

# National Council of Chief Executive Officers

Monthly Tele-Conference Meeting  
 Toll Free #: 866-754-5692  
 Participant Code: 2136254

DATE: February 1, 2011  
 TIME: 12:00 pm EST; 11:00 am CST; 10:00 am MST; 9:00 am PST

## Meeting Minutes

### I. ROLL CALL

<u>NCCEO Officers:</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Area Representatives</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Bryce Redgrave, Chair	x		Bill Pourier, ABR	x	
Vacant, V-Chair			Michael Christensen, AK	x	
Alan Barlow, Secretary	x		Dorlynn Simmons, ALB	x	
Yvonne Misiaszek, P-Chair		x	Gary Wabaunsee, BEM	x	
			Debbie Bends, BIL		x
Sandra Lahi-NBOC	x		Molin Malicay, CAL		x
Gary Wabaunsee-CHSO	x		Tonya Cornwell, NAS	x	
			Bennie Yazzie, NAV		x
<u>IHS HQ Staff:</u>			Travis Scott, OKC	x	
Elmer Brewster-ORAP		x	De Alva Honahnie, PHX		x
Michael Weahkee-HR	x		Shirley Alvarez, POR	x	
Liz Fowler-UFMS		x	Patti Whitethorne, TUC		x
Kenneth Cannon	x				
Charles Gepford	x		<u>Additional CEO Members</u>		
Donna Fuller		x			
John Rael		x			
Dr. Charlene Avery		x			
Robert McSwain	x				

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was consensus to approve the agenda as submitted.

### III. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

**Motion #1**(Shirley Alvarez/Gary Wabaunsee): To approve the January 4, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. No objections; approval by consensus.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) NCCEO Website Updates

Bryce Redgrave explained that exciting updates and information, including our new Charter, are being added to our website. He will work on scheduling a review meeting with Shirley Alvarez and Sandra Lahi over the next few weeks.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

## 1) HQ Reports

## a) ORAP:

No ORAP representatives were available on the call.

## b) HR:

CDR Michael Weahkee informed the Council membership that Ms. Jennifer Hovencamp will be leaving her position of HR Director for IHS on February 12, 2011. CDR Weahkee will serve as the Acting HR Director until a permanent replacement is found, with current Regional HR Directors serving in Deputy Director roles on a rotating basis to provide technical expertise at HQ.

Two (2) critical HR reform efforts that continue moving forward include the standardization of position descriptions (PDs) and the transition from QuickHire to USA Staff. Regarding USA Staffing, the system is up and running---we are now working to further the process of completing assessments/analysis and entering them in the system.

Regarding PDs, the 303 Series (Administrative Assistants) has been sent out for use, and the 343 Series (Management and Program Analysts) will be released tomorrow. The goal is to complete two (2) PDs a week until the project is complete. The Area Directors will receive an update of project progress on Friday the PowerPoint or presentation information that will be provided to the Area Directors. Michael Weahkee noted there are no formal presentation materials, but he can provide a draft copy of the HHS strategic plan and quarterly update. He will also return next month to report to our Council.

Gary Wabaunsee queried about a listing of the 27 standardized PDs that will be completed, and Michael Weahkee will be sending that list out for our reference.

## c) UFMS:

Kenneth Cannon explained that questions regarding 2011 funding remain unanswered and uncertain. Senior Staff at HQ are working on contingency operational plans with reduced funding for the year, and it is possible another short Continuing Resolution is looming. There is a lot in the media right now, but all we can do is prepare.

Bryce Redgrave inquired about where these discussions on the budget are taking place and how we will know what is coming down the pipeline. Kenneth Cannon explained that Liz Fowler is in Tempe, AZ right now, involved in the discussions on the 2013 budgets. This process is ongoing and we are waiting for the President to take it up again. We will become aware as soon as Senior Staff is aware. Bryce Redgrave also inquired about whether the senior leadership of HHS is advocating against proposed budget cuts based on the needs of the department---we have seen this with other leaders and would hope it is happening. Kenneth Cannon explained that we haven't seen anything like this yet, but measures are likely being put together.

Robert McSwain noted that there is a lot of rhetoric in Washington right now, with numerous scenarios being reviewed to minimize the impact on IHS. Should budget cuts occur, H&C and CHS budgets would be hit the hardest.

Kenneth Cannon then went on to explain that there have been over 1,000 participants in UFMS training since the release of the calendar. This represents a tremendous response rate.

d) Executive Update: Mr. McSwain

Bryce Redgrave inquired about whether the updated NCCEO Charter can be communicated to the Area Directors at the operational meeting at the end of the week, and Robert McSwain indicated her would present it to Dr. Kathleen Annette for the meeting.

At the request of Bryce Redgrave, Robert McSwain explained that an Area Administrative Self-Assessment/Review Tool is being put together and incorporates the annual management control plan (14 elements). It will also include those areas identified by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) report. Secretary Sebelius has also established a program integrity council comprised of all operating division heads. Dr. Roubideaux has assigned Robert McSwain to this group to review a number of items.

The Albuquerque Area (ABQ) will be the first locale that will implement this tool, which is comprised of both clinical and administrative components. Robert McSwain emphasized that this effort is NOT investigative in nature and will involve internal personnel from HQ to conduct the review. As soon as it is presented to the Area Directors on Thursday, we will finalize it and get it distributed to all the managers across the country.

It was explained that this is part of our response to the SCIA mandate to improve. From that report, sixteen (16) areas were identified, with ten (10) being related to HR. We are expecting a follow-up hearing, and now we have a new Chairman of the SCIA. We are not sure what the expectations are, and a new Chair will undoubtedly change the dynamics of the Committee. Nevertheless, in any case, we can expect increased congressional oversight with the new Congress. To this end, the review process will align as well as defend us against generalizations that have been made about our agency and services.

Gary Wabaunsee inquired about the level of mobilization amongst tribes in response to proposed budget cuts (e.g. S. 126). Robert McSwain noted that national organizations are, and we are seeing tribes speak up (health boards, etc.) as well. Tribes are concerned locally about where their respective State Governors are sitting on this discussion. In short, tribes are responding, but the biggest challenge we have always had is the size of individual tribes in relation to advocacy efforts. Nevertheless, we should convey concerns at a local level and let our leaders know. Michael Christensen offered some insight in explaining that Alaska has a consortium of all tribes, with larger tribes sending representatives to advocate during this time of uncertainty. It is really important that tribes hear information locally and become part of the debate nationally.

**VI. NCCEO Committee Reports**

1) IHSL:

Alan Barlow was not available to attend the IHSL call in January 2011, but should be able to get back on track in February.

2) NBOC:

Sandra Lahi will be involved in the NBOC call tomorrow and will follow up with the Council accordingly. She also noted that the NBOC will be setting up a CEO tract for the Annual Partnership Meeting, and CEOs should email their ideas to her for the development of the training.

3) CHSO:

Gary Wabaunsee will also take the CHSO call tomorrow and provide more information once he has it. He noted that there is a call with the Fiscal Intermediary on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss timely reimbursement and price changes.

**VII. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS (TIME PERMITTING)**

Bryce Redgrave noted that there is a lot going on and invited the membership to email questions to concerns to Alan Barlow or himself for presentation or discussion at our next meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm EST.