

DEHS Director Meeting: 03/01/2012
Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for
Thursday June 7th at 1:00 pm EST

These abbreviated minutes will be put on the DEHS website under the "Conference Call Minutes" section of "Documents".

Aberdeen:	Not on Call	Nashville:	Kit Grosch
Albuquerque:	Leisa Cook	Navajo:	Steve Breithaupt, Sandra Mastandrea
Alaska:	Jeff Smith		Brian Johnson
Bemidji:	Diana Kuklinski, Casey Crump, Tim Taylor	Oklahoma:	Not on Call
Billings:	Not on Call	Phoenix:	Kenny Hicks
California:	Martin Smith for Gordon Tsatoke	Portland:	Not on Call
		Tucson:	Not on Call

Environmental Health Support Center: Not on Call

Rockville: Kelly Taylor, Darren Buchanan, Dave McMahon, Nancy Bill, Susan McCracken, Jessica Schwarz

1. Call for Data for 2011 Annual Report: Jessica

- a. Each DEHS Director should have gotten an email asking them to fill out the staffing spreadsheet for their area by March 16th. Most of the sheet is self explanatory, but please follow the instructions and the note in cell 20A regarding the recording of Cooperative Agreement staff. Please list these staff in both Column I, and also include them in your Area, District, or SU/Field numbers as well.
- b. Remember that reports to be included in the Annual Report for projects completed for the five national focus areas and corrections for your area program descriptions are due by March 23rd.

2. Institutional Environmental Health (IEH) Updates: Dave

- a. The WebCident User/Use Guide draft is nearly complete and will be going out to the DEHS Directors for comment soon. The guide covers access to the system, what to use it for, and how we monitor users. The guide also covers why we have the system, and the regulatory aspects involved. After comment by the EHS Directors the guide will be revised and will be posted in the Institutional Chapter and in the WebCident system under the resources area.
- b. The announcement for nominations for the Gary J. Gefroh Safety and Health Award will be coming out soon. Directors should work on nominations for their area.
- c. There are about 10 attendees expected for the upcoming meeting here in Rockville in March. The agenda is being adjusted for these 10 attendees.
- d. The selectees for the IEH Residency have been announced, they are LCDR Katie Noonan-Hubbard from the Albuquerque Area and LT Tim Taylor from the Bemidji area. They will start the program sometime in June.

3. Injury Prevention (IP) Updates: Nancy

- a. We are currently working on revisions to the agenda for the upcoming meeting here in Rockville in March. The agenda will be sent out next week. There are 8 attendees confirmed.
- b. We wanted to remind DEHS Directors that we need mentors for the fellowship program.
- c. There was a study by Jon Peabody conducted pertaining to the difference between two seatbelt survey protocols (UNC & IHS). The results of the study show little differences in survey results. For discussion at the IP program section of the DEHS Directors meeting here in Rockville at the end of March.

4. DEHS Directors Meeting Agenda: Susan/Kelly

- a. Susan sent out the draft agenda to all of the DEHS Directors for comment and displayed the amended draft at the meeting. No further edits were proposed. One addition was proposed by Leisa Cook to demonstrate the online food handler training course they will be launching soon. The group agreed to work a 15 minute session in to the agenda to demonstrate the project and allow for discussion. If you have any comments or changes for the strategic planning portion of the agenda please send them to Susan as soon as possible.
- b. Kelly mentioned that information can be gathered from the areas and the field before the meeting in preparation for the strategic planning portion of the DEHS Directors Meeting in late March. The group agreed to participate in a survey monkey to gather this information. Kelly will send out the survey to the DEHS Directors soon.
- c. Kenny asked about the format for area reports for the DEHS Directors meeting. The presentations should cover updates from your area and should be no more than 10 minutes each. No power point is required.

5. New WebEHRs: Darren

- a. WebEHRs roll-out is going well. People are reminded if you find a bug in the system or have a problem please contact the help desk. You can use the link on the main page to contact customer support. If you have a change you would like to see made to the system please use the feedback link. These items are being read and compiled and the feedback is very important to us.

6. Area Reports:

- a. **AB: Not on call**
 - i. Kelly mentioned that their Canadian Exchange representative has started and will be spending 3 weeks in Minot, ND. Also, the Area Workshop is being held this week.
- b. **AK: Jeff Smith**
 - i. Katie Burbage will be transferring to Fairbanks April 1.
 - ii. Mike Keiffer has retired, leaving the Area without a liaison which is making orders, transfers, and other personnel issues difficult.
 - iii. Troy Ritter briefed the Region X EPA representatives on the project he is working with CDC on to help children with chronic respiratory disease by modifying home environments.
 - iv. Kenny will be visiting to teach Level II Injury Prevention next week.
- c. **AQ: Leisa Cook**
 - i. Nothing new to report.
- d. **BE: Diana Kuklinski**
 - i. Level I Injury Prevention was held in December.
 - ii. Tim Taylor has been selected for the IEH Residency, as such his position will be announced soon to fill the vacancy.

- e. **BI: Not on Call**
- f. **CA: Martin Smith**
 - i. The representative for the Canadian Exchange reported for duty on Monday and will spend the next few weeks in the Area.
 - ii. California recently completed the Area Review with the Rockville staff.
 - iii. There is a new hire for the TIPCAP program.
- g. **NS: Kit Grosch**
 - i. Riley will be unable to make it to the IP meeting in March due to travel restrictions.
 - ii. Kit received the Environmental Health Officer Responder of the Year Award from the Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee.
 - iii. The area is still hoping to advertise and fill the vacancy for one more EHO. This is stuck in HR.
- h. **NV : Brian Johnson, Steve Breithaupt, & Sandy Mastandrea**
 - i. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever has been identified as a problem for animal control and in the livestock population. They have requested epidemiologic aid from CDC. They will be checking serology of the populations in question to better quantify the extent and nature of the problem.
 - ii. A District Injury Prevention Specialist position at Ft. Defiance has been announced as a GS 9/11 and will be open for applications through March 13th.
 - iii. The Gallup Indian Medical Center Safety and Occupational Management position should be announced soon and will be a GS 12 slot.
- i. **OK: Not on Call**
- j. **PH: Kenny Hicks**
 - i. Work continues on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. They held an integrated pest management training a few weeks ago. Steve Piontkowski is the point of contact for this initiative. They continue to work with CDC to identify promising strategies for prevention. A 12 month project will be conducted to field test some of the promising strategies in hopes of collecting enough data to identify some of them as best practices.
 - ii. They are in the process of filling the vacancy at Hopi.
 - iii. CAPT Welch returned to the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) at the Area. We are glad to have him back.
 - iv. The OEHE workshop for Phoenix will be held at the end of April. They will discuss the new leadership development guidance documents at that meeting.
- k. **PO: Not on call**
- l. **TU: Not on call**
 - i. Kelly mentioned that Mark Pike has retired and Don Williams is the new Acting DEHS Director.

END OF NOTES