



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 02 June 2022

Meeting recording not available

Next conference call 04 August 2022 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	<i>Not on call</i>
Albuquerque:	Carrie Oyster	Navajo:	<i>Not on call</i>
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Oklahoma:	Danny Walters
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Phoenix:	Rob Morones
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Portland:	Chris Fish
Great Plains:	Tim Wildcat	Tucson:	Travis Bowser

Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson
Rockville: Stephen Piontkowski, Molly Madson, Mike Reed

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
 - ii. Selection of vice Taylor's position should be announced in June
- b. Performance Measures FY22 (October 2021 thru March 2022)
 - i. Environmental Surveillance (the percent of establishments with a Certified Food Protection Manager, is tracked in WebEHRS for food service establishment types 47 and 80) – 80.4%
 - ii. Injury Prevention (the number of persons who received injury prevention training, is tracked in WebEHRS): – 45
- c. COSTEPs 2022
 - i. 6 students from 6 Univs in 6 Areas (1 is tribal hire at SEARCH)
 - ii. Security clearances completed in late May
 - iii. Orders being processed & students reporting to duty
- d. OEHE COSTEP Symposium
 - i. Virtual
 - ii. 29 July
 - iii. 1300-1500ET
 - iv. 6 EHOs + 2 ENGs
 - v. Details and calendar invitation forthcoming
- e. [Loan Repayment Program](#)
 - i. Funding still available
 - ii. LRP accepting applications
 - iii. [Applications](#) due monthly by 15th until funding runs out
 - iv. See details in 02 June email sent to Area DEHS Directors
- f. [DEHS Annual Report 2019](#) available
 - i. Hard copies should be available in June 2022; request copies w [Stephen Piontkowski](#)
- g. DEHS Annual Report 2020 should be available in June 2022

2. Area Highlights

a. Alaska – *Not on call*

b. Albuquerque

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- Working thru panels for current vacancy listings in field EHS positions

ii. Head Start Summit

- Preparing to host event
- Recommended other Areas consider using the EHSC online platform to assist with training/conference registration

c. Bemidji

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- Achieved 90% staffing level 😊
- Two junior EH staff reporting this month
- Wyatt Walters, COSTEP, reported 23 May & is fitting right in w the Rhinelander District team
- Planning to advertise for civilian enterns for next summer

ii. IEH

- CDR Greg Calvert, Area IEH Specialist reported June 2022
- Preparing IEH work plan
- Area Office will host an OSHA 30 Hour course

iii. EH

- Pow-wow & RRM workload promises to make for a busy summer
- Closed out & distributed most of our annual IP & ES special project funding

iv. IP

- Casey Crump was an instructor for all three injury prevention pilot courses
- In the process of updating the Bemidji Area injury Data summary
- Hosting an American Indian Life Skills Training 09-11 August: this is a cooperative w Area Behavioral Health to provide training to 6-7 schools for development of traditional life skills for grades 9-12
- Working w John Hopkins to close out elder drug lock box project: 197 of 266 boxes distributed; Hopkins will interview sites for implementation & distribution assessments

d. Billings

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- One sanitarian vacancy at Crow Service Unit
- Blackfeet Service Unit sanitarian accepted the local safety officer job; sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
- Assisting Fort Peck tribal EH program w candidate search to fill their vacant sanitarian position

ii. General EH

- Mass gatherings/powwow inspections planned for summer
- Food manager trainings will be conducted for various tribes in Billings Area over next several months
- COVID-19 restrictions lifted at many tribes, business as usual for general EH

iii. CAPT Murga continues to provide technical assistance to Service Unit safety programs to prepare for pending accreditation visits

iv. IP special projects

- Funding from HQ will conclude at end of CY23
- COVID-19 pandemic had put Billings Area Elder Fall Prevention project on hold past several years

e. California

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- Brian Lewelling selected & reported to Escondido District Office

ii. Preparing for wildfire season

- Staff monitoring state wildfire & air quality websites & providing weekly SITREPs to leadership
- DEHS has assembled a cache of 30K N95 respirators for rapid distribution to tribal communities impacted by wildfire smoke
- Local cache of air purifiers possible based on availability through NSSC

iii. All Hazards Management Plan

- Drafted by DEHS
- Adapts the Area's ICS structure, assigned roles & responsibilities to each ICS member, defines ICS member training, identified mitigation strategies for hazards as defined by the Area's HVA & compiles the standard operating guidelines for Divisions w a role in emergency operations



