



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

## DEHS Director Meeting: 01/08/15

Next meeting will be held on March 5th, 2015 from 1:00-2:30 EDT

|                      |                 |                   |               |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Alaska:</b>       | Denman Ondelacy | <b>Nashville:</b> | Kit Grosch    |
| <b>Albuquerque:</b>  | Brian Hroch     | <b>Navajo:</b>    | Brian Johnson |
| <b>Bemidji:</b>      | Tim Duffy       | <b>Oklahoma:</b>  | Danny Walters |
| <b>Billings:</b>     | Not on Call     | <b>Phoenix:</b>   | Kelli Mohler  |
| <b>California:</b>   | Gordon Tsatoke  | <b>Portland:</b>  | Matthew Ellis |
| <b>Great Plains:</b> | Chris Allen     | <b>Tucson:</b>    | Don Williams  |

**Environmental Health Support Center:** Richard Turner

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

### 1. Performance Measures: Kelly Taylor

- a. Our target was not met for the environmental surveillance measure.
- b. Our injury prevention measure met and exceeded our goal.
- c. In 2015 we need to collect best practices and share them. If you had successful interventions please start gathering information about it. More information will be forthcoming.
- d. In 2016 we start a new round of measures. Your staff will need to use WebEHRS for their food safety survey and seatbelt survey data for the new measure. More information will be shared throughout 2015 so that we can all prepare to collect the data in 2016.

### 2. Headquarters Updates: Kelly Taylor

- a. If you have any former COSTEPs that would be interested in applying for general duty, please encourage them to do so. This is currently the only way to apply to be an EHO. If you find out anyone that wants to apply/is in the process of applying please send their names to Kelly.

### 3. Injury Prevention Program Updates: Nancy Bill

- a. The Fellowship received 10 applications. Letters of acceptance will be sent out next week. Phoenix, Navajo, Albuquerque, Oklahoma City, Alaska, Great Plains, and Bemidji all had applicants.
- b. Child Passenger Safety (CPS) webinar will be held next month. It will focus on best practices and everyone is welcome to attend.

### 4. Institutional Environmental Health Program Updates: Dave McMahon

- a. Thank you for those who shared their staff (Brian Hroch, Matthew Ellis, and Michael Box) to come to Rockville on to work on the industrial hygiene protocols. The workgroup was

able to complete four of the protocols.

#### **5. Data Systems Updates: Darren Buchanan**

- a. The next round of modifications for WebEHRS will be starting soon. They include changes to update the food forms. Specifics are posted on the homepage when you login to WebEHRS.

#### **6. 2015 DEHS Director Meeting: Kelly Taylor**

- a. The DEHS Director Meeting will be held April 27-May 1, 2015 in Oklahoma City, OK.
- b. You are welcome to invite one protégé or tribal environmental health program person to accompany you to the meeting. Travel expenses are incumbent upon the area.
- c. A survey will be sent soon to collect your ideas for agenda items. We will send a list of known topics that you can add to.

#### **7. Misc. Announcements/Reminders: Jessica Otto**

- a. The Environmental Health Specialist of 2014 nominations are due by Friday, February 6, 2015. Voting occurs February 9-23, 2015 and the announcement will follow shortly after that. The nomination packet will be emailed to you by COB January 9th.
- b. COSTEP selections will be taking place January 22. Thank you for sending in your information. We will do our best to select candidates to meet your needs. Please interview them when we send you their packets and keep us and the students informed of your selections. Helpful documents will be posted on the DEHS Directors group page on Yammer.
  - i. Remember these are undergraduate students, and will not have any environmental health field experience yet.
- c. Thank you to those of you who have sent in your staffing data for 2014. For those of you who haven't please do so ASAP.
- d. Project posters for 2014 are due January 30. Email Jessica if you have questions.
- e. The 2014 Photo Contest is ongoing. The last day to submit photos is February 27. Please encourage your staff to send in photos.

#### **8. Tribal Food Code Update: Darren Buchanan**

- a. We have not performed an update to the Tribal Food Code module since 2012. FDA and other organizations often ask for this information and it also helps us show our impact on reducing foodborne illness risk factors through policy.
- b. Please login to your WebEHRS account, click on "my account" and then "view/edit Tribal Food Code information". You can make your edits there. A video of the process can be viewed here: <http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/p7t5b9t950z/>. Updates are due by close of business February 20, 2015.
- c. Currently Directors are the only people with access to update the module. If you would like one of your other staff to have access let Darren know.

