



Environmental Health Services

● Healthy Environments = Healthy People ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 12/07/17

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/p1p817w32b7g/>

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

Alaska:	Denman Ondelacy	Nashville:	Kit Grosch
ANTHC:	Mike Brubaker	Navajo:	Gordon Tsatoke
Albuquerque:	Debra Grabowski	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Phoenix:	Kenny Hicks
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Portland:	Shawn Blackshear; Rich Truitt
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Tucson:	Martin Smith
Great Plains:	<i>Not on call</i>		
Environmental Health Support Center:	Angela Hodge		
Rockville:	David McMahon, Nancy Bill, Charles Woodlee, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski		

1. Welcome (David McMahon)

- a. Budget: CR ends tomorrow at midnight; no other news
- b. [Deputy Director, DEHS, vacancy announcement](#) closes December 11, 2017
- c. RADM Gardner retires December 31, 2017
- d. Collaborations with other federal agencies
 - i. ACF/Head Start (Stephen will provide brief later this call)
 - ii. FDA
 - iii. BIE: interested in our work in BIE schools
- e. Holly Billie, Program Manager, Injury Prevention, HQ: will focus on TIPCAP Part I grantees & conducting site visits; may also visit with Area IP programs to learn more about status of those programs
- f. M. Reed (DEHS) & D. Harvey (SFC) deployed to Puerto Rico
- g. C. Woodlee worked with IHS Leadership in response to Pine Ridge losing CMS certification to receive reimbursement
- h. D. McMahon to participate in Navajo Area DEHS program planning meeting
- i. No changes to DEHS HQ staffing
 - i. RADM Kelly Taylor, Acting Chief of Staff, IHS
 - ii. David McMahon, Acting Director, DEHS, IHS

2. Performance Measures Update (David McMahon)

- a. 2016-2020 Measures
 - i. *DEHS 2016-2020 Performance Measure Report – FY 2017 Summary*; Dave distributed this to Area DEHS Directors' for final comment and now considered final



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- ii. 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 (report by September 30, 2018 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY18ES>)
- iii. 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 (report by September 30, 2018 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY18II>)

3. 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
 - vii. See *COSTEP Application Timeline 2017-2018* for details

4. DEHS National Directors' Meeting Follow-up (David McMahon)

- a. Record of Decision and Action Items (see updated handout titled *Record of Decision - Follow-up Items*); majority of items closed

5. Strategic Planning

- a. Discussion of strategic planning occurring in FY18
- b. Might need to postpone considering:
 - i. No DEHS Director
 - ii. Deputy Director vacancy
 - iii. Should it be a Workgroup vs All Hands planning meeting?
- c. Decision/vote during this call
 - i. Host a DEHS Directors' meeting in early summer 2018 with a focus on strategic planning or revised performance measures

6. Annual Report 2017 Info Requests

- a. Photo Contest
 - i. Due to HQ 29 December 2017
- b. Staffing Numbers
 - i. Due to HQ 29 December 2017
- c. EH Specialist of 2017
 - i. Due to HQ 19 January 2018
- d. Project Posters
 - i. Due to HQ 26 January 2018



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7. Injury Prevention Program Update (Nancy Bill)

- a. Prevention of Unintentional Injuries in American Indian Communities – Johns Hopkins
 - i. Baltimore, MD
 - ii. 08-12 January 2018
 - iii. <http://caih.jhu.edu/training/course-offerings/>
- b. 2018 TIPCAP Workshop
 - i. April 18-19, 2017
 - ii. Rockville, MD
 - iii. Project Officer training: April 17, 2017; Rockville, MD
- c. TIPCAP FY 2017-2020
 - i. Part II Non-competing applications GS due March 2, 2018
- d. TIPCAP FY 2015-2020
 - i. Part I, II Non-competing applications GS due May 5, 2018
- e. IPS Annual Meeting
 - i. Date/location: TBA
 - ii. Keep eye out for Holly's survey: 2-day meeting to include feds on day-1 & tribal partners on day-2

8. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)

