



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 01 February 2024

[Meeting recording available](#)

Next conference call 01 August 2024 1:00-2:00PM ET

<u>Area</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Representative</u>
<b>Alaska:</b>	Hugh Denny	<b>Nashville:</b>	Charles Woodlee
<b>Albuquerque:</b>	Carrie Oyster	<b>Navajo:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>
<b>Bemidji:</b>	Tim Duffy	<b>Oklahoma:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>
<b>Billings:</b>	Darcy Merchant	<b>Phoenix:</b>	Dave Cramer
<b>California:</b>	Carolyn Garcia	<b>Portland:</b>	Chris Fish
<b>Great Plains:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>	<b>Tucson:</b>	Travis Bowser

**Environmental Health Support Center:** Braden Hickey

**DEHS HQ:** Matt Albright; Sam Frank; Brian Hroch; Molly Madson; Stephen Piontkowski; Mike Reed; Andrea Tsatoke

### 1. Welcome and Update (Mike Reed)

- a. WebEHRS Establishment Type definition refinement: comments and explanation
- b. IHS ACT
  - i. Clarification of Ambassador initiative: identify people/programs who can speak on the asthma prevention work we're doing and serve as 'go to' practitioners to liaise w IHS care providers
  - ii. Bemidji Area DEHS recently volunteered to be an Ambassador
- c. Emergency management funds from COVID response
  - i. Ms. Tso determining status of those funds and how to fund positions
- d. Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award – 2023
  - Congratulations LT Justice Lambon, Phoenix Area**
    - i. Great Plains Area Nominee: Connie Giroux

### 2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska
  - i. Cold temperature response ongoing
  - ii. ACT
    - Met w Dr. Clark and AK tribal programs
  - iii. Climate change
    - Erosion causing issues and relocation of communities
    - CAPT Denny on 2 federal workgroups
  - iv. General EH
    - Collaborating w CHAPs
      - Training on regulated medical waste, waterborne illness, rabies virus prevention



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- v. IP
  - TIPCAP sites (3) progressing nicely
  - Thanks to Molly and Andrea for support
- b. Albuquerque
  - i. Staffing
    - Thanks to CDR Parris for covering
    - Leadership positions filled
  - ii. Working on FY23 Annual Report
- c. Bemidji
  - i. Annual DEHS workshop
    - 16-18 April
    - Duluth, MN
    - SFC not conducting annual workshop this year
  - ii. Staffing
    - GS-12 EH Consultant position will be added; duty station in Duluth or Bemidji
  - iii. IP
    - IVP [in-person] course 3: C Crump instructing this week
    - IVP [virtual] course 1: C Crump instructing next week
  - iv. General EH
    - ACT Ambassador
      - Formally recognized as an Asthma Control in Tribal Communities – Ambassador site
      - Forming partnerships with clinicians and PH Nursing to receive referrals and conduct home assessments for asthma triggers
      - DEHS will provide formal training at our workshop to identify and mitigate asthma triggers
- d. Billings
  - i. Staffing
    - Area IP Specialist panel pending
    - Blackfeet SU EHO vacancy announcement closes 12 March ([DE](#) and [ESEP](#))
  - ii. IP
    - Elder fall prevention training 14-15 February in Billings, MT
    - IVP [virtual] course #1: LT Merchant instructing next week
- e. California
  - i. Emergency Preparedness
    - Flood response ongoing: power loss; no significant damage to critical infrastructure
    - More rain in coming days
  - ii. Institutional EH
    - Hosting Basic Safety Officers course in February



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- iii. IP
  - IVP [in-person] course 3: R Wyatt instructing this week
  - Mini-project
    - Award notices distributed
    - Evaluations complete
- f. Great Plains – *Not on call*
- g. Nashville
  - i. Emergency management
    - Alert HHS notification system being set-up for Area staff
  - ii. IP
    - Setting-up IP mini-grants
  - iii. Budget management: attempting to increase number of staff
- h. Navajo – *Not on call*
- i. Oklahoma City – *Not on call*
- j. Phoenix
  - i. Area workshop
    - 16-18 April 2024
    - Scottsdale, AZ (Salt River Pima–Maricopa Indian Community)
  - ii. National Public Health Council
    - Participating on EH Workgroup along w CAPT Reed
  - iii. Challenges w travel orders
    - No longer able to use blanket travel order and its time consuming
      - 200 hours/year of staff time in one district to process travel orders/vouchers
  - iv. Staffing
    - GS-12 Sanitarian Consultant for Reno vacancy announcement forthcoming
    - EHS vacancies in Tempe, Hopi, Ft. Duchesne and Reno
  - v. IP
    - Conducted quarterly education session on falls prevention (Teams recording available upon request)
    - Shelly Mitchell, IP Fellow, analyzing data for bus stop safety project
    - Firearm storage project
      - Behavioral health to purchase 100 gun safes at Washoe Tribe (\$27K)



