundation Advisory Board; North Texas Eye Research Institute; and the Metropolitan YMCA Board of Directors. Stephen has worked in healthcare management for over 40 years.

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**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

“American Hospital Association - Building Safer Workplaces and Communities: Strategies to Prevent and Address WPV in Health Care”



**Elisa Arespachaga, MBA**, Group VP, Clinical Affairs and Workforce, American Hospital Association

**Elisa Arespachaga** is Group VP, Clinical Affairs and Workforce at the American Hospital Association. In her role, Elisa supports the workforce strategy efforts focused on strengthening the health care workforce and planning for the workforce needed for the future. She also leads efforts to support behavioral health, reduce hospital violence

and advancing physician leadership. She received her master’s degree in Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management and a bachelor’s degree in biology and Spanish literature from Amherst College.



**Jordan Steiger, MPH, MA, LSW**, Director of Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention, American Hospital Association

**Jordan Steiger** leads AHA’s behavioral health portfolio, advancing access to high-quality care, championing programs that improve outcomes for patients with substance use disorders, and supporting workforce well-being. Jordan also directs the Hospitals Against Violence

initiative, promoting strategies to reduce workplace violence and improve safety outcomes. Recognized as the 2025 National Emerging Social Work Leader by the National Association of Social Workers, she brings expertise in social work and public health to develop behavioral health and violence prevention programs nationwide.

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**10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** “Behavioral Health”



**Dr. Mallory Cash**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, UT Southwestern

**Dr. Mallory Cash** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Cash earned her medical degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center before coming to UT Southwestern for her residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in psychosomatic medicine. Certified by the

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, she joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2018. In addition to her roles at the Medical Center, Dr. Cash serves as a tutor in the Psychiatry Residency Didactics Program and a mentor in the Medical School Colleges.

**11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

“Behavioral Threat Assessment Program”



**Melissa Jones, CHPA, HS-BCP, CADC**, Director Workplace Violence Prevention, Children's Health

**Melissa Jones** is a seasoned professional in workplace violence prevention with extensive experience in health and human services. Currently serving as the Director of Workplace Violence Prevention at Children's Health since September 2025, Melissa previously held the position of Network Director of Workplace Violence Prevention

Program at Inspira Health Network from October 2021 to September 2025. Prior experience includes serving as Network Workplace Violence Program Manager at

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Bayhealth, where responsibilities encompassed developing and implementing a comprehensive workplace violence program, conducting safety rounds, and facilitating risk assessments. She has a Master's Degree in Administration of Human Services from Wilmington University and a Bachelor of Arts in History Teacher Education from Bridgewater College.

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
“Threat Safety Science”



**Vicki King**, Asst. Chief of Police, Converged Threat/  
Risk Protection and Investigations, MD Anderson  
Cancer Center and UT Health Science Center

**Chief Vicki King** has spent the better part of four decades in public service. She began her career with the Houston Police Department in 1985, rising through the ranks to Assistant Chief of Police. As Chief of Detectives, Chief King formed the Cold Case Murder Squad, Houston Men Against Family Violence, Cash for Crooks, and the Gang Murder Squad. Under her leadership, murder clearance rates increased from 57% to 78% in just three years. In 2011, Chief King retired from HPD after 26 years of service to teach Criminal Justice courses for the University of Houston system. In 2014, Chief King was selected to be the first female Chief of Police for the City of La Marque. In 2015, Chief King accepted the challenge of advancing threat assessment and violence prevention programs at MD Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Texas Health Science Center, and the Harris County Psychiatric Center. Her distinguished work earned Chief King a national reputation as an innovator and highly successful practitioner in workplace violence prevention for healthcare communities. She has most recently collaborated with Sam Houston State University on a comprehensive series of threat assessment courses for healthcare providers.