



Environmental Health Services

● Healthy Environments = Healthy People ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 08/09/18

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/pimnszb3pwzn/>

Next conference call November 01, 2018 1:00-2:30PM ET

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Alaska: | Krista Pihalaja | Nashville: | Kit Grosch |
| ANTHC: | <i>Not on call</i> | Navajo: | Gordon Tsatoke |
| Albuquerque: | Debra Grabowski | Oklahoma: | Danny Walters |
| Bemidji: | Tim Duffy | Phoenix: | Kenny Hicks |
| Billings: | Darcy Merchant | Portland: | <i>Not on call</i> |
| California: | Carolyn Garcia | Tucson: | Chris Caler |
| Great Plains: | Chris Allen | | |
| Environmental Health Support Center: | Jeff Dickson | | |
| Rockville: | Kelly Taylor, Martin Smith, Holly Billie, Charles Woodlee, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski | | |

1. Welcome (Kelly Taylor)

- a. DEHS HQ staffing
 - i. David McMahon, retired
 - ii. Martin Smith, Deputy Director DEHS, IHS
- b. Commissioned Officers should pay close attention to frequent CC changes; monitor [CCMIS website](#) for news, policy updates, etc.

2. DEHS Directors' National Meeting Follow-up (Martin Smith/Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. Handouts & presentations were distributed to the Area DEHS Directors by Stephen via IHS secure data transfer email message on July 18, 2018
 - i. Includes updated definitions worksheets (i.e. Excel spreadsheet) reflecting WebEHRS establishment revisions decided during the meeting
 - ii. Includes *Record of Decisions* (ROD) document
- b. Reviewed *Record of Decisions – Follow-up*
 - i. During this call & future calls we will discuss the next steps outlined in the ROD & their status (table below)

| Item | Status |
|---|-------------|
| Finalize establishment definitions review for establishment types not discussed at June meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Session 1: Non-RRM and Area Specific Establishments (conference call w June mtg participants) o Session 7: Institutional (Charles lead w IEH staff conference call w June mtg participants and IEH staff) | In progress |



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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Session 8: Health-care Related (Charles lead w IEH staff) | |
| <p>Develop an implementation plan for applying revised establishment definitions as needed (DEHS HQ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verify revisions align with DEHS policies (DEHS HQ) ○ Determine if tribal consultation required (DEHS HQ) | <p>Drafted by HQ (July 2018)</p> <p>Example of plan content/detail: how changes may affect workloads before changes are in WebEHRS.</p> <p>Estimated time <u>when</u> changes may begin to be implemented is unknown.</p> |
| Develop a WebEHRS elements summary page | Completed by DEHS HQ (July 2018) |
| Develop enhanced R/C/P reporting functions; evaluate RCP vs activities use and processes to determine how best to capture non-RRM/non-establishment activities | Completed by DEHS HQ (July 2018) |
| WebEHRS changes to better manage establishment list (i.e. establishment auto-inactivate feature when no surveys/activities conducted after defined period of time) | <p>Auto-inactivate feature is feasible.</p> <p>We need to determine if this is a feature we wish to pursue & implement.</p> |
| Consider options for developing a WebEHRS guidance document to, among other things, aid users in selecting appropriate establishment types when creating new or modifying existing establishments | <p>Should this be done by WKGP led by HQ?</p> <p>HQ develop for DEHS Directors to 'approve'?</p> <p>EHSC support as requested by Area DEHS Directors.</p> <p>Areas consider staff who could be on WKGP (possibly staff from Areas with existing guidance).</p> <p>Development of a guidance document may be tabled until further progress made on completing some of the definition & system changes that are a result of the annual meeting.</p> <p>Agreed this should be tabled & done by WKGP.</p> |

3. Performance Measures Update (Martin Smith)

a. 2016-2020 Measures

- i. FY18 *Environmental Surveillance Performance Measure* – conduct an interim assessment of poor employee health & hygiene foodborne illness risk factors to determine effectiveness of interventions & adjust interventions based on interim findings; see *Environmental Surveillance Performance Measure* reports (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) in WebEHRS 'reports' menu to track status

1. Continue entering eSurveys into WebEHRS by September 30, 2018.



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2. Complete SurveyMonkey by September 30, 2018:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY18ES>
- ii. FY18 *Injury Surveillance Performance Measure* – measure interim seat belt use to determine effectiveness of interventions. Propose adjustments to interventions based on interim driver seat belt use findings.
 1. Ensure all observation data is entered into SurveyMonkey by September 30, 2018
 2. If interventions are modified, provide this information in SurveyMonkey by September 30, 2018
 3. IP SurveyMonkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY18II>

