



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

**DEHS Director Meeting: 03/03/2011**  
**Next quarterly conference call is scheduled for**  
**June 2, 2011 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.**

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

<b>Aberdeen:</b>	Chris Allen	<b>Nashville:</b>	Kit Grosch, Riley Grinnell
<b>Albuquerque:</b>	Brian Hroch	<b>Navajo:</b>	Wayne Hall
<b>Anchorage:</b>	Jeff Smith	<b>Oklahoma:</b>	Harold Cully
<b>Bemidji:</b>	Diana Kuklinski	<b>Phoenix:</b>	Mike Welch, Kenny Hicks
<b>Billings:</b>	Not on Call	<b>Portland:</b>	Celeste Davis
<b>California:</b>	Gordon Tsatoke	<b>Tucson:</b>	Mark Pike

**Environmental Health Support Center:** Ron Zabrocki

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

**1. Environmental Health Specialist of 2010: Kelly**

- a. Congratulations to Amanda Parris for being selected as the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) of 2010.
- b. 6 areas nominated staff for the award this year. All areas are encouraged to participate next year.
- c. 10 areas voted, all areas are encouraged to vote even if they do not nominate as it adds credibility to the award.
- d. Letters and certificates will be sent to the nominee for each area, please let Jessica know if your nominee has already received a certificate or plaque so that she can send the letter only.

**2. COSTEP Selections Status: Kelly**

- a. 23 students' names were sent to the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO) for selection this year (spreadsheet attached).
- b. OCCO asked that we identify which areas would be willing to hire externs by other mechanisms (civil service, tribal hire) if the orders do not get cut in time.
- c. In addition to the COSTEPs selected Oklahoma and Aberdeen plan on hiring civil service externs. If your area is planning on hiring a civil service extern please let Kelly know ASAP.



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## **3. Annual Meeting Status: Kelly**

- a. With the continuing resolution and travel moratorium in the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) at Headquarters, April is too close to plan for the meeting. In May there is a conflict with the Emergency Management meeting.
- b. Please email Jessica to suggest summer dates and locations that would work for you.

## **4. Area DEHS Reviews: Kelly**

- a. OEHE plans to conduct the reviews for all Divisions on a regular basis, at an approximate rate of 1 Area per quarter.
- b. Tentative schedule:
  - i. OKC June/July
  - ii. NS July/August
  - iii. CA August/Sept
  - iv. AQ (SFC and EHS) currently ongoing, DFO has finished their review
- c. DEHS is trying a new format that involves more conference calls before the site visit so Areas can have more time to address the issues they want to address during the site visit.

## **5. Photograph Contest Winner: Jessica**

- a. The winner of the photo contest this year is Patrick Peck from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Top three finishers are attached.
- b. Top three individuals will receive the new DEHS challenge coin, and the winner will get a 1 year subscription to Environmental Health Perspectives.
- c. We received 77 photos from 6 Areas, thank you to everyone who participated.
- d. Start taking photos for next year's contest now! If you can let staff know we need higher resolution photos (300 dpi is preferred, but we can work with 200 dpi) I would really appreciate it. Email Jessica with questions.

## **6. Annual Reports from Areas: Jessica**

- a. The reports from each area highlighting comprehensive and innovative projects that address one of the five priorities were due today. I have received reports from 6 areas and look forward to receiving the rest.
- b. Staffing spreadsheet is due today as well. I have received the sheet from 9 areas and hope to have the rest soon.

## **7. Institutional Environmental Health (IEH) Updates: Dave**

- a. Captain Wayne Keene was selected as the awardee for the IHS Director Award, "Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award".



