



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 02 February 2023

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call 06 April 2023 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	Charles Woodlee
Albuquerque:	Carrie Oyster	Navajo:	Donna Gilbert
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Phoenix:	Dave Cramer
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Portland:	Chris Fish
Great Plains:	Tim Wildcat	Tucson:	<i>Not on call</i>

Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson

Rockville: Mike Reed; Molly Madson

1. Welcome and Update (Mike Reed)

- a. Staffing
 - i. CDR Timothy Albright selected as Deputy Director, DEHS; reports 20 March
 - ii. Brian Hroch, IEH Program Manager, reports 12 February
 - iii. GS-12 Environmental Health Specialist (i.e., IP/TIPCAP Coordinator) vacancy announcement closed 23 January; 300 applicants; panel pending
 - iv. [Senior Environmental Health Specialist](#) (i.e., Vice Reed) vacancy announcement closes 21 February
- b. WebEHRS 101 in-person course 24-26 January 2023
 - i. 22 participants
 - ii. Course went well
 - iii. Thanks to CDP & EHSC
- c. EH Civil Service Extern Option
 - i. Advertised as [DE](#) & [ESEP](#): most students will apply to [DE](#) unless they are currently employed by federal gov't or claim Indian preference or claiming Veteran's preference; advertising both [DE](#) & ESEP to cast the net as wide as possible to attract as many applicants as possible
 - ii. Basic Requirements: most students should meet the "education" requirement because they would have completed the 30 semester hours even if they have not earned the degree yet; updated language for GS-05, "Actively pursuing a full-4 year course of study that meets all the requirements for a bachelor's degree. Prior to the start of the externship, applicant must have completed at least 30 semester hours in a science or any combination of sciences directly related to environmental health (such as sanitary science, public health, chemistry, microbiology, or any appropriate agricultural, biological, or physical science)"
- d. IHS funding for EMPOC positions – no update



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- e. GS-13 District EHO Position Description
 - i. Dave, Carolyn & Tim are working on a new standardized PD
- f. Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award – 2022
 - Congratulations LT Joseph Sarisky, Bemidji Area**
 - i. Albuquerque Area Nominee: Antoinette Toya
 - ii. Phoenix Area Nominee: Sherry Chase

2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Implementing work plan & Carrie is conducting site visits to the DEHS officers
 - ii. Preparing for OEHE training in late April
- c. Bemidji
 - i. Congratulations LT Sarisky
 - ii. Joint Commission was in Red Lake last week & we are responding to inquiries as needed
 - iii. Staffing
 - GS-11 EH Specialist, Mt. Pleasant, MI vacancy closes 31 December 2023 ([DE](#), [MP](#))
 - Brady Stidham, Minnesota District Office, is a newly Commissioned Officer
- d. Billings
 - i. Staffing
 - Bailey Chalfant, Service Unit Sanitarian, Crow SU reported 05 December
 - Blackfeet Service Unit Sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - Wind River Service Unit Sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - ii. General EH
 - Work seems to be returning to “normal”
 - CY22 program reviews complete
 - CY23 dashboards to be distributed soon
 - WebEHRS Mobile² demo & Q&A session w staff in mid-December
 - iii. IP
 - Davis Reardon, Service Unit Sanitarian, Wind River SU selected for IP Fellowship

- e. California
 - i. Area OEHE Workshop will be May 2023 in Sacramento
 - DEHS agenda will include strategic planning
 - CY2022 program evaluation complete & we reached all targets except IEH
 - Concerns that telework may impact performance were negated as many expectations were exceeded, further supporting telework
 - ii. Injury Prevention
 - Area mini-projects: 3 funded (personal flotation devices, fall prevention, CPS Tech training)
 - NARCAN pilot project in collaboration w SFC
 - iii. Infection prevention training for tribal programs in development
- f. Great Plains
 - i. PMAP close-out
 - ii. 4F Tables to be updated
 - iii. I-STAR work ongoing
 - iv. CY23 work plans in progress
 - v. Area OEHE workshop the week of 17 April 2023
 - vi. Staffing
 - IEHO vacancy announcement closes 30 April ([DE](#), [MP](#))
 - Area IP Specialist vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - Three field staff vacancy announcements forthcoming
- g. Nashville
 - i. Responding to weather emergencies
 - ii. Receiving input on what the Area's emergency management program should look like
 - iii. Working w staff & tribal partners on improving WebEHRS data
 - iv. Securing locations for medication drop box locations
 - v. Area's DFE manager recently transferred & given the additional workload from the new Mid-Atlantic Service Unit, DEHS staff may need to provide coverage until that vacancy is filled
- h. Navajo
 - i. New Tribal Administration in place in January
 - ii. COVID-19 mask mandate lifted
 - iii. New Tribal EH Director reported to duty
 - iv. Staffing
 - Selections made for Service Unit Sanitarian positions in Many Farms (2) & Gallup (1)
 - v. Four Corners without Borders – IP conference: in planning stage
 - vi. Area DEHS workshop in March

