



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 02/03/22

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

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

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	Charles Woodlee
Albuquerque:	Carrie Oyster	Navajo:	Donna Gilbert
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Phoenix:	Dave Cramer
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Portland:	Chris Fish
Great Plains:	Tim Wildcat	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



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- 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_x exposure monitoring increased from 41% to 75%
 - NO_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/) (<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



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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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