- a. Policy revisions
 - i. [Diagnostic Imaging](#) – approved October 30, 2017
 - ii. Infection Control – ongoing
 - iii. Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Drugs
 - iv. Occupational Safety & Health (Chapter 9) – with IHS policy office; will resurface in 2018
 - v. Employee Health – IEH staff may be asked to get involved with creation of this new policy which will supplement Chapter 9
- b. Long-Term Training/Residency Update
 - i. D. Joplin Thesis: Nitrous Oxide [building off J. Hansen's thesis work]
 - ii. 2018-2020 USU LTT announcement – NO APPLICANTS
 - iii. Field-based Residency – in development
- c. Official IEH Workgroups ([still need volunteers, if interested please notify Charles](#))
 - i. Safe Patient Handling and Mobility
 1. K. Hubbard, J. Conner
 - ii. IEH Long-term Training Program
 1. C. Woodlee, D. Cramer, C. Kates
 - iii. Industrial Hygiene Programs
 1. K. Cook, J. Hansen
 - iv. Health Facilities Advisory Comm. (no more volunteers needed)
 1. J. Conner
 - v. Environmental Steering Comm. (no more volunteers needed)
 1. S. Peaches
- d. Unofficial IEH Workgroups



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- i. Infection Control
 - 1. G. Carter, M. Ellis, J. Conner, B. Hroch
- ii. Healthcare Accreditation
 - 1. M. Ellis, B. Hroch
- iii. Patient Safety
 - 1. C. Woodlee

9. WebEHRS Update (Stephen Piontkowski/Mike Reed)

- a. RRM Freeze (complete); reports to be shared by Feb 1 2018 call
- b. Contract modification #2: 100% complete
- c. CDP contract option year 1 exercised
- d. WebEHRS 101
 - i. November 06-07, 2017
 - ii. 11 participants
- e. WebEHRS Virtual Learning Sessions
 - i. October 11, 2017 (15 participants)
 - ii. December 13, 2017; [register here with EHSC](#)
- f. Discover/Splash BI webinar
 - i. December 18; 2:00 PM ET
 - ii. Hosted by CDP
 - iii. Intended for Area DEHS Directors or their designee
 - iv. Agenda to be distributed next week
- g. WebEHRS definitions, orphan establishment, and data quality
 - i. Mike to be working on these in CY 2018

10. Area Reports

- a. Alaska
 - i. Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in November (~500 attendees, 120 communities)
 - ii. Several extreme weather events in fall 2017 impacted tribal communities and required EH staff to respond/mobilize
 - iii. Quarterly *One Health* meeting (November 2017)
 - iv. *Healthy Pets Program* in development to extend veterinary services to remote communities
 - 1. Veterinary access survey complete
 - a. 273 responses
 - b. 66% unable to access veterinary care
 - c. 78% have problems with stray dogs
 - 2. Plans to: partner with academic community; conduct more in-depth questionnaire; collect animal specimens to determine disease prevalence (e.g. *Crypto*, *Giardia*, roundworm)
 - v. ANTHC working to elevate WebEHRS use; staff currently populating the system with work EH completed & 60 establishments added to establishment count
 - vi. Annual Alaska IP Directors' meeting (December 2017)



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- vii. Hurricane deployments
 - 1. Mark Strauss to Harvey
 - 2. Christopher Fish to Puerto Rico
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. Samuel Frank reported to duty
 - 2. Three vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - ii. Hurricane deployments – none
 - iii. Lay Vaccinator Program on-going (one site received micro-grant, training videos being produced)
 - iv. National food project materials being developed
 - v. IEH staff conducting mock surveys
- c. Bemidji
 - i. Hurricane deployments
 - 1. Tim Taylor to Puerto Rico
 - ii. Tim Duffy remains Acting Director, Area OEHE
 - iii. Conducting mock surveys with Facilities staff & clinicians successful
- d. Billings
 - i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. EHO, Wind River SU, announcement forthcoming via Pathways
 - iii. Flathead SU: vacancy announcement forthcoming (Compacted Tribe)
- e. California
 - i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. Arcata: Sanitarian Training position selected
 - iii. DEHS Program Planning meeting in January; will include ADA training
 - iv. Wildfire response (deployed 250 N-95s but roads were inaccessible; on-site stockpiling preferred)
 - v. OPH [Nitrous Oxide] site reviews ongoing
 - vi. Area OEHE Director will retire January 5, 2018; vacancy announcement closed
- f. Great Plains – *Not on call*
- g. Nashville
 - i. Hurricane deployments
 - 1. Kit Grosch to Puerto Rico
 - 2. Charles Craig to US Virgin Islands
 - ii. Area Director retiring January 6, 2018
- h. Navajo
 - i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. [PREPaRE](#) is a project led by Navajo DEHS staff and a shooting event that occurred in Aztec today allowed programs to respond quickly to the community's needs



