



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 11/01/18

Meeting recording available: [tps://ihs.cosocloud.com/pslzgr5z0r1a/](https://ihs.cosocloud.com/pslzgr5z0r1a/)

Next conference call February 07, 2019 1:00-2:30PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	<i>Not on call</i>
ANTHC:	<i>Not on call</i>	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:	Carolyn Garcia	Tucson:	<i>Not on call</i>
Great Plains:	Chris Allen		
Environmental Health Support Center:	<i>Not on call</i>		
Rockville:	Kelly Taylor, Martin Smith, Holly Billie, Charles Woodlee, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski		

1. Director's Welcome and Update (Kelly Taylor)

- a. Pay close attention to frequent CC changes
 - i. Monitor [CCMIS website](#) for news, policy updates, etc.
 1. New policies published in 2018 (to date): 14
 2. New policies anticipated to be published in 2018: 19
 3. New policies in approval process (to date): 14
 - ii. Promotion Year 2019 requirements and deadlines
 1. Promotion eligible officers should heed the details and submit materials often and monitor they were added to the system
 - iii. Small items (e.g. failure to have updated BLS in system) could send an officer to a retention board
 - iv. If officers are unable to access CC data systems, try different web browsers
 - v. Always meet basic readiness requirements
 - vi. It's not the same ol' CC, many changes ongoing
 - vii. [Conditions of Service](#) are very important
- b. Request for vacancy rate during Area reports
 - i. How many EH positions do you have?
 - ii. How many of those are currently vacant?

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

- a. Reviewed *Record of Decisions – Follow-up*
 - i. During this call and future calls we will discuss the next steps outlined in the ROD and their status (table below)



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Item	Status
Finalize establishment definitions review for establishment types not discussed at June meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Session 1: Non-RRM and Area Specific Establishments (conference call w June mtg participants) ○ Session 7: Institutional (Charles lead w IEH staff) ○ Session 8: Health-care Related (Charles lead w IEH staff) 	Session 1: 12 December Session 7: 04 December Session 8: 04 December
Develop an implementation plan for applying revised establishment definitions as needed (DEHS HQ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verify revisions align with DEHS policies (DEHS HQ) ○ Determine if tribal consultation required (DEHS HQ) 	Drafted by HQ (July 2018) Ongoing
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)	Added to next round of system changes scheduled for fall/winter 2018 (October 2018) -What variables will change w the auto-inactivate feature? Currently, only applied to certain establishment types that have a survey or activity frequency associated with them. Establishment types this would apply to are TBD, but likely to be those that require timeframes already determined/set in which they should receive service. When something is automatically flagged as not receiving service within the timeframe, it will be marked as 'inactive' and 'pending RRM approval' (the Area DEHS Director will be notified). After services are provided, District staff will be able to mark the establishment as 'active.' The Area DEHS Director can then change the RRM status for the establishment.
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	Should this be done by WKGP led by HQ? HQ develop for DEHS Directors to 'approve'? EHSC support as requested by Area DEHS Directors? Areas consider staff who could be on WKGP



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3. Performance Measures Update (Martin Smith)

a. 2016-2020 Measures

- i. FY18 *Environmental Surveillance Performance Measure* – conduct an interim assessment of poor employee health and hygiene foodborne illness risk factors to determine effectiveness of interventions and adjust interventions based on interim findings; see *Environmental Surveillance Performance Measure* reports (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) in WebEHRS ‘reports’ menu to track status
 1. Please enter your Area’s information if you haven’t yet
 2. Final report for FY18 being finalized
- 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. Please enter your Area’s information if you haven’t yet
 2. Final report for FY18 being finalized
- iii. FY19 *Environmental Surveillance Performance Measure* – conduct a final assessment of poor employee health and hygiene foodborne illness risk factors and compare to baseline to determine effectiveness of interventions; continue your interventions
- iv. FY19 *Injury Surveillance Performance Measure* – conduct a final assessment of driver seat belt use and compare to baseline; measure interim seat belt use to determine effectiveness of interventions; propose adjustments to interventions based on interim driver seat belt use findings

4. DEHS Directors’ National Meeting – 2019

- a. Dates: April/May 2019
- b. Topics: Strategic planning likely the focus
- c. SurveyMonkey requesting Area DEHS Director input forthcoming; look for email from Martin