4. COSTEPs (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. 2018
 - i. Open application window closed October 13, 2017
 - ii. 29 applications received by DCCPR
 - iii. 25 COSTEPs requested by Areas
 - iv. Selections at DCCPR – December 11-15, 2017
 - v. COSTEP files to Areas by December 29, 2017
 - vi. 1662s from Areas to DCCPR – March 02, 2018 (you do not need to share 1662s with Stephen)
 - vii. See *COSTEP Application Timeline 2017-2018* for details
 - viii. 09 successfully placed; +1 civil service extern, +1 tribal extern (n=11)
 - ix. IHS HQ will continue to share info as received
 - x. Narrative to Stephen by 31 August / couple weeks after relieved from duty
- b. 2019
 - i. COSTEP process same as previous years
 1. Height/weight standards will be applied to COSTEPs; not meeting these standards was primary reason for COSTEPs being medically disqualified in 2018
 - ii. Application timeline forthcoming from CCHQ [tentative timeline]:
 1. October 15 - November 30 – call center eligibility screening
 2. December 10 – application deadline
 3. January 02, 2019 – selections
- c. Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT)
 - i. Unknown if this is a condition of service
 - ii. COSTEPs were asked to complete it in 2018 but unknown how much CCHQ 'enforced' it
- d. IHS Extern Program
 - i. If Areas employ this option, please share your students information with Stephen as we typically do with COSTEPs
 1. The information is used for tracking & allows HQ to verify the students served when Areas request reimbursement

5. WebEHRS Update (Stephen Piontkowski/Mike Reed)

- a. WebEHRS Virtual Training Session
 - i. July 18, 2018
 - ii. October 17, 2018
 1. This will be the last call in the contract year & we will reevaluate if future calls will be held
 - iii. [Register here with EHSC](#)
 - iv. These have been successful discussions, that modestly enhance users' WebEHRS capabilities, & led to WebEHRS improvements
- b. WebEHRS 101
 - i. August 21-23, 2018; ABQ
 - ii. [Register here with EHSC](#)
- c. eSurvey WKGP
 - i. New Child Care Center survey live (April 2018)
 - ii. Head Start survey with Head Start Region XI scheduled to go live (August 2018)
 - iii. 2017 Food Code update ongoing
 - iv. 2018 MAHC update forthcoming; MAHC 3rd Ed. released in July 2018
- d. Change Control Board
 - i. Monthly calls
 - ii. 17 items (94%) complete from change modification request
 - iii. Pending feedback items = 32
- e. Data Quality
 - i. RRM impact assessment – related to definitions updates
 - ii. Assess scale of establishment duplication & clean-up needed
 - iii. Responding to other items from DEHS Directors' national meeting
 1. Assess R/C/P/ data
 2. Area Specific Establishment Types (e.g. N₂O surveys)
 3. Survey completion rates – survey vs. activity
 4. Elements list – WebEHRS resources section

6. Injury Prevention Program Update (Holly Billie)

- a. IP 2018-2020 Focus
 - i. Guidance
 - ii. Opportunities to increase capacity & build skills
 - iii. Increase visibility of excellent work
- b. Focus on quality
 - i. Rigorous evaluation, especially on TIPCAP
 - ii. Quality over quantity
- c. New HQ IP position being developed; not finalized yet
- d. Academic Advisor contract announcement
 - i. Released August 01, 2018
 - ii. Proposals due September 12, 2018
- e. AI/AN IP Conference



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- i. Location TBD
 - ii. To be held before September 30, 2019
- f. IP Listserv
 - i. [Sign-up](#) on IP website
- g. IP SharePoint
 - i. Intended for information & resource sharing among IHS IP staff
- h. IP Academic Advisor Contract
 - i. [RFQ](#) open August 01 – September 12, 2018
 - ii. One year + 4 option years
 - iii. Designed for team rather than a single person
 - iv. Scope of work
 - 1. Conduct the Fellowship Course (old format) in the coming year
 - 2. Revise all short courses – Levels I, II, & III
 - 3. Revise Fellowship course content (for both tracks)
 - 4. Pilot all revised courses & Fellowship
- i. Area projects
 - i. \$125,000 per Area, up to 2 projects
 - ii. Total of \$1,122,000 went to Areas for 17 projects
 - 1. Also sent \$5,000 per TIPCAP site (\$160,000)
 - iii. All Areas have projects except Portland & Great Plains
 - 1. Fall Prevention – 5
 - 2. Traffic Safety - 5
 - 3. Opioid poisoning prevention – 3
 - 4. Other – injury atlas, co-sleeping death prevention, CO detectors, youth violence prevention
- j. Area IP informal consults
 - i. Conducted for Holly to learn more about the Area IP programs
 - ii. Results (n = 12)
 - 1. Fulltime IP positions
 - a. PHX – 4
 - b. Navajo – 4
 - c. Great Plains – 1
 - d. Billings – 1 vacant but announced
 - e. All other Areas – 0
 - 2. Positions doing injury work as a collateral duty (N=9)
 - a. PHX – 16 at 25%
 - b. Great Plains – 4 at 25%
 - c. Bemidji – 1 at 10%
 - d. Billings – 3 at 20%
 - e. ABQ – 1 at 50%, 8 at 25%
 - f. Nashville – 3
 - g. OK – 1 at 60%, 3 at 10%
 - h. California – 2
 - i. Navajo – 13 at 50%