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- iii. Will Gary Hartz be visiting Area Offices in near future? He would like to be in the field more, but HQ does not know if a push for formal site visits are scheduled
- i. Oklahoma
 - i. Hurricane deployments
 - 1. David Bales to Puerto Rico
 - ii. EH Steering Committee: Danny Walters completed his term on that Comm.
 - iii. Tim Arr, EHO, Lawton SU, completed USPHS boarding process
 - iv. Staffing:
 - v. Zero Suicide Grant awarded: David Bales worked with Lawton SU to receive \$2 million over three years; 4+ positions will be funded
 - vi. EH Extern: Student from Missouri Southern State will serve Shawnee SU
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Hurricane deployments
 - 1. Jason Hymer to Texas
 - 2. Adam Mannarino to Puerto Rico
 - ii. Staffing
 - 1. Area IP Specialist: Rob Morones selected
 - 2. Reno District IP Specialist: Jason Hymer accepted CDC/IHS IP Liaison position & will transfer in mid-January
 - 3. Vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - a. District IP Specialist, Reno
 - b. District IP Specialist, Tempe
 - c. SU EHO, Hopi
 - d. SU EHO, Reno
 - e. SU EHO, Ft. Duchesne
 - 4. Kathryn "Kate" Pink, SU EHO, Fort Yuma, converted to Commissioned Corps (CC) this month
 - iii. Pre-Exposure Rabies Vaccination [eligibility for OEHE DEHS personnel]
 - 1. Researched through consultation with OGC
 - 2. Determined DEHS staff are entitled to receive employee health services associated with rabies prevention from IHS healthcare facilities at no personal cost, irrespective of the DEHS employee's status (CC or Civil Service) or health insurance coverage
 - 3. PAIHS CMO distributed a memo communicating the determination of eligibility for service
 - 4. Contact Kenny if you would like to see the memo if your Area staff are denied service
 - 5. HQ to determine if IHS-wide guidance necessary (may relate to new Employee Health policy)
 - iv. BIE School Safety Audit program revitalized by BIE/BIA



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1. They have a facilities deficiency portal (similar to WebTMA) to program action plans and funds for some corrections
 2. Phoenix Area working to identify designated BIE schools in WebEHRS and to meet with regional BIE staff to better understand their scope of service and opportunities to collaborate (complementary roles, reduce duplication of roles, share survey findings, etc.)
 - v. Orphan Establishment guidance document or white paper
 1. Remains on Kenny's to-do list who hopes to regain momentum over the next month or so
- k. Portland
- i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. Coastal communities spared from winter storms
 - iii. Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
 1. DEHS term position in development to serve Oregon tribes until they finalize 638 decision
 - iv. Tribal Environmental Public Health Summit
 1. “Emerging Roles for Tribal Governments: Promoting Health through Healthy Environments”
 2. January 7-9, 2018
 3. Ground Mound, WA
- l. Tucson
- i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. 638 negotiations
 - iii. Annual spay/neuter clinics Pasque Yaqui
 1. Partnering with local DOD services
 2. Will include micro-chipping pilot in 2018
 - iv. Area OEHE Director retiring in December; Martin will be Acting Director
- m. EHSC
- i. Hurricane deployments – none
 - ii. New [EHSC Website](#) to launch on December 12
 1. Webinar on December 11, 12:00 PM MT
 - iii. Jeff Dickson selected as Director, EHSC, reporting January 2018
 - iv. IEH Program Manager interviews next week
 - v. CDC Infection Control Courses
 1. December 12-14, 2017; Albuquerque, NM
 2. January 23-24, 2017; Portland, OR
 3. February 06-07, 2018; Oklahoma City, OK
 4. February 27-28, 2018; Phoenix
 - vi. WebEHRS Virtual Learning Session: December 13, 2017
 - vii. SNAP: January 18, 2018; Hopi, AZ
 - viii. Introduction to IP course: January 30-February 01, 2017; co-hosted with Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community



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- ix. Fundamentals of Safety Management: February 12-16, 2018; Phoenix, AZ
- x. Healthcare Safety Accreditation: March 27-29, 2018; Billings, MT
- xi. Healthcare Safety Accreditation: April 10-12, 2018; Phoenix, AZ
- xii. NFPA: Great Plains Area; spring 2018
- xiii. NFPA: Oklahoma City Area; spring 2018

11. Other

- a. None

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