

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 12/01/16

Meeting recording and attachments available: <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/p1ind3c0p8v/>

Next meeting February 02, 2017 1:00-2:30PM ET

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|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Alaska: | <i>Not on call</i> | Nashville: | <i>Not on call</i> |
| ANTHC: | Mike Brubaker, Brian Berube | Navajo: | Gordon Tsatoke |
| Albuquerque: | Debra Grabowski | Oklahoma: | Danny Walters |
| Bemidji: | <i>Not on call</i> | Phoenix: | Kenny Hicks |
| Billings: | Darcy Merchant | Portland: | <i>Not on call</i> |
| California: | <i>Not on call</i> | Tucson: | Martin Smith |
| Great Plains: | Chris Allen | | |
| Environmental Health Support Center: Angela Hodge | | | |
| Rockville: David McMahon, Nancy Bill, Charles Woodlee, Stephen Piontkowski | | | |

1. HQ Senior EHS Position (David McMahon)

- a. Selectee: Mike Reed; report date in early January 2017

2. Performance Measures Update (David McMahon)

- a. 2016-2020 Measures
 - i. *Environmental Surveillance and Injury Intervention Performance Measures* - FY17 reporting interventions
 - ii. See "2017 PM Reporting Interventions" guidance document attached to calendar call invitation and Adobe Connect (PDF file available at <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/p1ind3c0p8v/>)
 1. ES Performance Measure: SurveyMonkey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY17ES>) will be the tool used to report and collect your Area's interventions
 2. IP Performance Measure: Use your Area's R/C/P 'IP PM16-20' in WebEHRS to report the interventions developed and implemented in FY2017 to increase driver seat belt use (due into WebEHRS by August 31, 2017)
 - iii. Discussion ES Performance Measure: if multiple surveys are conducted at one establishment and no surveys are conducted of other eligible establishments, inaccuracies or true representation of the performance measure may result (i.e. under or over reporting); this is recognized as a limitation of the data reporting and collection tool that HQ will work with CDP to overcome
 - iv. Discussion ES Performance Measure: should the same interventions be implemented throughout an Area, District, or Service Unit; its flexible for each Area to determine; three Areas stated they would select three interventions universally applied across their Area

3. Operational Model (David McMahon)

- a. The Model was selected as a DEHS vision element in 2014 to identify core services all IHS EH programs should provide
- b. See draft attached to calendar call invitation and Adobe Connect (PDF or .Docx file available at <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/p1ind3c0p8v/>)
- c. Core Group (current list): Kelly Taylor; David McMahon; Gordon Tsatoke; Celeste Davis; Bill Justice; David Hogner
- d. The Model will be Part 112 added to the TECHNICAL HANDBOOK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENGINEERING, VOLUME III – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and align with [Part 3 Chapter 11 of the Indian Health Manual](#)
- e. Next steps: Area DEHS Directors' submit comments using Track Changes by February 1, 2017 (e.g. what is missing, what should be included or changed); revise based on comments; submit revised version to Area OEHE Directors

4. Head Start Environmental Health Survey Reference Issues

- a. Situation: Do we need to establish in policy specifically what references our staff are using for EH surveys?
 - i. How immediate should the issue to be resolved?
 - ii. What are some short-term and long-term solutions to at least get to a place where we are comfortable with the references staff are using for EH surveys?
- b. Background:
 - i. Head Starts concerned that IHS EH staff conduct inspections of their buildings based on 2000 Model Code which does not align with current Head Start Performance Standards
 - ii. eSurvey WKGP currently updating childcare center survey checklist based on Caring for Our Children 3rd Ed.; this checklist might be similar to a new Head Start checklist based off the 2016 Head Start Performance Standards
 - iii. Chapter 11 does state suggested references for various EH issues, but it does not state these are the adopted national reference standards for those EH issues
 - iv. There is recognition of standards people should be using, but also some standards that people use which is not the best example
- c. Assessment:
 - i. Some staff are not clear as to what the standard reference documents they should use; in "some of these surveys we're just kind of out there" making recommendations
 - ii. An issue with the Head Start Performance Standard is items that Head Start requires be assessed may be beyond the scope of expertise or skill set of EH staff, this leaves some staff to wonder if we're not assessing it as the inspector who is (e.g. should issues around nutrition be assessed by EH)?

