DEHS Directors’ Meeting: 02/07/19
Meeting recording available: https://ihs.cosocloud.com/pmsa4zcenvwm/
Next conference call May 02, 2019 1:00-2:30PM ET

Alaska: Not on call  
Albuquerque: Debra Grabowski  
Bemidji: Tim Duffy  
Billings: Darcy Merchant  
California: Carolyn Garcia  
Great Plains: Not on call  
Nashville: Riley Grinnell  
Navajo: Donna Gilbert  
Oklahoma: Danny Walters  
Phoenix: Kenny Hicks  
Portland: Not on call  
Rockville: Kelly Taylor, Martin Smith, Charles Woodlee, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski, Tracy Hackett  
Tucson: Cathie Frazier  
Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson

1. Director’s Welcome and Update (Kelly Taylor)
   a. Promotion 2019
   b. Vacancies in the Areas
      i. 30 boarded Commissioned Corps officers looking for full-time positions
      ii. Please give Kelly a ‘heads-up’ when you know new vacancies will be announced and reach out to her if you want a list of applicants to contact about specific job opportunities
   c. OEHE Technical Handbook
      i. Please be familiar with Volume VIII-Environmental Health Services-Operational Model
   d. Awards
      i. EHOPAC award nominations due March 06, 2019, to CDR Jamie Mutter
   e. Photo Contest 2018 Winner
      i. CDR Tanya Davis took the winning photo of LT Riley Grinnell in September 2018 conducting a food safety survey of a temporary food vendor at the 72nd annual Shinnecock Indian Powwow. Both officers are from the Nashville Area.
2. DEHS Directors’ National Meeting-2019 (Martin Smith)
   a. Dates: April 22-26 2019 in Oklahoma City
   b. Planning Committee Volunteers
      i. Martin Smith
      ii. Stephen Piontkowski
      iii. Danny Walters
      iv. Gordon Tsatoke
      v. Tim Duffy

3. COSTEPs (Stephen Piontkowski)
   a. Currently placing 11 COSTEP’s from 8 Universities, in 5 Areas
      i. DCCPR extended 1662’s deadlines to February 15, 2019
      ii. IHS HQ will continue to share info as received
   b. Idea proposed for HQ to host national symposium among DEHS and SFC

4. WebEHRS Update (Mike Reed)
   a. Change Control Board
      i. Monthly calls moved to quarterly
      ii. January call postponed: new date will be announced
      iii. 10 change items: complete and verified
      iv. Backlog of feedback items cleared
   b. Data Quality
      i. Session 1, 7, and 8 establishment review-complete
         1. Implementation plan in progress
         2. This closes-out follow up items from the 2018 national DEHS meeting in Albuquerque
   c. NDECI
      i. Anticipated pilot start date: December 01, 2018 delayed due to technical issues
      ii. New timeline: TBA

5. Injury Prevention Program Update (Martin Smith)
   a. Epidemiology Fellowship Updates
      i. Call for applications is open
      ii. Online training available for some courses
      iii. New fellowship will be held at Johns Hopkins
      iv. Details at www.ihs.gov/injuryprevention/training/fellowship
   b. National AI/AN Injury Prevention Conference
      i. When: July 23-25, 2019
      ii. Where: Denver, CO
      iii. CDC to co-host
   c. Area IP projects
      i. First progress report due February 13, 2019
   d. HQ IP Position
      i. In HR
e. IP Specialist Meeting and TIPCAP Project Officer Training
   i. When: Postponed; new date will be announced
   ii. Where: Atlanta, GA

6. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)
   a. WebCident Replacement
      i. Currently headed by Office of Clinical Preventive Services
      ii. Contract kick-off meeting in the next couple of weeks
      iii. Tailoring to IHS could take 8 months
         1. May reach out to request volunteers to assist with review/testing
   b. Residency
      i. Dusty Joplin finalizing thesis
      ii. Pending USU acceptance of new IHS applicant
      iii. Work continuing on Field-based Residency
   c. Policy Revisions
      i. OSH and Inf. Ctrl chapters still in holding pattern
      ii. Awaiting final revisions
   d. Gefroh Award
      i. Announcement forthcoming

