



Environmental Health Services

● Healthy Environments = Healthy People ●

DEHS Director Meeting: 11/13/14

Next meeting will be held on January 8th, 2015 from 1:00-2:30 EST

Alaska:	Denman Ondelacy, Jeff Smith	Nashville:	Not on Call
Albuquerque:	Debra Grabowski	Navajo:	Wayne Hall
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Billings:	Not on Call	Phoenix:	Not on Call
California:	Gordon Tsatoke	Portland:	Celeste Davis
Great Plains:	Chris Allen	Tucson:	Not on Call

Environmental Health Support Center: Richard Turner

Rockville: Kelly Taylor, John Smart, Darren Buchanan, Nancy Bill, David McMahon, Jessica Otto

1. Headquarters Announcements: Kelly Taylor

- Congratulations to the members of the original Core Team. Unit Commendations were mailed and should be in your eOPF. Members recognized on the call included Chris Allen, Molly Curry, and Celeste Davis. Thank you for your service.
- Kelly will be sending out a memo with the Resource Requirement Methodology (RRM) numbers and injury statistic adjustments soon. Directors can get the RRM information for themselves directly from WebEHRS.

2. Input on the 2015 DEHS Director Meeting: All

- The Directors were asked to provide input on when and where the 2015 DEHS Director Meeting should be held. The responses are below. A survey will be sent out to gather more information.

2015 DEHS Director Meeting Input

Area	Where	When
AK	Albuquerque	
AQ	Open to location	late March/early April
BE	DC or Minneapolis	early April
BI		
CA	Oklahoma City	late March
GP	DC or Minneapolis	late March/early April
NS		
NV		
OKC	Oklahoma City	March (not 16-20) or April (not 3rd)
PH	Phoenix	April or mid-June (following Fellowship Symposium)
PO	Oklahoma City or Minneapolis	late March
TU		
EHSC	Albuquerque	concurrent with Orientation Course (March 9-13)

3. Inter-Agency Agreements: All

The question was posed: Do you have any non-construction EPA IAA for Environmental Health?

- a. Great Plains solid waste/brownfields through SFC. Portland has two: One for pesticides and one for underground storage tanks.

4. Area Reports:

a. **AK: Denman Ondelacy/Jeff Smith**

- i. An entry for the HHS Ignites contest from the area made it through the first round of voting. It is for an app for trench safety at construction sites.
- ii. Hosted the Alaska Tribal Environmental Management Conference. It was very well attended.
- iii. Troy Ritter has an article in the latest Journal of Environmental Health, and is featured on the cover.

b. **AQ: Debra Grabowski**

- i. Staff has been supporting work on Ebola preparedness. Healthcare facilities in the area got an excellent rating which can be attributed to that work. Special thanks to Brian Hroch for his efforts.
- ii. The New Mexico affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association had its annual conference and awarded Molly Madson with the Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award, and Jeff Dickson with the Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Health Award.
- iii. Recently held the 2015 program planning meeting with staff to set the direction of the program for the upcoming year.
- iv. Plan on having two vacancies advertised, one GS 5/7/9 and one GS 9/11 for environmental health specialists.

c. **BE: Tim Duffy**

- i. Will soon be advertising a GS 9/11 for the Minnesota District. Will also list two GS 4/5 vacancies under the Pathways program in hopes to get EH students on board, and possibly hire them after graduation.

d. **BI: Joe Amiotte**

- i. Not on call.

e. **CA: Gordon Tsatoke**

- i. The vacancy announcement for the Redding District position has closed and interviews are underway.

f. **GP: Chris Allen**

- i. Veronica Leaf will be starting soon.
- ii. Teams of staff have been working diligently on severe injury surveillance and hope to wrap up soon.

g. **NS: Kit Grosch**

- i. Not on call.

h. **NV : Wayne Hall**

- i. The reorganization of the area office is complete.
- ii. Plan on two vacancies soon, one Area Office Staff EHO GS 11, and one Field EHO in Manny Farms GS 9/11.

i. **OK: Danny Walters**

- i. Chris Kates starts on January 12th as the area Intuitional Environmental Health Specialist.

- ii. Aaron McNeill leaves for California soon. One of the tribes at the Pawnee Service Unit is looking into compacting their program after he leaves.
 - iii. Would like to hire an Area Injury Prevention Specialist next year.
 - j. **PH: Kenny Hicks**
 - i. Not on call.
 - k. **PO: Celeste Davis**
 - i. Brooks Burrow was hired for the Bremerton position.
 - ii. There are several injury prevention projects starting up.
 - iii. Getting close to having a reimbursement protocol for environmental health home visits.
 - l. **TU: Martin Smith**
 - i. Not on call.
 - m. **EHSC: Richard Turner**
 - i. The Environmental Health Specialist position closed and interviews should start soon.
 - ii. The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering Orientation Course will be held March 9-13th in Albuquerque.
- 5. Integrated Pest Management Project: Celeste Davis and Holly Thompson Duffy**
- a. The pilot projects are drawing to a close and were successful
 - b. Would like to offer the program to other areas. Please let Holly know if you are interested.
 - i. Training will be provided to staff how to use the risk assessment tool. EPA and EHSC have agreed to partner to provide this training.
 - ii. Staff should link with EPA staff to turn the assessment forms into a score to develop facility specific action plans.
 - iii. Celeste is posting the packet to the DEHS Directors group on Yammer. It can be found here: https://www.yammer.com/hhs.gov/uploaded_files/26805029. If you have not yet joined Yammer email Jessica and she can get you set up.
- 6. Workforce Development: John Smart**
- a. Took a vote to see if this was still relevant and if areas would use the program once it is fully developed. All on call agreed they would use it.
 - b. Discussed where we are in the process and that we need a champion and a workgroup to move it forward.
 - i. Richard volunteered to be the lead, and volunteered his new staff EHO (when hired). Please let Richard know if you have other staff who could put some time toward this initiative.
 - ii. The new restructure in the Human Resources Department may open a window to revisit standard PD's which could inform this process.
- 7. Miscellaneous Items: Jessica Otto**
- a. Discussed new Head Start regulations and inspection protocol. Will send out to the directors for comment.
 - b. Darren will send out new Model Aquatic Health Code for comment.
 - c. Darren will also send out an email detailing the updates for WebEHRS.

The next quarterly meeting will be held after the 1st of the year.