

**Kerri Baxter**, Acting Medical Center Director  
Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VA Medical Center  
Memphis, Tennessee



Dr. Baxter has been employed by VHA since January 1998, holding a wide variety of clinical and leadership roles. Additionally, she is a valued strategic partner with stakeholders to improve Veteran outcomes and enhance the workplace for employees across the enterprise. In her permanent role as a Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) in VISN 9 she collaborates to improve Veteran experience, enhance clinical quality outcomes, support clinical staff through a shared governance approach and incorporates evidence-based research to resolve complex healthcare issues. She oversees nursing practice at five large, medically complex facilities and community-based outpatient clinics in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Currently Dr. Baxter is the acting Medical Center Director for a highly complex (1A) medical center in Memphis, TN. She serves over 2500 staff, 70,000 unique Veterans over three states (Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas) offering 156 inpatient beds, 20 spinal cord injury beds, and nine outpatient clinics. In this detail she has worked hard to partner with University of Tennessee for continued academic partnership with the school of medicine to grow ambulatory surgery opportunities and expand dental capabilities. She improved hiring practices for police service in order to bring safety to Veterans and staff alike. Her passion for high quality clinical care resonates in all she does as she leads this tertiary medical center.

Within the region Dr. Baxter oversees Whole Health, Clinical Contact Center, Telehealth/Rural Health, Veteran Experience, Nurse Resource, Social Work, Nursing Informatics, Sterile Processing, Geriatrics and Rehab, and M2VA. In her work with these teams, she works directly with her team to ensure that facilities have the resources and support needed to provide high quality, Veteran-Centric care. She conducts annual CNO visits to each facility and collaborates with the VISN Quality Manger, Deputy Network Office, and Chief Medical officer. She reports directly to the Network Director.

Dr. Baxter also has been instrumental at the facility, VISN and VACO levels as she provides support that improves VHA operations. She has a passion for mentoring and coaching and is a member of the Healthcare Leadership Development Program Advisory Board. She also strives to incorporate academic partnerships to bridge operational alliances in the day-to-day healthcare environment.

Kerri received a BSN in 1997, an MBA/with a Heath Care Management emphasis in 2005 and her DNP from Old Dominion University in 2014. Her passion for high quality clinical care and leadership is demonstrated in her academic accomplishments and preparations.