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- f. Great Plains
Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?
Yes
- i. Staffing
 - 5 vacancies now
 - CAPT Chris Allen retired June 2022
 - Director, DEHS, GPA (Vice Allen), vacancy announcement closed & should be selected in the coming weeks
 - ii. Field staff looking forward to busy Pow-Wow season ahead
- g. Nashville – *Not on call* (updates submitted via email)
Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?
Yes
- i. EH program review/planning on-going
 - ii. Developing a revised, narrower scope of Area EM activities per AD direction
 - iii. Asked by Area Director to revise/develop policies & procedures for EH & EM programs
- h. Navajo – *Not on call* (updates submitted via email)
Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?
Yes, in-person or hybrid works
- i. Staffing
 - [Two Supervisory EH vacancies announced](#) for Many Farms & Crownpoint; closes on 17 June
 - Vacancy announcement for Gallup forthcoming
 - ii. Shiprock DEHS hosted a virtual PRePARE session for San Juan Schools
 - iii. COVID-19
 - Staff returned to the workplace
 - Assisting w Navajo Water Access Project
 - Navajo Nation mask mandate remains in place
- i. Oklahoma City
Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?
Yes
- i. Staffing
 - District EHO vacancy should be selected this month
 - COSTEP report to duty date 13 June
 - ii. IEH
 - Conducting MOCK accreditation surveys for two upcoming surveys by Joint Commission within the next few months
 - OSHA will conduct a scheduled visit to Claremore Indian Hospital on 06 June & DEHS staff supporting the hospital
 - iii. IP
 - Working on medical disposal project that will make it easier for homeowners to dispose unused meds



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j. Phoenix

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- Backfilled EHO, San Carlos SU, w former COSTEP;
- [Vacancy announcement using Pathways for GS-7/9 non-supervisory Environmental Health Specialist](#) closes 17 June: San Carlos, Parker, Elko
- COSTEP Andrae Genus: updated his 1662 to adjust later CAD than originally scheduled
- LCDR Brandon Parker PCS to PIMC

ii. EH

- LCDR Pink will present the EHO Recruitment Presentation & a poster on fit testing in tribal communities at NEHA AEC
- LCDR Wiggins worked with state of Utah to accept IHS Food Handlers training permits

iii. IP

- Preparing to conduct [virtual] course 2 in June
- Falls Prevention Tool kit: nearly ready for external SME review
- Meeting w our Fiscal Intermediary (Blue Cross Blue Shield) to identify injury/trauma-related data
- Overseeing the Johns Hopkins lock box expansion project – Baltimore implementation underway
- Safe firearm storage project approvals & planning underway

iv. COVID-19

- Operational tempo slowing
- OEHE continues to fill key roles (Hicks IC; CAPT Cramer, EMPOC/Safety; CDR Hansen, Logistics; CDR Morones, Planning)
- Post return to the workplace, we are having to rework the Area Office fire response plan

k. Portland

Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?

Yes

i. Staffing

- Roberta Other Medicine reported as District EHO, Yakama District Office

ii. Preparing for wildfire season

iii. Continuing to provide IEH support to Service Units; increasing focus on security improvements

iv. NEHA 2022: CDR Chris Fish to co-present w EPA & Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board on Child Care Center Integrated Pest Management project

v. Preparing for Portland Area Quality Symposium

- CDR Fish presenting on root cause analysis & I-STAR reporting standards
- vi. Requested an OSHA 10-hour course from EHSC
- I. Tucson
 - Are you interested in participating in a [hybrid] DEHS Annual Meeting 2022?*
 - Yes
 - i. Business returning to normal EH work with lessening COVID duties
 - ii. Trying to schedule more IP work, especially CPST related, may be reaching out to Phoenix Area & EHSC for support
 - iii. Partnered with Johns Hopkins for smoke/CO detector project, moving forward on this with Pascua Yaqui
 - iv. IP media contractor visited Tucson Area on 24 May 24; toured Pascua Yaqui & San Xavier District to take photos for IHS Injury Prevention Program
 - m. EHSC
 - i. Leadership & Personal Development Program
 - Leading-Self Cohort underway
 - Monthly webinar schedule announced
 - ii. REHS study group in-progress w LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland

3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention
 - i. TIPCAP
 - Semi-annual reports are due in to GrantSolutions by July 31, 2020 for Jan 1 – Jun 30
 - ii. IP course schedule
 - 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
 - Site visits to OKC Area and SW locations complete
 - v. [National AIAN IVP \[virtual\] Conference](#)
 - 26-28 July 2022
 - [Registration](#) and call for [abstracts](#) open
- b. Institutional EH
 - i. CY 2021 OSHA Annual Report complete; thanks to all the Area IEHOs staff for their assistance

- c. NDECI
 - i. Kickoff meeting and initial training/webinar schedule TBD
 - ii. Phase II development underway
- d. WebEHRS
 - i. WebEHRS mobile² upgrade
 - Mobile² will replace current WebEHRS mobile
 - Mobile² offer user interface folks expect when using an app on a mobile device
 - Mobile² development ongoing w launch in August 2022
 - Mobile² will offer all the features found on the WebEHRS desktop
 - Initial release will include most frequently used features
 - Additional functionality released in phases
 - 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.*
- e. DEHS Staffing template in Health Services Planning Tool
 - i. Purpose
 - ii. Background
 - iii. Use
- f. DEHS Annual Meeting 2022
 - i. Hybrid (i.e. in-person and virtual) required
 - ii. Interest? All Areas & HQ
 - iii. Dates? Sometime in the first two weeks of November 2022
 - iv. Location? IHS, HQ in Rockville, MD
 - v. Planning committee? Danny, Carrie, and HQ staff
 - vi. Survey Monkey forthcoming to determine dates & planning committee

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