d. Resolution:

- i. This is important and relevant to staff
- ii. A crosswalk of the Head Start Model Code and the 2016 Head Start Performance Standards would be a nice place to start, and to help make a decision; does Head Start already have one?
- iii. This should be someone's priority (e.g. EHSC, IEH)
- iv. EHSC could use a scope of work to see what options they have to help
- v. Have a separate call or make this an agenda item for next DEHS Directors' meeting

5. DEHS National Directors' Meeting (David McMahon)

- a. When: April 17-21, 2017
- b. Where: IHS, HQ, Rockville, MD
- c. What: request for planning committee forthcoming

6. WebEHRS Update (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. CDP awarded new contract; November 2016-2021
- b. Post-award call occurred last week
- c. Users can continue to use the WebEHRS feedback feature which IHS HQ reviews (FYI, the Change Control Board managed by IHS is responsible to process those requests, not CDP)

7. COSTEPs (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. 2017
 - i. 192 apps at DCCPR; unk # of EHO apps
 - ii. CC HQ Timeline
 1. December 7, 2016: Area COSTEP wish list and recruits due to Stephen
 2. December 12-16, 2016: COSTEP selections by agencies
 3. January 9-13, 2017: DCCPR call for COSTEPs tentatively selected for assignment
 4. March 1, 2017: 1662s due to DCCPR
- b. COSTEP Preceptor Call (complete)
 - i. When: November 17, 2016
 - ii. Who: Hosted by DEHS HQ
 - iii. What: Help ensure potential preceptors are prepared to fill that important role
 - iv. Target audience: EH staff interested in becoming or identified as being preceptors for 2017
 - v. Comments: Went well and suggested HQ host another call for those preceptors who will receive a COSTEP
- c. Preceptor All Hands Call (proposed)
 - i. When: March/April 2017

- ii. Who: Hosted by DEHS HQ
- iii. What: Help ensure preceptors are prepared to fill that important role and review items discussed on November 17 call in more detail
- iv. Target audience: EH staff identified as a preceptor for 2017
- v. Details TBA

8. Coming Soon (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. EHSOTY – request for nominations in the coming days
- b. Photo Contest – request for submittals in the coming days
- c. 2016 Annual Report data request – request for data in the coming days

9. Injury Prevention Program Update (Nancy Bill)

- a. TIPCAP
 - i. Annual Report due December 1, 2016; 3 reports outstanding
 - ii. Project Officer training, April 25, 2017, CAIANH (Denver, CO)
 - iii. Annual Workshop, April 26-27, 2017, CAIANH (Denver, CO)
 - iv. Newsletter should be released in December 2016
 - v. Supplemental funding (up to 25% of the base funding amount) will be available to all 23 sites; non-competitive; official announcement via GrantSolutions.gov pending
 - vi. Additional funding for Part 2 sites (\$25,000 per site over 3 years, no more than 15 sites) will be available; details TBA
 - vii. Area's requested an email summarizing these funding opportunities would help them determine what tribes are best positioned to utilize the funds
- b. Area Specialists meeting
 - i. When: TBA
 - ii. Where: Atlanta, GA (CDC)
 - iii. Who: Hosted by Holly Billie
- c. National Projects funding announcement forthcoming later in December 2016
- d. New [IP webpage](#) and [listserv](#)

10. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)

- a. 2017-2018 Residency: 1 applicant who was accepted, now going through university acceptance; since the 2nd residency opening was not filled, we anticipate another announcement for 2018-2019

11. Area Reports

- a. Alaska
 - i. [21st Alaska Tribal Conference of Environmental Management](#); a record year with 550 participants
 - ii. Staffing: 1 field services position vacant
 - iii. ANTHC working on web-based tribal EH staff directory; features may include staff profiles, mapping, alerts

