



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 07 April 2022

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call 02 June 2022 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	Hugh Denny	Nashville:	<i>Not on call</i>
Albuquerque:	Carrie Oyster	Navajo:	Donna Gilbert
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	<i>Not on call</i>
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Phoenix:	Dave Cramer
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Portland:	Chris Fish
Great Plains:	Jamison Honeycutt	Tucson:	<i>Not on call</i>

Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson

Rockville: Stephen Piontkowski

1. Acting Director's Welcome and Update (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. DEHS/HQ staffing
 - i. Mr. Ludington, Director, OEHE, intends to backfill vice Taylor's position before the other DEHS/HQ vacancies
- b. CCHQ had call w IHS l'shp (05 April)
 - i. CCHQ expects IHS COs to deploy
 - ii. 107 CADs are looking for jobs (unsure how many are EH)
 - iii. CCHQ call w IHS COs 07 April @ 1530ET to provide updates & information regarding the current posture of the service & the future
- c. WebEHRS
 - i. Contract awarded to CDP, Inc in Feb 2022
 - ii. WebEHRS mobile² upgrade
 - Mobile² will replace current WebEHRS mobile
 - Mobile² will offer all the features found on the WebEHRS desktop
 - Mobile² offer user interface folks expect when using an app on a mobile device
 - Mobile² development this spring w launch in July 2022
 - IHS Enterprise Mobile Services: See OIT Newsletter March 2022...*Do you or one of your employees need a mobile device to support your job function? Do you already have an IHS mobile device but need to change something about it? Go to ServiceNow at <https://ihsitsupport.servicenowservices.com/sp> and submit a "Mobile Device Request" with the details.*
- d. Leadership & Personal Development Program
 - i. Cohort applications due 07 April
 - ii. IHS DEHS All <ihsdehsall@ihs.gov>: outlook distribution list in Global D1 address book; ensure your staff are members; LPD Program will begin using to enhance comms



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- e. Institutional EH
 - i. CY 2021 OSHA Annual Report ongoing & on time for early May deadline; thanks to all the Area IEHO staff for their assistance
- f. Injury prevention
 - i. TIPCAP
 - Annual TIPCAP Workshop and Project Officer Meeting will be virtual the week of 04 April
 - ii. IP course schedule
 - March 2022: GPA conducted course 1
 - April 2022: Finalize course 2 materials
 - May 2022: Pilot 1 of online course 3
 - June 2022: PH Area conduct course 2
 - August 2022: Pilot 2 of online course 3
 - November 2022: Pilot 1 of in-person course 1
 - iii. Fellowship 2023-2024
 - Recorded informational webinar in late summer 2022
 - Applications will be due Oct/Nov 2022
 - Sessions begin Jan-Mar 2023
 - iv. IP Media Communications contract
 - Awarded in March 2022 to the [C3 Group](#), an Indian-owned marketing firm out of Oklahoma
 - Purpose: create templates, infographics, brochures, & slides; it is our intent to make these stock images, videos, and the products created available to all the IP partners within IHS
 - Next step: take IP photos & videos in Indian Country
 - HQ/C3 looking to partner w your DEHS EH and IP staff in the field to assist in being a liaison between the contractor and the communities for these photo ops
 - DEHS staff assistance and direct access to tribes and tribal administrators would hopefully allow for easier communication and coordination
 - First site visits to the SW this spring
 - Molly will email you to gauge your interest in participating & then set-up a call to learn more about specific actions/roles
 - v. National AIAN IVP [virtual] Conference
 - 26-28 July 2022
 - Registration should be available in April 2022
- g. [Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Award – 2021](#)
 - i. LT Braden Hickey, Albuquerque Area
- h. [Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award – 2021](#)
 - i. Medications Disposal Team
- i. [Gary J. Gefroh Safety and Health Award – 2021](#)
 - i. CDR Katherine Hubbard, Alaska Area
- j. [DEHS award winners of 2021 on the IHS Blog](#)



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- k. NEHA's AIAN Environmental Health Recognition Awards
 - i. [See details here](#)
 - ii. [Nominations](#) due 27 April
- l. [IHS Director's Awards 2021](#)
 - i. [Nominations](#) due 29 April

