DEHS Directors’ Meeting: 02/03/22
Meeting recording available upon request

Next conference call April 07, 2022 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska: Not on call
Albuquerque: Carrie Oyster
Bemidji: Tim Duffy
Billings: Darcy Merchant
California: Carolyn Garcia
Great Plains: Tim Wildcat

Nashville: Charles Woodlee
Navajo: Donna Gilbert
Oklahoma: Danny Walters
Phoenix: Dave Cramer
Portland: Chris Fish
Tucson: Travis Bowser

Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson
Rockville: Kelly Taylor, Molly Madson

1. Director’s Welcome and Update (Kelly Taylor)
   a. This is RADM Taylor’s last DEHS Directors’ call
   b. Remarks regarding the challenges of wearing multiple hats since 2016
      (Acting Director OPHS, Acting Chief of Staff, CPO) and its impact on DEHS
      i. Encouraged the Area programs to remain focused on meeting tribal
         needs
   c. Reminder of the importance and value of the OEHE Technical Handbook, Vol
      8, Part 112 which details the operational model that outlines our minimum
      core services
   d. DEHS is under recognized but greatly utilized and your work is essential
      i. It has been an honor to serve as DEHS Director the past 20 years
      ii. Time for a new director with new ideas
   e. Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award – 2021
      Congratulations LT Braden Hickey, Albuquerque Area
      i. Alaska Area Nominee: CDR Katherine Hubbard
      ii. Great Plains Area Nominee: LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland
      iii. Navajo Area Nominee: CDR Richard Skaggs
      iv. Phoenix Area Nominee: LT Zachary Hargis

2. Area Highlights
   a. Alaska – Not on call
   b. Albuquerque
      i. IP
         • Plan on how to use the remainder of mini-grant funds is in place
      ii. Program planning
         • Utilized WebEHRS
         • Prioritized surveys
         • Propose Community Inspection Teams (CATs) to compete work
iii. Staffing
- Six vacancy announcements forthcoming

c. Bemidji
  i. Staffing
    - Focused on “re-loading the bench” … currently staffed at 60%
    - Five SU EHO vacancies to fill
    - Tim Taylor, District EHO, Minnesota District Office
    - Barry Hugo, District EHO, Rhinelander District Office
    - Area IP Specialist vacancy announcement forthcoming
    - CDR Crump retiring this month
  ii. SUs struggling to recruit & retain Safety Officers so increased demand on Area staff
  iii. Routine EH work: Just as much to do now as there ever was, so team is working hard to keep up
  iv. COVID-19
    - Dealing with omicron
    - Assisting with testing & PPE supplies
  v. Rhinelander District Office move
  vi. OEHE Duluth field office projected to open February 2023

d. Billings
  i. New Billings Area OEHE Director in place
  ii. IEHO providing accreditation support to clinics
  iii. IP special projects
    - Elder fall prevention project wrapping-up
  iv. Re-visiting COVID-19 compliance in establishments
  v. Seeking to increase CFPM numbers in the Service Units

e. California
  i. Staffing
    - Ukiah Field Sanitarian: reported to duty January 2022 (Pathways)
  ii. COVID-19
    - Roles continue
    - Providing tribal facilities TA related to recent CDC isolation & quarantine guidance
    - Updated Area’s COVID-19 prevention plan & conducted training to non-clinical staff on the revisions
    - Assisting health programs w their testing supply requests
    - Assisting supervisors w COVID-19 case reporting
  iii. IP
    - Mini-grant cycle: awarded $44K for car seat, smoke alarm, bike helmet, gun lock, & PFD projects
iv. Area DEHS program review completed
- NO\textsubscript{x} exposure monitoring increased from 41% to 75%
- NO\textsubscript{x} programs w policies increased from 82% to 92%
- Number of clinics performing routine equipment inspection increased 35% to 83%
- Number of programs w equipment leaks decreased from 76% to 17%
- Number of establishments with CFPMs increased 193% in 2021
- Number of vomiting/diarrhea policy violations decreased 100%
- Employee illness restriction policies declined 104%
- Improper cooling practices declined 85%
- HACCP violations declined 100%

f. Great Plains
   i. Staffing
- Chris Allen retires June 2022
- Sioux City District EHO vacancy announcement [DE & MP] closes 30 June 2022
   ii. IEH
- Conducting surveys
   iii. COVID-19: roles continue

   g. Nashville
   i. Developing DEHS program plan
   ii. Staffing
- Kit will retire May 2022
- Riley should return to DEHS February 2022
   iii. Area’s emergency management program coming back to be managed by DEHS
   iv. National IEH Chapter 9 update: one final review completed by the development workgroup; optimistic final agency approval forthcoming