- iv. Helping Children Breathe Better is a strategic initiative works with children during hospital visits to identify types of home-based respiratory challenges
- v. Community Resilience Project focuses future planning to help communities plan for climate change
- vi. Healthy Dogs Healthy Communities project focuses on reducing number of unwanted pets especially dogs
- vii. Artic Council Funded Exercise will monitor threats from a One Health perspective
- viii. Establishing a Tribal EH Coalition is a quarterly rounding of all the Alaska EH Directors to help improve communication
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. New Area office move past two weeks
 - ii. SU EHO, Albuquerque, announcement to be re-advertised
 - iii. SU EHO, Zuni, announcement to be re-advertised
- c. Bemidji – *not on call*
- d. Billings
 - i. Ensuring staff using WebEHRS
 - ii. IP Five Year Plan developed; focusing on Year 1 now with emphasis on MVC and elder fall prevention
 - iii. TIPCAP grantees continue to make progress; funding the Epi Center has been helpful for morbidity/mortality data
 - iv. Intermediate IP course in May 2017; Billings Area
 - v. COSTEPs – will host 2
 - vi. EHO, Wind River SU, retiring December 31, 2016
- e. California – *not on call*
- f. Great Plains
 - i. PACE EH
 - 1. Rosebud SU nearing completion
 - 2. Sisseton in full swing
 - ii. TIPCAP work ongoing
 - iii. No COSTEPs in 2017
- g. Nashville – *not on call*
- h. Navajo
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. Arron McNeal reports to duty next week
 - 2. Navajo Area IP announcement closes December 2, 2016
 - 3. District IP announcement forthcoming
 - 4. Several SU EHO vacancy announcements coming soon
 - ii. Tying IP projects to MSPI funding has been a successful strategy to fund IP work
- i. Oklahoma
 - i. Danny on mock survey accreditation team
 - ii. Area IP/EH Specialist announcement forthcoming

j. Phoenix

i. Staffing

1. Whiteriver Service Unit Sr. EH Specialist; Whiteriver, AZ: Mr. Daniel Dicks selected as Sr. Environmental Health Specialist; reports on 12/27; has over 40 years of experience in public health practice, including 20 years with the US Army and 20 years serving various positions in county government and industry
2. Eastern Arizona District IP Coordinator, Lakeside, AZ: Interviews are underway and a selection is anticipated within the next week or so. We hope to have the new hire on board in early January and spend some time with Jon Peabody prior to his pending retirement in the late winter/early spring
3. Service Unit EH Specialist Vacancies; Parker, AZ and San Carlos, AZ: The vacancy announcement (Pathways) for both position closed; HR reports 58 applications were received and are under review; as a result of the number of applications, it is anticipated a certificate will not be issued until January; the Pathways hiring authority continues to serve as an exceptional recruitment tool
4. Commissioned Corps CAD: Of the 10 new hires (Pathways) over the past year, four have converted to CC or have received notice of an OBC date; the time period between 1662 issuance and CAD was 7 to 11 months

ii. COSTEPs: 6 positions, several recruits

iii. Interagency Vector-borne Disease Forum: November 8, Phoenix; Phoenix Area co-hosted along with EPA Region IX an interagency forum vector-borne disease prevention; purpose of the forum was for various federal and state agencies to conduct a gap analysis of services and resources to sustain intervention initiatives targeting Rocky Mountain spotted fever; discussed agency actions and resources to address Zika preparedness and response; participants included personnel from EPA, CDC, HUD, USDA, and IHS (Phoenix and Navajo Areas); forum final report pending

k. Portland – *not on call*

l. Tucson – *nothing stated, Martin left call before report requested*

m. EHSC

- i. Office move past two weeks
- ii. Intermediate IP course: December 06-09, 2016; Albuquerque, NM
- iii. FDA Food Course: February 06-07, 2017; Portland, OR
- iv. APIC Infection Control course: 2017; Spokane, WA
- v. Epi 102 course: 2017; Albuquerque, NM
- vi. IP course: March 2017; Bismarck, ND
- vii. Intermediate IP course: May 2017; Billings Area
- viii. FDA Food Code: 2017; GPA

12. Other

- a. RADM Kelly Taylor, Acting Director, OCPS, IHS until February 01, 2017
- b. David McMahon, Acting Director, DEHS, IHS
- c. Presidential transition: HQ DEHS knows what you know; you may wish to keep abreast of potential hiring freeze; *transition book*, DEHS contributed program descriptions to the OEHE portion of the book from the agency and updated the DEHS and IP websites

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