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- k. TIPCAP
 - i. Discussing lessons learned with IPS
 - ii. # IP staff is limiting factor
 - 1. Local project officers
 - 2. Local TA needed for successful TIPCAP sites in addition to monitoring contractor
 - 3. Assistance in data collection
 - iii. Proposed new HQ IP position will oversee TIPCAP

7. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)

- a. WebCident Replacement
 - i. Two proposals to RFP received
 - ii. Technical review panel will review them in the next few weeks
- b. Residency
 - i. Dusty Joplin completed trips to Phoenix, Navajo, & Bemidji
 - ii. Dusty currently in Oklahoma City Area thru August 16, 2018
 - iii. Thank you to all the Areas & staff supporting this project
 - iv. His thesis work will expand on John Hansen's work re: nitrous oxide in dental clinics
- c. IHM Part 1-Chapter 9: Occupational Safety & Health
 - i. Chapter is in final preparation for national comment by the policy office
 - ii. Messages on DEHS & safety listservs will alert staff when it is ready for review

8. Area Reports

- a. Alaska – *No report*
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Car seat training this week
 - ii. Head Start summits to be held in a couple weeks
 - iii. Rabies vaccination clinics went well this year
 - iv. Lay vaccinator program: a few tribes signed-up
 - v. Table top: feed & food outbreaks occurred
 - vi. Staffing
 - 1. IEHO vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - 2. Vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - a. 2 SU EHOs
 - 3. William Burrows reporting on August 13, 2018
 - 4. Fleurette Brown reporting to Zuni in early September
 - 5. Rena Wyatt report date TBD
 - vii. Thanks to Holly for additional IP funding
- c. Bemidji
 - i. BAO approved to relocate into new construction which is currently in design phase
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. OEHE Director vacancy



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2. Two Sr EHO positions; 1 selection to be made shortly
 3. Two Jr EHO positions vacant
- d. Billings
- i. COSTEP
 1. Reported in June & served in 6 of 8 SUs
 2. IP meeting scheduled for October
 - a. It will be combined with EH general program & maybe IEH too
 - ii. Staffing
 1. Area IPS: closed August 02, 2018; panel forthcoming
 2. Flathead SU: vacancy announcement forthcoming (Compacted Tribe)
- e. California
- i. Wildfire response
 1. DEHS distributed 8500 respirators to 15 tribes
 2. DEHS provided services to a Red Cross emergency shelter
 3. Conducted food waste consultations
 4. Norovirus response
 5. Unable to fulfill requests for air purifiers, but asked IHS HQ for additional resources
 - a. Director, National Supply Service Center, met with Danny Walters recently inquiring about air purifiers, so maybe they are on their way
 - ii. Planning to conduct CERT basic training course
 - iii. Will participate in North Bay Fire Safety close out meeting on August 31, 2018 (re: Sonoma fires)
- f. Great Plains
- i. Staffing
 1. Jamison Honeycutt reporting to Minot SU
 2. Dorothy Cramer, DEHO, Sioux City on board
 - ii. COSTEP doing well in Rosebud
 - iii. Lots of CMS activity
 - iv. IAQ response at one SU; Charles helping
 - v. IEH: Charles working with Craig at GPA this week
- g. Nashville
- i. One EHO position not on site & Kit unable to advertise vacancy
 - ii. Riley busy with TRANSAM
 - iii. IP funding received
 - iv. [OEHE Director vacancy announcement](#) closes August 30, 2018
- h. Navajo
- i. Staffing
 1. Seven vacancies
 - a. 2 IEHOs (DOSM)
 - b. 5 SUEHO
 - c. 1 SUEHO selection made