2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska
 - i. Introduction: CAPT Hugh Denny, Acting Director, OEHE, Alaska Area
 - ii. Congratulations CDR Katherine Hubbard
 - Gary J. Gefroh Safety and Health Award – 2021
 - Alaska Area EHS of 2021
 - iii. Alaska Tribal EH quarterly mtg was in February
 - Continue to support water & wastewater treatment operator training virtually
 - Staffing
 - George Turner, EH Director, Bristol Bay
 - EH Manager vacancy at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Bethel
 - EH Director vacancy at Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Staffing
 - Selected CAPT Michael Box as IEH Specialist; reporting in June
 - Vacancy announcements for Albuquerque, Santa Fe, & Zuni close on 30 June
 - ii. Staff returning to the workplace
 - iii. Community Assessment Teams (CATs)
 - EHSs conduct work at Service Units without EHS staff for a week to complete surveys coming due to ensure no lapse in services
 - Service Unit EHSs from another location is the lead who organizes the CAT & contacts community facilities to arrange surveys
 - CAT consists of staff from other Districts
 - Benefits to CAT approach: completing survey workload; staff cross-training, enhanced moral, & team building
- c. Bemidji
 - i. Staffing
 - Remain focused on “re-loading the bench”
 - Selected Casey Crump as Area IP Specialist
 - Selected CDR Greg Calvert, Area IEH Specialist; reporting June 2022



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- d. Billings
 - i. 2 EH staff vacancy announcements at Blackfeet & Crow SUs forthcoming
 - ii. COVID-19 restrictions lifting & most establishments open
 - iii. Conducting food manager trainings
 - iv. IEHO providing accreditation support to clinics
 - v. IP special projects
 - Anticipate greater activity due to lifting of COVID-19 restrictions
- e. California
 - i. Staffing
 - CAPT Brian Lewelling retiring end of April
 - Ukiah Field Sanitarian: reported to duty January 2022 (Pathways)
 - ii. COVID-19
 - Staff returning to the workplace
 - Updated Area's COVID-19 prevention plan & conducted office inspections
- f. Great Plains
 - i. Staffing
 - 4 vacancies now & 2 pending
 - Sioux City District EHO vacancy announcement [[DE](#) & [MP](#)] closes 30 June 2022
 - Area IEH Specialist vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - Chris Allen retires June 2022
 - ii. IEH
 - 4 mock surveys completed in March
 - iii. IP
 - Intro to IP course conducted in March (23 participants)
 - iv. REHS study group w EHSC: LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland leading
 - v. COVID-19
 - Staff returning to the workplace & conducting surveying
 - Ensuring PPE distribution as needed
- g. Nashville – *not on call*
- h. Navajo
 - i. Staffing
 - Four vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - Selections made for Gallup & Shiprock
 - ii. COVID-19
 - Staff returning to the workplace
 - Navajo Nation mask mandate remains in place
- i. Oklahoma City – *not on call*



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- j. Phoenix
 - i. Staffing
 - Backfilling four EHS vacancies: 1 at Colorado River Service Unit; 2 at San Carlos, 1 in Parker, 1 in Elko; classification on Pathways Hiring Authority complete
 - Many COs have questions on the new CC promotion policy
 - Environmental Health Specialist, Colorado River Service Unit at virtual OBC next week
 - ii. Brandon Parker TDY to PIMC ongoing
 - iii. NFPA subscription: working on securing a subscription so staff can access NFPA codes
 - iv. [Staff to attend 30th-Annual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium](#), 18-22 April
 - v. IP
 - Preparing to conduct course 2 in June
 - May conduct course 1 in December
 - LCDR Andrea Tsatoke presented poster on medication disposal
 - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community TIPCAP Coordinator, Monte Yazzie and his team were awarded the 2022 Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year from the National Child Passenger Safety Board
 - 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
 - Operational tempo slowing
 - OEHE continues to fill key roles
 - Staff returning to the workplace
- k. Portland
 - i. Staffing
 - Selected Roberta Other Medicine as District EHO, Yakama District Office
 - SU EHS vacancy announcement forthcoming; classification on Pathways Hiring Authority ongoing; may be announced in June/July
 - ii. NEHA 2022: CDR Chris Fish to co-present w EPA on Child Care Center Integrated Pest Management project
 - iii.
 - iv. COVID-19
 - Staff returning to the workplace
 - Portland Area looking to reduce the office footprint for admin staff & OEHE looking to move into that space
 - Many IEH-related consults
- l. Tucson – *not on call*

m. EHSC

- i. Leadership & Personal Development Program
 - Cohort applications due 07 April; still spaces available in all three 2022 cohorts
 - Monthly webinar schedule announced
- ii. IP training courses
 - Need to coordinate all future course schedules to ensure staff training needs met, courses are well attended & not canceled, & limited resources are wisely used
- iii. REHS study group in-progress w LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland
 - Website development using Canvas ongoing
 - This project is setting a foundation that can be adapted to other study groups (e.g. CSP)
- iv. NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code training: new course forthcoming; orientation webinar on 25 April
- v. 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

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