   h. Navajo
   i. Staffing
- EHO reporting to duty in Shiprock next week
   ii. COVID-19
- Dealing with omicron
- Maximum telework

   i. Oklahoma City
   i. COVID-19: roles continue; dealing with omicron & staffing shortages; maximum telework
   ii. Staffing
- CDR David Hogner retiring 01 March
- CAPT Chris Kates retiring 01 June
j. Phoenix
   i. Staffing
      • Environmental Health Specialist, Colorado River Service Unit at virtual OBC next week
      • Four EHS vacancy announcements coming soon: 1 at Colorado River Service Unit; 2 at San Carlos, 1 in Parker, 1 in Elko; working with classification on Pathways Hiring Authority
   ii. Submitted WebEHRS feedback report to add a subcategory for Establishment Type 26 for transient systems
   iii. Started two SharePoint sites for EH & IEH training materials
   iv. Ordered specialty helmet for our EHO, Whiteriver Service Unit, who has to ride a snow mobile to reach the food service operations at Sunrise Ski Resort
   v. Injury prevention
      • CDR Morones & LCDR Tsatoke will be on instructor team for the second pilot of online IP course 2 in February; Phoenix Area to host the course again in June
      • FEMA agreed to fund opioid lockbox project
      • The CARS (Community Approach to Ride Safe) toolkit is will be posted to the Phoenix Area IP website this week; there is a webinar scheduled for next week to help folks use the toolkit
   vi. Institutional EH
      • We are purchasing a Viasensor G200 for N2O monitoring as our TSI MIRAN Sapphire will no longer be supported
   vii. COVID-19
      • OEHE continues to fill key roles: Hicks IC; CAPT Cramer, EMPOC/Safety; CDR Hansen, Logistics; CDR Morones, Planning
      • Commissioned Corps officers deployed to Phoenix Area
         • PIMC: 13
         • Whiteriver: 8
         • Parker: 2
         • Hopi: 1

k. Portland
   i. Staffing
      • Yakama District EHO: reviewing applications
   ii. COVID-19: roles continue; dealing with omicron & staffing shortages

l. Tucson
   i. Surveying establishments & mass gatherings that are open
   ii. Public Health Accreditation: supported Pascua Yaqui Tribe (e.g. conducted training) who received accreditation in late CY2021
   iii. EH Specialist became CPS Technician
   iv. 200 child safety restraints acquired & delivered to Pascua Yaqui Tribe
   v. COVID-19: work continues
m. EHSC
   i. Leadership and Personal Development 2022 Cohort
      • Announcements & dates for Leading Self & for Leading Others forthcoming
      • Planning to have a Leading the Organization Chort
      • Monthly webinars TBA
   ii. IP training courses
      • Intermediate IP course pilot #2 in February (14 participants registered)
   iii. REHS/RS study group in development with LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland
   iv. Information sharing using video recordings has been helpful
      • If you’re interested in this, record your video using Skype or PowerPoint or other widely available software & upload here (https://www.ihs.gov/webservices/standards/video-standard/) & OIT HQ will post it to YouTube & provide you the hyperlink you can then share as desired
      • Plan to share this info with Area OEHE Directors

3. HQ Announcements
   a. Injury prevention (Tim Wildcat/Molly Madson)
      i. Holly’s retirement
      • Retirement 01 February 2022
      • Tim Wildcat, GPA, will be Acting
      ii. HQ projects
      • Media contract: develop photo library, graphic art portfolio, video files & communication products including brochures, fact sheets, infographics, & slide show templates
      • NHTSA/CDC collaboration on impaired driving prevention projects
      • SNAP course revisions/updates (includes virtual course in collaboration w partners in MN)
      • National AI/AN Injury Prevention [virtual] Conference scheduled for July 2022
   iii. Area IP projects
   iv. Fellowship
      • Scheduled for 2023
      • Updated course content being developed
   v. IP course schedule
      • February 2022: Pilot 2 of online course 2
      • May/June 2022: Pilot 1 of online course 3
      • August 2022: Pilot 2 of online course 3
      • November 2022: Pilot 1 of in-person course 1
vi. TIPCAP
- Year 2 NOA posted
- Annual Reports for Year 1 due 31 March
- Annual TIPCAP Workshop and Project Officer Meeting will be virtual the week of 04 April

b. NDECI (Molly Madson)
   i. Final dashboard complete – migration to production in progress
   ii. Last detail: IT making adjustments to security model-transition from ITAC to Sailpoint
   iii. Target for full rollout – end of January

c. Due date reminders (Molly Madson)
   i. 28 February
      - Project posters
   ii. 11 February
      - Gefroh Health & Safety Award nominations
      - Smith Injury Prevention Award nominations

4. Other
   i. CONGRATULATIONS RADM TAYLOR!!!

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