



# Environmental Health Services

● Healthy Environments = Healthy People ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 02/07/19

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.cosocloud.com/pmsa4zcnvwm/>

Next conference call May 02, 2019 1:00-2:30PM ET

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

### 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.





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## 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](http://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





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- 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



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- 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



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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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