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## vi. Institutional EH

- Sherman Indian School consultation
  - Engaged Ms Tso who is working w BIE to improve facilities
- Joint Commission was in Parker and Hopi
  - Focus on lead acid batteries in generator rooms
- Assisting IHS hospitals and clinics set-up emergency alert systems

## k. Portland

### i. Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

- Sean Blackshear selected as Director, EPH
- IEHO vacancy announcement forthcoming

### ii. Staffing

- Utilizing the DCPS TDY process
  - Seems to help provide services when short staffed
- Recruitment event next week: University of Washington EH

### iii. EH

- Discussions w tribes and support on DEHS shares

### iv. IP

- Developing CPS project w Yakama Nation and trying to partner w TIPCAP, NWPaiHB

### v. IEH

- Childcare Environments Support Group
  - Partners: U.S. EPA Region X; ACF
  - Developing childcare safety and health training
- Providing consult on nitrous controls in dental clinic

## l. Tucson

### i. Staffing

- Director DEHS selection made

### ii. EH

- Conducting training to Pascua Yaqui Tribe for their public health accreditation
- Conducting rabies vaccination clinics



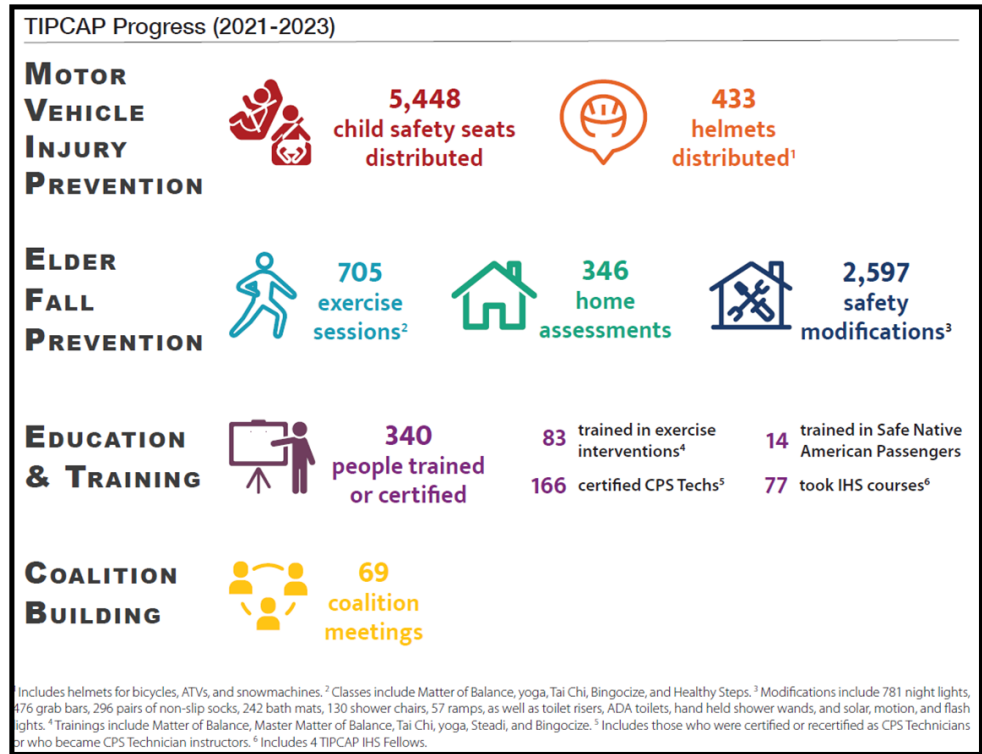
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- m. EHSC (Braden Hickey)
  - i. DEHS needs assessment results analysis ongoing
  - ii. On-demand CPS course available
  - iii. Fundamentals of NFPA course end of February
  - iv. IVP [virtual] course #1 next week
  - v. IVP courses #1, #2, #3 being planned for summer/fall 2024
  - vi. On-line FHT
    - Curriculum being updated
    - Workgroup assembled
  - vii. Temporary food course being developed
  - viii. REHS study tool being piloted
    - Need for volunteers
    - If staff recently earned or are currently studying for exam contact LT Hickey
  - ix. Office hours seem to be going well
    - Utilizing Teams