- i. Oklahoma City
 - i. Staffing
 - Lawton SU EH Specialist reporting 02 January
 - Clinton SU EH Specialist selection pending
 - Pawnee vacancy announcement still open ([DE](#), [MP](#))
 - Holton SU Sanitarian announcement closes 16 January 2024 ([DE](#), [MP](#))
 - BioMed managed by DEHS; working on filling vacancy
 - ii. Collaborating w VA in Norman, OK: VA purchased new hospital & Area IHS Director asked DEHS to assist tribes receive excessed equipment
 - iii. IP
 - Overdose mapping
 - NARCAN expansion
 - iv. Area DEHS workshop sometime in CY23
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Staffing
 - Three vacancies forthcoming: Whiteriver & two in Tempe
 - Dave Cramer retired from Commissioned Corps effective 01 February
 - ii. General EH
 - Submitted 5 DEHS project posters for 2022
 - Rick Smith Award nomination forthcoming
 - Working on USA Performance
 - GS-13 District EHO Position Description: met with Carolyn & Tim
 - iii. IEH
 - John launched the SharePoint Site
 - John resolved G200 data download
 - Looking forward to having the IEH team here in May; John & I are up for coordinating an evening out
 - Brandon Parker is managing the PIMC safety program; John is coaching/mentoring; platooning EHOs for 2 week rotation to help
 - iv. IP
 - Hopi seatbelt law scheduled for a vote this month; last month's vote was cancelled due to inclement weather
 - [PHX Fall Prevention Toolkit](#) is on the Phoenix Area website
 - Kayla Davis reported as Injury Prevention Coordinator, Western Arizona District Office, this week
 - National Academy of Sciences asked Rob to present on home medication neutralization pouches at their Poison Prevention Workgroup



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k. Portland

- i. Tribal Food Code – thank you for everyone’s help & sharing examples
- ii. IP Media Comms contractor site visit complete
- iii. Plans to attend IEH meeting in PHX
- iv. COVID-19
 - Unsure how the end of the public health emergency declaration will impact operations (e.g. emergency use authorizations for air cleaners that are in place; infection prevention messaging to staff)

l. Tucson – *Not on call*

m. EHSC

- i. REHS study group
 - Led by LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland
 - In-progress
 - Beta testing forthcoming
- ii. Playground Safety course
 - Led by LT Braden Hickey
 - Pilot in Portland Area in April 2023
 - 2nd pilot in summer 2023
- iii. Competency model
 - Programming delay as of last week; working w IT to resolve
 - Jeff to send list of competencies to Area DEHS Directors for review
 - Target to have model available later in CY23
- iv. OEHE Orientation in Albuquerque week of 03 April
- v. IEH
 - Office Hours for Safety Officers: first session was this week & went very well
- vi. Staffing
 - General EH Consultant (vice Angela) vacancy announcement forthcoming



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3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention (Molly Madson)
 - i. Media Comm contract
 - Photo selection forthcoming; if interested please notify Molly
- b. Due dates reminders (Molly Madson)
 - i. 10 February
 - [Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award](#) nominations
 - [Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award](#) nominations: will ask for volunteers to score nominations
 - ii. 13 February – LPD Webinar, “Developing Others”
 - Register at [EHSC](#)
 - LPD program open to all OEHE employees
 - iii. 2022 FDA Food Code
 - Released late December 2022
 - WebEHRS update anticipated in winter 2023

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