7. Area Reports
   a. Alaska – Not on call
   b. Albuquerque
      i. Staffing
         1. Jerry Lee, Area Injury Prevention Specialist, retired December 2018
         2. Institutional position to be advertised in the near future
         3. EHO positions vacant
            a. Two in Santa Fe, NM
            b. One in Durango, CO
         4. Debbie Grabowski to retire end of February 2019
            a. Travis Bowser will be Acting
      ii. Injury Prevention Grants
         1. Glad we have them
         2. Working on progress reports
   c. Bemidji
      i. Staffing
         1. Selected Dave Waybenais, Field EH Specialist, Minnesota District Office
         2. Senior EH Specialist GS-11, Ashland, WI field office: announcement forthcoming
         3. COSTEPs: On track to host 3
      ii. Area OEHE Workshop
         1. Tentative: Second week of April
d. Billings
   i. Staffing
      1. Selected Meghan Byrd, EH Specialist, Wind River Service Unit
      2. We are fully staffed for the first time in a long while
   ii. Injury Prevention
      1. New IP Specialist planning IP projects
   iii. EH Inspection Dashboard complete
      1. Six month project

e. California
   i. Working on projects funded by Area IP grants
   ii. Area OEHE Workshop
      1. Tentative date: March 11-15
      2. Place: Monterey, CA

f. Great Plains – Not on call

g. Nashville
   i. Staffing
      1. EH Specialist, Nashville Area Office: announcement forthcoming
   ii. Planning to visit 7 new Virginia Tribes
   iii. Planning to conduct Injury Prevention training

h. Navajo
   i. Staffing
      1. Staff EH Specialist, Navajo Area Office, GS-11: announcement forthcoming
      2. Field EH positions, GS-7-9
         a. Two in Shiprock, NM
         b. Two in Many Farms, AZ

i. Oklahoma
   i. Staffing
      1. Filled a position in Lawton
      2. Looking to fill in Holton, KS
   ii. Working on planning DEHS Directors’ National Meeting-2019

j. Phoenix
   i. Staffing
      1. Announced
         a. EH Specialist GS-0601-7/9 (Pathways)
         b. EH Specialist GS-0601-11 at Elko, NV; Reno, NV; San Carlos, AZ; Tempe, AZ; Whiteriver, AZ
      2. Jennifer Corrigan, EH Specialist GS-0601-11, reported to Reno, NV on January 20: She comes to us after serving 12+ years as EH Specialist with Coconino County (Flagstaff, AZ)
      3. Rebekah Abangan, EH Specialist GS-0601-11 reported to Tempe, AZ on February 3: She transferred from San Carlos where she served almost 3 years
4. LT Stephanie Bridges’ transfer to National Park Service in Atlanta will occur Feb 11
5. COSTEPs: Plans to host 3
   ii. Medication Lock Box Pilot Project
      1. Deployed 80 lock boxes in homes of 8 tribal communities
      2. Currently working on assessment of practices of use
      3. Hope information will inform tribes interested in secure medication storage and reduce risks of medication diversion (e.g., opioid poisoning prevention)
      4. Rob Morones is point of contact
   iii. BIE’s National Transition of BIA School Safety Inspections
      1. Effective January 01, 2019, the Bureau of Indian Education, took over all BIE school safety inspections throughout the country
      2. Gabriel Draper, BIE Supervisory Safety & Occupational Manager in Albuquerque, identified as point of contact

k. Portland – *Not on call*
l. Tucson
   i. Staffing
      1. EH Specialist, Tucson Area Office GS-11-12: announcement forthcoming

m. EHSC
   i. Staffing
      1. Gary Carter to retire June 01, 2019
   ii. FDA Planning Review Course
      1. Where: Fargo, ND
      2. Date: May 14-16, 2019
   iii. OEHE Orientation Course
      1. Rescheduled Date: September 16-20, 2019
   iv. OEHE Leadership and Personal Development
      1. Webinars start in March- Date to be announced
      2. Leading the organization cohort starts in March- Date to be announced

8. Other
   a. Is there a need for these calls to be more frequent?

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