#### **9. Area Reports:**

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

- i. Three of the ANTHC staff have recently passed the REHS exam and are now registered: Josh Liles, Alyssa Gustafson, and Lacey Walsh.
- ii. Chris Dankmeyer is now the Environmental Health Manager for Maniilaq.

- b. **AQ: Brian Hroch**
  - i. Antoinette Toya was selected for the vacancy at the Albuquerque Office.
  - ii. The Albuquerque Area GS 9/11 position and the Santa Fe position vacated by Molly Madson will be advertised soon.
  - iii. Staff are attending FDA Reduced Oxygen Packaging course this week.
- c. **BE: Tim Duffy**
  - i. Currently interviewing for the Minnesota District Office GS 9/11 position.
  - ii. Staff EHO GS 7/9/11 at the Area Office vacancy was just announced today.
- d. **BI: Not on call**
- e. **CA: Gordon Tsatoke**
  - i. Molly Madson will report to the Redding District Office on 1 FEB.
- f. **GP: Chris Allen**
  - i. Wrapping up the severe injury surveillance activities at Rosebud. Hope to finish at the other service units and produce an area injury profile, with community specific information to assist in program decisions and prepare for grant proposals later in 2015.
- g. **NS: Kit Grosch**
  - i. Charles Craig started working in Manlius in October. Riley has been tapped as the TransAm onsite manager and splitting his duties with EH. If TransAm becomes too demanding there will be an advertisement for an additional EH position to provide coverage.
- h. **NV : Brian Johnson**
  - i. Have been involved in the listeria monocytogenes outbreak associated with caramel apples. There have been 4 cases on Navajo and 32 nationally.
  - ii. Updating Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) with Head Start.
  - iii. Continuing work with the Epi Center. Technical capacity has increased and work is ongoing.
  - iv. Provided an orientation to the services that the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) provides to the 13 new Tribal Council members.
  - v. Brook Burros went to Portland and his vacancy at Many Farms (GS 5/7/9) will be advertised soon. If you have former interns or COSTEPs that might be interested please let Brian know. Howard Yazzie recently retired. The staff san/EH position GS 11/12 slot to refill that will be advertised soon.
- i. **OK: Danny Walters**
  - i. Chris Kates reports for duty on 12 January. Aaron McNeill transferred to California. Discussions are ongoing to fill the Area Injury Prevention Specialist vacancy later this year.
- j. **PH: Kelli Mohler**
  - i. There are 4 positions that will be/have been announced: Area EH/Emergency Preparedness GS 7/9, Elko Service Unit GS 7/9, Parker SU Sanitarian GS 7/9, and Phoenix Indian Medical Center GS 12.

- ii. Indoor air quality investigation at the San Carlos Hospital in December. There were reports of acute staff and patient respiratory complaints. There was a 4 day closure of the whole hospital and 20 day closure of the outpatient clinic while the air sampling and investigation took place. EH staff, an Industrial Hygienist and HAZMAT team helped with the investigation and response. The agent/cause was never identified. There was no lingering danger present. An after action report will be available sometime in the next 30 days.
- k. **PO: Matthew Ellis**
- i. Brooks Burrow was hired for the Bremerton position and reported last week.
- l. **TU: Don Williams**
- i. Martin Smith will return from Ebola response and quarantine on Monday.
  - ii. Hosting Intro to Injury Prevention course in February. If you have interested students please have them register.
  - iii. Angela Hodge reports to the Environmental Health Support Center (EHSC) in March. Tucson will look to fill that vacancy sometime this year.
  - iv. Chris Caler will be commissioning in February, and will be in Rockville at the Officer Basic Course.
- m. **EHSC: Richard Turner**
- i. OEHE Orientation will happen in March. There are only 7 environmental health staff enrolled and 26 engineers. If you have ideas of what should be covered during the orientation please send Richard your ideas.
  - ii. Angela Hodge will be reporting in early March.
  - iii. The website is undergoing a major overhaul this spring/summer.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 1:00-2:00 Eastern.