

DEHS Director Meeting: 06/14/2012
Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for
Thursday September 6th at 1:00 pm EST

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

Aberdeen:	Chris Allen	Nashville:	Kit Grosch & Emily Patton
Albuquerque:	Leisa Cook & Jeff Dickson	Navajo:	Not on Call
Alaska:	Jeff Smith	Oklahoma:	Richard Turner
Bemidji:	Diana Kuklinski	Phoenix:	Not on Call
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Portland:	Celeste Davis & Matthew Ellis
California:	Gordon Tsatoke	Tucson:	Don Williams

Environmental Health Support Center: Not on Call

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

1. Institutional Environmental Health (IEH) Update: Dave

- a. Standardization of IHS Safety Officers: a guidance document regarding the recommended grade/level and organizational placement of safety officers in IHS has been submitted to all IEH staff for review and comment.
- b. EComp Looming: the Department of Labor Electronic Workers’ Compensation system (EComp) is somewhere in the production and roll out phase. We’re not yet sure how it will affect local safety officers of WebCident, but IEH staff should be aware that changes may be coming soon.
- c. Impact of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Regulatory Interpretations Regarding Radiation Safety: a paper written CAPT McMahon explains the CMS requirements for medical physicist testing of x-ray devices for organizations seeking to meet condition of participation for CMS reimbursements. This may impact the IEH radiation protection program and surveys. The paper has been forwarded to the IHS Chief Medical Officer and the Director of the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. Earlier this year CAPT McMahon provided recommendations on CT radiation safety to the IHS Chief Medical Officer and the medical program.
- d. IEH Residency: students arrive July 2nd and will begin their yearlong curriculum at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. IEH staff have revised and completed a Residency Competency Assessment Tool to help measure the progress of these students, and anyone in IEH against identified competencies. Thank you to Richard Turner, Brian Hroch, Keith Cook, Dave Cramer, and Kit Grosch for your assistance in the revision and development of the tool.
- e. IEH Conference call: the next call will be on June 29th.

2. Injury Prevention (IP) Updates: Nancy

- a. The current IP Fellowship class will have a meeting in Portland in 2 weeks. This cohort started with 15 applicants, went down to 12, and now there are only 9 current fellows. The travel restrictions have been the key force in this reduction.
- b. Be on the lookout for the July issue of the IHS Provider, it will once again feature IP articles.
- c. Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP) continuation applications are in the process in grantsolutions.gov for review. This will take several weeks. There is a new system called "Grants Solutions" and it is proving difficult to use. When a grant application is reviewed and approved, an email goes out to all IHS project officers. Please disregard these emails.
- d. The annual IP meeting for 2013 will be held in Denver following the National Lifesavers conference. There will be separate meetings prior to the TIPCAP workshop. The separate meetings will include the Project Officers and TIPCAP advisory committee. Nancy is working with the Econometrica contractor and TIPCAP advisory committee in planning the 2013 agenda.

3. DEHS Deputy Director Position: Kelly

- a. Just a reminder that the Deputy Director position for DEHS is open and the application process will close on Monday, June 18th.

4. Strategic Planning: Kelly

- a. From the DEHS Director meeting in March there were 5 potential focus areas for the current strategic planning process (see page 7 of the summary document). Those focus areas were: Workforce Development, Resource Management (continuation of vision element #4), Operational Model, WebEHRS (continuation of vision element #2), and Community Engagement/Mobilization. We as a group need to pick 1 or 2 of these potential focus areas to move forward with.
- b. It was proposed that resource management be handled by headquarters. Resources and training on resource requirement methodology (RRM) for EHS and Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) will be developed and paired with the powerpoint and documents already developed by vision element team #4. Jessica will present the new materials to the Directors.
- c. Directors were asked to vote on moving forward with either 1 focus area or 2 focus areas at a time. The two focus areas that topped the list from the strategic workshop were Workforce Development and Operational Model. Dave added that these were also the top two focus areas for IEH.
- d. After the group decides on how many focus areas to work on we will need a list of volunteers for the Core Group. This is open to all staff, but should be someone who has a good grasp of the program. Let Susan know if you, or someone you would like to nominate can participate in this group.
- e. The CORE Group will review the Action Planning and Implementation Worksheets from the strategic planning workshop and set up teams with clear deliverables and proposed outcomes and actions. Once this is solidified there will be a call for volunteers for those focus groups.
- f. **NOTE:** after a vote the group decided to work on 1 focus area at a time. The first focus area will be Workforce Development.