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- d. 2 SUEHO vacancy announcements forthcoming
- ii. Thanks to Holly for additional IP funding
 - 1. One project will expand a District-wide project to an Area-wide project
- i. Oklahoma
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. Vacancies
 - a. Vice Honeycutt in Holton, KS; announcement w HR
 - b. Vice Katie Tompkins in Lawton, OK
 - ii. COSTEP
 - 1. Finished assignment last week
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. Environmental Health Specialist GS-0601-7/9 (Pathways); GS-0601-11: Vacancy announcement posted for 4 positions in Elko, NV; Reno, NV; Tempe, AZ; & San Carlos, AZ. Closes tomorrow, 8/10/18.
 - 2. District Injury Prevention Coordinator GS-0688-12: Selections made at Tempe (vice Morones) & Reno (vice Hymer). Formal announcement of selectee pending HR. We are targeting Nov. 1, 2018 effective dates.
 - 3. New Reports to Duty: LT George Chung – Hopi (8/1/18); Ms. Sherry Chase – Hopi (8/5/18); Mr. Marcel Felicia – Fort Duchesne, UT (8/19/18).
 - ii. COSTEPs (2)
 - 1. Robyn Hoover (WCU; Reno, NV): Robyn worked on a project to develop a safety management program template for tribal utility authorities; assignment ended
 - 2. Justin Rusch (Cal State Northridge; Lakeside, AZ): Justin worked on a project to survey campgrounds & recreational areas, develop survey instructional aids, & test the e-survey form; assignment will end next week
 - 3. 18th annual PHX Area OEHE COSTEP Symposium on August 01, 2018
 - iii. Tribal Health Care Coalition for Emergency Preparedness
 - 1. ASPR transitioned its health care preparedness focus from individual facilities to regional coalitions
 - 2. Many states established regional coalitions to better coordinate resources for emergency preparedness & resources, but, sometimes tribes get 'lost' in the coalitions
 - 3. Initiated August 2017, CAPT Cramer partnered with AZ Department of Health Services to form the nation's first & only Tribal Health Care Coalition funded by ASPR (\$150,000 - \$200,000/yr)



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- a. Developed the coalition over the past year (e.g. assembled Board, 2-day workshop, hosted CDP HCC Course, hired Executive Director, established website, established AZ Health Alert Network)
- b. Has a growing, broad base of representation from AZ's tribes, 3 IHS Areas, state, county, & federal preparedness partners
- c. Upcoming initiatives include developing an emergency response plan, hold a statewide tribal patient surge drill, & present in New Orleans at the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference
- iv. Opioid Epidemic
 - 1. PHX Area Director established Opioid Committee in July 2018 in an effort to formalize coordinated information sharing among Area Office programs (clinical, pharmacy, behavioral health, substance abuse, injury prevention)
 - a. Develop strategies in alignment with the HHS 5-Point Strategy to Combat the Opioids Crises: (1) better prevention, treatment, & recovery services; (2) better data; (3) better pain management; (4) better availability of OD-reversing drugs; (5) better research
 - 2. OEHE IP current initiatives focusing on descriptive study of opioid poisonings & a medication lockbox distribution pilot project
- k. Portland – *Not on call*
- l. Tucson
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. Chris Caler transferring to USEPA in August 2018
 - a. ABQ Area has agreed to provide EHS coverage in Tucson Area
 - 2. OEHE, Director, vacancy announcement with HR
 - ii. Assisting Pascua Yaqui Tribe with public health accreditation application
 - 1. Tribe asked for many of the survey reports completed by DEHS
 - iii. Active shooter drill with Tohono O'odham coming up
 - iv. Tuberculosis Table top completed a month ago
 - v. COSTEP
 - 1. Served well & completed a mosquito mapping project (results used in Pascua Yaqui Tribe public health accreditation application)



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m. EHSC

i. WebEHRS 101

1. Four people signed-up
2. This course has been repeatedly requested for by DEHS staff
3. Please ensure training approvals are signed-off

ii. OEHE Leadership Personal Development Program

1. Current "Leading Others" cohort
 - a. 17 staff in cohort
 - b. Face-to-face meeting occurred in July
 - c. 3 upcoming webinars
 - d. 1 book study approaching
 - e. 1 face-to-face meeting to close-out

iii. Competency model

1. Working with OIT to develop an online version

iv. Leadership assessment tool

1. Working with OIT to explore metrics options
2. Then reach out to Areas to see how the tool could be utilized

9. Other

- a. None

Next conference call November 01, 2018 1:00-2:30PM ET