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- b. We are conducting a WebCident outcomes and successes Survey Monkey questionnaire. The intent of the survey was to see how users are utilizing WebCident data to identify and develop worker and patient safety interventions. The survey was sent to 800 user account holders. The current survey response rate is 20%. The survey will close on March 11, 2011. Thank you to everyone that responded to the survey.
- c. IEH Program Manager will be attending and presenting at the Bemidji Area OEHE workshop, April 5-7, 2011.
- d. The National IEH Workshop is scheduled for May 19-21, 2011 in Portland, OR. The workshop is being held in conjunction with the American Industrial Hygiene Conference.
- e. Environmental Management System update:
  - i. The comment period for the IHS "Environmental Compliance, Stewardship, and Sustainability" policy (Draft Indian Health Manual Part 1, Chapter 13) is over. Final review will be completed this month.
  - ii. The comment period for the IHS "Sustainability Advisory Board" charter (IHS Circular) is over, completing final review and submission to the IHS Director.
  - iii. IHS Environmental Management System plan is being revised.
  - iv. IHS environmental sustainability award will be created.
  - v. Assisted in the review and rewrite of the DHHS Mercury Reduction Policy. Also developed a mercury spill response and mercury sources guidance documents for DHHS to use as support documents for the Mercury Reduction Policy.
- f. Safe Patient Movement and Handling workgroup is developing an IHS policy aimed to reduce injury risk to staff and employees during patient transfers.

## **8. Injury Prevention (IP) Updates: Nancy**

- a. Attended a meeting with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> regarding motor vehicle crash prevention best practices, lead by Holly Billie.
  - i. Tribal representatives, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) officials were in attendance.
  - ii. A follow-up meeting will be held in June in Atlanta, invitations will be sent out.
- b. The draft report for the Fall Prevention Initiative is complete and will be sent to all the workgroup members for comment.
- c. The Injury Prevention Fellowship training will be held May 9-13<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. Holly Billie will be leading the training and it is sponsored by CDC. Kenny Hicks is an instructor this year.
- d. The Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP) meeting will be held in Rockville April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Project officers should plan on attending.



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- i. Project officer training will be held before the meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. The TIPCAP advisory committee will also be meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- e. We have a contract with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to conduct a training needs assessment on Injury and Violence Prevention.
  - i. A survey went out via email in December but had a low response rate.
  - ii. A new email with a link to the survey will be sent out this week. Everyone is encouraged to reply.

## 9. COTS (commercial off the shelf) WebEHRS Update: Darren

- a. The subject matter expert review is almost complete. A big thank you to everyone who has participated in the calls.
- b. Development and early alpha testing is the next step, and we should be moving into that phase soon.
- c. We're beginning to discuss training options with CDP. Look for correspondence from Nancy Buck so that you can provide input on what types of training would be most useful to you and your staff.

## 10. DEHS Website "References" Section: Darren

- a. Please ask your staff to look at the references page on the DEHS website (<http://www.dehs.ihs.gov/index.cfm?content=references.cfm>) and provide Darren with updates as they see fit. This includes both the essential services as well as the subject areas listed on the site. There is a link on that page detailing how to submit suggestions.

## 11. Area Reports:

- a. **AB: Chris Allen**
  - i. Injury Prevention Specialist position coming soon.
  - ii. Re-advertising Sioux City position.
  - iii. The Area name may be changed from Aberdeen to "Great Plains".
  - iv. Introduction to Injury Prevention course will be held in Sisseton April 5-8 and in Pine Ridge May 3-6.
- b. **ANTHC: Jeff Smith**
  - i. Rachel Goldberger left the Anchorage office, but Korie Burroughs took her place.
  - ii. Jen Dobson went back to Bethel; they also hired Graham Knapp.
  - iii. All current positions are filled, but new grants may produce more vacancies.
  - iv. Thanks to Ron for setting up the CDC Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) training. There were 50 attendees and they really appreciated the training.
- c. **AQ: Brian Hroch for Leisa Cook**
  - i. Vacancies: Acomita-Canoncito Laguna (ACL) Sanitarian position is still in Human Resources.