5. New WebEHRS: Darren

- a. We want to send out a survey about how WebEHRS reports are working for you. He will send out the survey soon. Responses are due June 28th. We are currently holding payment until we know that the reports are correct, running correctly and producing accurate data for your area.

6. Area Reports:

- a. **AB: Chris Allen**
 - i. Two issues have been keeping the area busy: a tainted meat incident in Pine Ridge and Hanta Virus. There were two cases and 1 fatality from Hanta Virus.
 - ii. Trey Tahsuda and Tyler White have started their Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP) tours.
 - iii. The opening in Wagner closes today. There will be an opening at the Three Affiliated Tribes soon. We recently hired Brian Jacobson and Jessica Whirlwind Soldier.
 - iv. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.
- b. **AK: Jeff Smith**
 - i. We recently hired an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) graduate to work in health promotion. Her name is Johanna Gaines and she starts in July.
 - ii. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.
- c. **AQ: Leisa Cook**
 - i. The online food handler training is in full swing. Last month 350 people tried the online training. 142 took the test and got a certificate.
 - ii. The community abandoned wells project is working on one community pilot project. The hope is that a best practice can be developed and shared with other communities.
 - iii. They have been unable to fully utilize the new WebEHRS. Documents are not uploading and they are not able to use the mobile version. Therefore e-surveys are not currently being used.
 - iv. Rabies clinics are almost done for the year.
 - v. They are trying to fill the Santa Fe and Ignacio vacancies. There will be a safety and EH position listed for Mescalero soon.
 - vi. Lauren Butner began her COSTEP and they have hired a contractor to work with IEH.
 - vii. Voted to work on 2 focus areas at a time.
- d. **BE: Diana Kuklinski**
 - i. Having a problem with WebEHRS where old facilities are showing up on the new list.
 - ii. Were working on a staff sanitarian position, but after it went through classification at Human Resources (HR) it came back unrecognizable. They have scrapped working on that position. In a few months they should have an advertisement for a sustainability/project officer position.
 - iii. Tim Taylor is leaving for HQ for the IEH Residency program. Billy Porter will come on board July 1st. Three COSTEPs have started their tours.
 - iv. Voted to work on 1 focus area.
- e. **BI: Darcy Merchant**
 - i. The Area just held an Environmental Health Consequences of Meth training. There were 35+ participants.
 - ii. They continue to work with the Notifiable Diseases and External Cause of Injury (NDECI) database to analyze data for local trends. Pertussis has been an issue in Montana.
 - iii. There is a position at Blackfeet open, it is a GS 9. Ft. Peck has a new hire, and there will be a GS 11 opening soon at Wind River. The COSTEP Matthew Reid starts June 18th.
 - iv. Voted to work on 2 focus areas at a time.
- f. **CA: Gordon Tsatoke**

- i. In April they hosted training on safe use of Nitrous Oxide (NOx) and dental x-ray surveys. Thank you to the Oklahoma Area and Danny Walters for the assistance on this.
 - ii. There will be an entry level vacancy advertised soon.
 - iii. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.
- g. **NS: Kit Grosch**
 - i. Riley would like to participate in any groups working on WebEHRS. He has become a proficient user and would like to help with any edits and updates to the system.
 - ii. COSTEP Emily Patton started her tour. The area is talking about not hiring any COSTEPs in the future.
 - iii. Hope to advertise their vacancy but it is stuck in HR.
 - iv. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.
- h. **NV : Not on Call**
- i. **OK: Richard Turner**
 - i. Recently hired a civil service person, Anna Thomas, to work on HSPD12. Grace Lao started her COSTEP at Shawnee. The other COSTEP is absent and unaccounted for. There will be vacancies advertised at Pawnee and Shawnee soon. David Bales is now working at Claremore as the safety officer.
 - ii. Voted to work on 2 focus areas at a time.
- j. **PH: Not on call**
- k. **PO: Celeste Davis**
 - i. No updates. Looking forward to the DEHS review in June.
 - ii. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.
- l. **TU: Don Williams**
 - i. Rabies clinics have administered over 1,036 shots to community animals. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is ongoing.
 - ii. Two positions, one at Casa Grande and one Environmental Health Technician are very close to being advertised. No work on the Branch Chief position. COSTEP arrived and is out in the field working.
 - iii. Voted to work on 1 focus area at a time.

**Call ended at 2:09PM EST
END OF NOTES**