

Join us at the

2025 Benchmark Summit for High-Impact Risk Sessions + Keynote

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2025 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Join us for an experience designed for today's risk management and public safety leaders.

Through **impactful keynotes**, **hands-on workshops**, and **real-world case studies**, the Benchmark Summit offers **actionable strategies** to strengthen your organization's performance, reduce risk, and support your teams.

You'll leave with a deeper understanding of the most critical trends shaping public safety, along with the tools and peer connections to implement them in your organization.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Public Safety Wellness**

Supporting officer mental health, resilience, and retention through evidence-based practices

- **Data & Analytics in Officer Management**

Leveraging real-time insights to enhance decision-making, performance, and supervision

- **Early Intervention System Strategy**

Proven methods for identifying and addressing at-risk behavior before issues escalate

- **Real Case Studies from Leading Departments**

Learn how top-performing agencies are using data to drive measurable outcomes

Risk Management Track Overview

Opening Keynote – Dr. Stephen James, Ph.D

- **Tuesday, September 16 at 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT**

We're thrilled to welcome **Dr. Stephen James**, Assistant Professor at WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and Senior Faculty at the Sleep and Performance Research Center.

Dr. James is a leading researcher in how fatigue, stress, and operational realities affect performance in law enforcement and military environments. He's worked globally with agencies—and his keynote will spotlight how data and science are being used to improve officer wellness, performance, and public safety outcomes.

Risk Sessions

This year's **Risk Solutions Track** at the Benchmark Summit will offer actionable, evidence-based strategies for reducing liability, improving officer safety, and building a high-performance culture. Whether you're a risk pool executive, or involved in agency operations, these sessions are designed to help you tackle your biggest risk challenges with proven, scalable solutions.

Beyond Compliance: Moving from Check-the-Box Policies to high performance Culture

- **Tuesday, September 16 at 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT**
- **Session Type: 60-minute Interactive Panel Discussion**

Why do some agencies with identical policies experience vastly different risk outcomes? Drawing from 25-year analysis of over 1,000 agencies, this interactive session explores what evidence-based practices lead to top quartile agency performance. Command staff and risk pool executives will learn proven implementation strategies that elevate agency performance as measured by fewer officer injuries, lower turnover and reduced liability risk. The panel discussion will cover practical tactics to overcome resistance, change habits, and build accountability systems that deliver measurable claim reductions.

Scaling Risk Management Programs with Regional Excellence Networks

- **Tuesday, September 16 at 2:10 pm – 3:00 pm CT**
- **Session Type: 50-minute Presentation**

Senior law enforcement command staff face similar challenges but often tackle them in isolation. This session explores how structured peer learning networks bring chiefs, sheriffs, and command staff together to share successes, address common challenges, and collectively implement evidence-based practices. Drawing from successful programs like Benchmark's Jail Excellence

Program, panelists will discuss how facility tours, regional best practice exchanges, and ongoing peer support can drive measurable improvements in officer safety and operational effectiveness. Participants will learn practical strategies to build regional collaboration, create sustainable networks that build engagement and elevate agency performance across entire regions.

Risk Workshop Part 1: Making the Case! Data-driven strategies to build investment cases and measure program ROI

- Wednesday, September 17 at 9:00 am to 10:00 am CT
- Session Type: 60-minute Workshop

Recent economic uncertainty and municipal budget cuts are forcing agencies to scale back or delay critical investments such as wellness programs and leadership development. This workshop will present strategies that agencies and their risk pool partners can utilize to justify program investment and measure ROI. Participants will get hands-on experience building a business case proforma and designing strategic frameworks that are essential to secure funding and demonstrate measurable success.

Risk Workshop Part 2: Underwriting for Success with Law Enforcement Liability

- Wednesday, September 17 at 10:00 am to 10:30 am CT
- Session Type: 30-minute Roundtable Discussion

What underwriting factors truly predict liability risk? This interactive roundtable brings together underwriters, risk pool executives, and agency leaders to discuss what really matters when evaluating law enforcement liability exposure. Drawing from Benchmark's research on risk factors that correlate with actual claims outcomes, we'll facilitate an open discussion on how underwriters can better assess risk while helping agencies understand what improvements will meaningfully impact their underwriting scores. Participants will share experiences on effective risk evaluation methods, discuss emerging risk factors that traditional underwriting may miss, and explore how the underwriting process can become a tool for driving agency risk reduction.

These sessions are designed to inspire **real-world change** — with research, tools, and strategies you can apply immediately. If you're responsible for risk, performance, wellness, or leadership in your agency, this track is for you.

To register for Benchmark Summit visit:
benchmarkanalytics.com/2025-benchmark-summit/