5. COSTEPs (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. 2018
 - i. 09 successfully placed; +1 civil service extern, +1 tribal extern (n=11)
 - ii. [Narratives posted to DEHS website](#)
- b. 2019
 - i. COSTEP process same as previous years
 - ii. Application timeline from CCHQ (emailed to Area DEHS Directors from Stephen and attached to [this call’s recording](#)):
 1. October 15 - November 30 -- call center eligibility screening
 2. December 10 -- app deadline
 3. [December 10 -- Area COSTEP requests due to DEHS HQ](#)
 4. December 17-21 -- COSTEP selections at DCCPR
 5. December 31 -- COSTEP files to Areas
 6. [February 01 -- 1662s from Areas to DCCPR](#)



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- iii. See *COSTEP Application Timeline 2018-2019* for details
- iv. IHS HQ will continue to share info as received
- v. Ensure you have copies of the *Medical Accession Standards* (CCPM 46)
 - 1. Majority of the medical disqualifications in 2018 were for students not meeting BMI
- c. Third annual *EHO Recruitment Webinar*
 - i. October 22, 2018
 - ii. Hosted by EHOPAC
 - iii. Target audience: EH students and faculty interested in learning more about the COSTEP
 - iv. IHS representatives as 'hiring officials': Kelly, Stephen, Kenny who provided general agency information, advice, and input related to their selection and placement of students in COSTEP assignments

6. Annual Report Info Requests (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. Emails w/ details of each of these are forthcoming
- b. DEHS Photo Contest: Area submissions due to HQ by December 28, 2018
- c. Staffing Report: Due to HQ by December 28, 2018
- d. EHSOTY: Area nominations due to HQ by January 11, 2019
- e. Project Posters: Due to HQ by January 25, 2019

7. WebEHRS Update (Stephen Piontkowski/Mike Reed)

- a. Contract Option Year 2: should be exercised next week
- b. FY19 RRM Freeze
 - i. Thanks for submitting your Area's information
 - ii. FY19 National RRM available in the WebEHRS 'reports' feature
- c. WebEHRS 101
 - i. August 21-23, 2018; Albuquerque
 - ii. Participants: 05
- d. WebEHRS Virtual Training Session
 - i. October 17, 2018
 - ii. Participants: 06
 - iii. Will be offered every 6 months in FY19
- e. eSurvey WKGP
 - i. Head Start survey w/ Head Start Region XI live (August 2018)
- f. Change Control Board
 - i. Monthly calls (October call cancelled due to scheduling)
 - ii. 17 change items – complete and verified
 - iii. 10 additional items submitted
 - iv. Pending feedback items = 34 (includes 10 change items underway)
- g. Data Quality
 - i. RRM impact assessment [related to definitions updates] – complete
 - 1. 240 person day factors would be lost if changes implemented; that's <1 FTE of the 650 that exist



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2. 2400 establishments need to be cleaned-up; this is likely an overestimate based on the assumptions made during the assessment (e.g. title used to help determine if an establishment met current establishment type definition)
- ii. Session 1, 7, and 8 establishments review
 1. Session 1: December 12
 2. Sessions 7 and 8: December 04
 3. Implementation plan w/ final deliverables and timelines in progress
- h. NDECI
 - i. Pilot Dashboard: final verification October 30, 2018
 - ii. Pilot sites: Bemidji Area; California Area; Great Plains Area; Phoenix Area
 - iii. Anticipated pilot start date: December 01, 2018

8. Injury Prevention Program Update (Holly Billie)

- a. TIPCAP
 - i. Year 4 of 5 has begun for all 32 sites
 - ii. New reporting and data collection requirements have been implemented for improved evaluation
 - iii. Grantee meeting: July 22, 2019
 - iv. Project Officer Training: March/April 2019 in Atlanta
 1. Project Officer support funds (\$5,000/Area) sent to Areas can support this type of activity
- b. National IP Award
 - i. Criteria are being finalized
 - ii. Call for nominations forthcoming
- c. National AI/AN Injury Prevention Conference
 - i. When: July 23-25, 2019 [tentative]
 - ii. Where: Denver, CO [tentative]
 - iii. This is a conference and not a meeting
 - iv. Collaborating w/ CDC to co-host
 - v. Workgroup is planning tracks, sessions, and speakers
- d. Area projects
 - i. Areas received all funds
 - ii. January 2019: First progress report due; report template shared w/ Areas
- e. HQ IP Position
 - i. In HR
- f. IP Specialist Meeting and TIPCAP Project Officer Training
 - i. When: March/April 2019
 - ii. Where: Atlanta

9. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)

- a. WebCident Replacement



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- i. Vendor selected
- ii. Tailoring to IHS could take 8 months
 - 1. May reach out to request volunteers to assist w/ review/testing
- b. Residency
 - i. Dusty Joplin to collect final data in Oklahoma next week
 - ii. Received 1 application for 2019-21 USU residency
 - 1. Will be requesting IEHO assistance w/ reviewing application
 - iii. During WebEHRS meeting, group will also help refine field residency requirements
- c. Policy Revisions
 - i. OSH and Inf. Ctrl chapters still in holding pattern
 - ii. Recently proposed changes to Engineering Technical Handbook to meet DEHS needs
- d. Revisions
 - i.
- e. Navajo Area will contact Charles w/ questions regarding resources for accreditation support

10. Area Reports

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Vacancy rate
 - 1. How many EH positions do you have?
 - 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 05 (03 EHOs + 01 IP + 01 IEH)
 - ii. IP grant planning meeting conducted
- c. Bemidji – *Not on call*
- d. Billings
 - i. Vacancy rate
 - 1. How many EH positions do you have?
 - 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 01
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. Area IPS reported to duty October 29, 2018
 - 2. Looking to fill an Area EHO position
 - 3. Wind River SU: Selection made November 01, 2018
 - iii. Working to complete EH surveys
- e. California
 - i. Vacancy rate
 - 1. How many EH positions do you have?
 - 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 00
 - ii. Preparing annual reports and program plans
 - iii. Fall prevention program sending staff to Matter of Balance training
- f. Great Plains
 - i. Vacancy rate
 - 1. How many EH positions do you have?



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2. How many of those are currently vacant? 02
- ii. Staffing
 1. Plans to add IEHO and Area Senior EHO positions
 2. Life Safety Engineer is now under DEHS
- g. Nashville – *Not on call*
- h. Navajo
 - i. Vacancy rate
 1. How many EH positions do you have?
 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 08 (01 SU being interviewed + 03 in HR + 01 DOSM + 03 SU)
 - ii. Applied for PetsMart grant (\$200K)
 1. Collaboration w/ Colorado State University, Navajo Technical University, and Monument Valley High School
 2. Will fund: rabies virus vaccination clinics; tick and flea treatments; and spay/neuter surgeries at 26 communities
- i. Oklahoma
 - i. Vacancy rate
 1. How many EH positions do you have?
 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 02
 - ii. IP Course next week in Norman, OK
 - iii. Potawatomi Nation to develop a new IP Coalition
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Vacancy rate – 18%
 1. How many EH positions do you have? 27
 2. How many of those are currently vacant? 05
 - ii. Staffing
 1. District Injury Prevention Coordinator GS-0688-12: November 01 effective date for Isaac Ampadu in Tempe (vice Morones) and Martin Stephens in Reno (vice Hymer)
 2. Environmental Health Specialist GS-0601-11: Tentative selections made for Tempe and Reno; announcements pending for HR actions
 3. Environmental Health Specialist GS-0601-7/9 (Pathways): Panel received to fill Elko, NV, Tempe, AZ, and San Carlos, AZ
 4. Coming soon: SUEHOs at Whiteriver and Reno
 - iii. HCl exposure at arsenic treatment plant
 1. Tribal water operators at arsenic treatment plant reported symptoms involving lung and eye irritation
 2. John Hanson investigated and found staff exposed to HCl when manually dispensing it to clean filters
 3. John conducted air sampling and found HCl exposures ranges at 2-4X occupational exposure limit
 4. Coordinated w/ SFC to control exposure to HCl by installing a closed, mechanized HCl pump and timer (eliminated operators manual dispensing)



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- k. Portland – *Not on call*
- l. Tucson – *Not on call*
- m. EHSC – *Not on call*

11. Other

- a. OEHE Orientation course may be in last week of March 2018 in Albuquerque

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