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- ii. There is an Occupational Safety and Health position also pending HR.
  - iii. There was a casino plan review course at the end of January that had 25 attendees from 6 areas.
  - iv. Getting ready for the headquarters review.
- d. **BE: Diana Kuklinski**
- i. Switching back to Aberdeen HR in hope of getting announcements out.
  - ii. Two vacant positions: Bemidji and Rhinelander for up to an O4 billet. Looking for someone on a first or second assignment.
- e. **BI: Not on Call**
- f. **CA: Gordon Tsatoka**
- i. March 15-18 introduction to Injury Prevention course. There are 16 registrants and it is currently closed for registration.
  - ii. April 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the Area Workshop. It will include customer service training.
  - iii. There are new automated handwashing systems in the casino food service operations. There is an evaluation project in the works for this equipment.
- g. **NS: Kit Grosch**
- i. Waiting on the budget to see if they can hire a new Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Depending on how much they get it will be either entry level or an O-3/O-4.
  - ii. A past EHO COSTEP (Allison Berch) went on to pharmacy school and is currently interning with Catawba.
  - iii. The Environmental Health Director from Illinois State passed away. If you know any alumni let them know there will be a memorial celebration on April 10<sup>th</sup> and you can contact Kit for more information.
- h. **NV : Wayne Hall**
- i. No report
- i. **OK: Harold Cully**
- i. Entry level EHO position will be opening soon in Pawnee, updates to follow.
- j. **PH: Kenny Hicks**
- i. Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD) will be doing a training mission in Yuma. They will work with some of the tribes there the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>. OFRD has also shown interest in coming to Pine Ridge sometime in August. It would be nice in the



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future to be more involved in the process so that we can help with logistics and also identify some projects that would have increased value for our communities.

- ii. 6 TIPCAP coordinators are hired and 2 more are pending.
- iii. Canadian EHS will be arriving the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and will stay through the 25<sup>th</sup> working in the Western District with Vince Garcia. They hope to do some cross-training with our field staff.
- iv. Several tribes are opening rather large facilities/resorts (example: \$100 million complex for spring training, baseball). We're working with the tribes to prioritize the workload for these unique facilities.
- v. National Life Savers Conference is coming up. Two of our staff are presenting: Amanda Parris and Tim Shelhamer.
- vi. Two positions are in the works: Staff Sanitarian in Reno and a Sr. Staff Sanitarian doing Emergency Preparedness work at the Area office. Hopefully they will be advertised by the end of the year.
- vii. CAPT Welch mentioned there is a call for presentations for the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) conference specifically aimed at Uniformed Services. NEHA will be the same week as COF this week. It is a good idea to present there to showcase the good work we do at IHS.

## k. **PO: Celeste Davis**

- i. Wildfire caused a state of emergency for one of the tribes in the area. Most of the response was handled locally. We are trying to assist them through the recovery phase. There were no injuries or deaths.
- ii. Montana State and EPA worked with us to put on a healthy housing course. About 50 people attended. Another one will be held with EHSC this summer.
- iii. Physical security assessments at all of the federal sites was completed in December and January. The results will be presented soon.
- iv. Introduction to Injury Prevention course will be held in Portland on May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.
- v. Environmental Protection Specialist position just closed. There were 52 applicants, 32 made the cut—hope to have a panel by the end of the week.
- vi. Bremerton WA and Spokane WA positions are soon to be advertised.

## l. **TU: Mark Pike**

- i. EHT position will hopefully be advertised soon.
- ii. Sells Safety Officer position has been classified, but not advertised.
- iii. Glendale is putting up a large destination resort. We are experiencing the same issues as the Phoenix Area regarding



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resources and priorities.

m. **EHSC: Ron Zabrocki**

- i. IEH/EH vacancy is still at HR for classification.
- ii. The new website enrollment feature asks for supervisor email information and whether or not the student is from a federally recognized tribe. The new system will alert supervisors if a person enrolls in or drops a course. The new website includes an online course evaluation and will generate certificates of completion for the courses.
- iii. FDA Plan Review course was scheduled for Omaha, but was cancelled due to travel restrictions. FDA is still willing to offer the course but we need a host. If you're interested in hosting the training let Ron know.
- iv. Biology and Control of Public Health Vectors: Scheduled for Albuquerque in April. Not enough people are registered for the course to happen. If it is cancelled and you are willing to host it please let Ron know. We need at least 25 attendees for the course to take place.
- v. Areas nominated people to attend the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) training. EHSC will pay for their registration. Let Ron know who your nominee is.
- vi. 2012 training needs assessment will be happening soon. Stay tuned for future correspondence.

***The call ended after 1 hour and 19 minutes.***

**END OF NOTES**