### 3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention (Molly Madson and Andrea Tsatoke)
  - i. Fellowship
    - In-person symposium: 22 May 2024; in Rockville
  - ii. Short courses
    - Course 3 [in-person pilot] this week
    - IVP [virtual] course 1 next week
  - iii. CPS Observation Survey training
    - EHSC on-demand
  - iv. 2025 AI/AN National Conference on Injury and Violence Prevention planning ongoing
    - IHS planning team reps: Molly, Andrea, Connie and Kayla
  - v. TIPCAP
    - Annual Workshop will be week of 19 May 2024 in Rockville
    - 2024 TIPCAP [Program Guide](#) and [Resource Guide](#)
    - Notice of Awards: Year 4
    - Conference calls with sites
    - Media: Katie Hannon webinar on ATV/snowmobile safety and Christy Hacker ([local news](#)) on Winter Car Seat Safety



## b. Institutional EH (Brian Hroch)

### i. IEH Workforce Development

- IEH Residency
  - No applicants
- Filed-based Residency
  - Workgroup: Cook, Conner, Hansen, Joplin, Peaches, Hroch
  - Developing competency assessment and methods to competency
  - Piloting w one employee in Albuquerque Area

### ii. Professional development

- EHSC courses
- SOFR Office Hours: 27 February
- Safety Fundamentals course
  - Navajo Area, December 2023
  - Oklahoma City Area, April 2024
  - California Area, February 2024
  - Great Plains Area, September 2024

### iii. IH Protocols

- Hroch, Murga



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- iv. [IHM Part 1 – Chapter 9 – Occupational Safety And Health Program](#)
  - Calvert, Conner, Dickson, Franks, Hroch, Peaches, Wiggins, Williams, Woodlee
  - Rollout: materials developed; presenting to various groups
- v. Safe Patient Handling and Mobility
  - Hansen, Hiles, Hroch
  - HFAC/OEHE A/E Design Guide update
- vi. Office of Quality
  - Enterprise Risk Management (Facilities and EOC)
    - Conner, Franks, Hroch
    - EOC Dashboard development and pilot
- vii. Quarterly IEHO call on 08 February
- viii. HHS Annual Safety Report
  - Data due 12 February
- c. WebEHRS (Sam Frank)
  - i. Establishment Type definition refinement - Area DEHS Directors' voting results
    - Grocery/Convenience Stores
      - Definition revisions approved: Establishment Type 46.1 – Grocery/C-Store and Establishment Type 46.2 – Grocery-based Bakery, Meat Department, and Delicatessen
      - New establishment approved: 46.2 – Grocery-based Bakery, Meat Department, and Delicatessen
    - Aquatic Facilities
      - New establishments approved
        - Establishment Type 55 – Basic Aquatic Facilities
        - Establishment Type 55.1 – Advanced Aquatic Facilities
        - Establishment Type 55.2 – Complex Aquatic Facilities
        - Establishment Type 55.3 – Water Parks  
-Work Day Factor  
-90% support a 4.0 WDF (reassess in 24 months)  
-10% favored 4.5 WDF
- d. DEHS Annual Meeting 2024 (Matt Albright)
  - i. Oklahoma City and Teams
  - ii. 30 April-02 May 2024
  - iii. Room block ends 14 March
  - iv. Planning committee (Matt, Gilbert, T Duffy, T Wildcat, Fish, Danny, Stephen) in-progress
  - v. Agenda nearly final



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e. Reminders (Stephen Piontkowski)

*See emails sent to Area DEHS Directors for details*

i. 31 January

- Project posters
- Area DEHS program description

ii. 09 February

- [2023 Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award](#); nominations due to [Brian Hroch](#)
- [2023 Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award](#); nominations due to [CDR Molly Madson](#)
- NEW for 2023 awardees – they will be invited to attend Annual DEHS Directors' Meeting in Oklahoma City, April 2024, and placed on HQ travel order

iii. 29 March

- Civil Service extern application window closes ([DE](#) and [ESEP](#))

Next conference call 01 August 2024 1:00-2:00PM ET