



# Environmental Health Services

● Healthy Environments = Healthy People ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 08/01/19

Meeting recording available; <https://ihs.cosocloud.com/p16sc2wn1t5i/>

Next conference call November 07, 2019 1:00-2:30PM ET

<b>Alaska:</b>	Denman Ondelacy	<b>Nashville:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>
<b>Albuquerque:</b>	Travis Bowser	<b>Navajo:</b>	Gordon Tsatoke
<b>Bemidji:</b>	Tim Duffy	<b>Oklahoma:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>
<b>Billings:</b>	Darcy Merchant	<b>Phoenix:</b>	Kenny Hicks
<b>California:</b>	Carolyn Garcia	<b>Portland:</b>	Shawn Blackshear
<b>Great Plains:</b>	Chris Allen	<b>Tucson:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>
<b>Environmental Health Support Center:</b> Jeff Dickson			
<b>Rockville:</b> Kelly Taylor, Martin Smith, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski, Holly Billie, Tracy Hackett			

### 1. Director's Welcome and Update (Kelly Taylor)

- a. USPHS Commissioned Corps 2019 promotion results published 2019
  - i. CCHQ does not plan to publish promotion statistics
  - ii. Promotion prep tips
    1. In addition to achieving promotion criteria which all promotion competitive COs are doing, demonstrate impact of completed work and go above and beyond
    2. Clearly communicate impact with easy to read and succinct language in required documents (e.g. CV, OS, ROS, COERs)
    3. Consider asking other people to read/review their documents
  - iii. Contact RADM Taylor or EHOPAC if COs would like career mentoring or counseling
  - iv. Was mobility weighted more heavily this promotion cycle?
    1. Unsure and each Promotion Board may weight factors differently
    2. Historically, the EH category values geographic and programmatic mobility
  - v. COs should ensure they have the appropriate credentials (e.g. REHS, CIH)

### 2. Performance Measures (Martin Smith)

- a. 2016-2020 Environmental Health Performance Measures
  - i. Environmental Surveillance- Year 4 Target
    1. Conduct a final assessment of poor employee health and hygiene foodborne illness risk factors and compare to baseline
    2. REMINDER: you can track PM status using WebEHRS Reports 3a, 3b, 3c found in the WebEHRS 'reports' menu
    3. Submit into WebEHRS by September 13, 2019



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- ii. Injury Prevention- Year 4 Target
    - 1. Conduct final assessment of driver seat belt use and compare to baseline
    - 2. Ensure all observation data is entered into [SurveyMonkey](#) prior to September 13, 2019
  - b. 2021-2025 Environmental Health Performance Measures
    - i. Area DEHS Directors' Annual Meeting (April 2019, Oklahoma City)
      - 1. Outlined potential PMs during that meeting
      - 2. HQ to distribute a summary report of those PMs and their related considerations
    - ii. Potential PMs that were proposed at the end of the meeting
      - 1. REHS – OPHS thought this could be a good PM
      - 2. CFPM – OPHS thought this could be a good PM
      - 3. Opioids – OPHS thought this PM may be too vague and inconsistent
    - iii. Focused calls in August and September
      - 1. Agreed to conduct weekly calls though August and into September as needed to finalize PMs 2021-2025
      - 2. HQ will distribute calendar invitations and supporting documents
- 3. COSTEPs (Stephen Piontkowski)**
- a. 2019
    - i. 12 COSTEP's from 9 Universities, in 5 Areas
      - 1. Submit narratives to HQ by 31 August 2019
    - ii. EHOPAC is hosting [COSTEP Symposium](#) on 15 August 2019 at 1:00PM ET
      - 1. Two IHS COSTEPs (Katherine Miller, TBD) and one IHS Preceptor (Garrett Steiner) presenting
  - b. 2020
    - i. Open application window closes 03 August; call center closed 03 July
    - ii. RADM Taylor working with CCHQ to re-open window this fall
    - iii. HQ will continue to share info as received
- 4. WebEHRS Update (Mike Reed)**
- a. Change Control Board
    - i. Monthly calls moved to quarterly
    - ii. 4 items submitted for modification in July
    - iii. Evaluated 4 additional items, 2 will move forward for implementation
  - b. Data Quality
    - i. Phase 1&2: Areas reminded to clean up and establishment types as needed
    - ii. Phase 3: Areas reminded to update and clean up establishment types 47,57,58; definition changes to go live on 03 September 2019

- c. NDECI
  - i. Anticipated pilot start date: 16 August 2019
    - 1. Several technical issues resolved resulting in improved data and enhanced system functions
    - 2. Pilot sites: California, Bemidji, Great Plains, Phoenix Areas
- d. Head Start eSurvey
  - i. Reviewed and revised with ACF, live in WebEHRS August 2019

## 5. Injury Prevention Program Update (Holly Billie)

- a. IP Epi Fellowship
  - i. 15 Fellows from 7 Areas (6 from Phoenix, 3 from Oklahoma, 2 from Billings, 1 from Albuquerque 1 from California, 1 from Great Plains, 1 from Navajo)
  - ii. Special project topics include: motor vehicle (n=7); all injuries (n=3); fall prevention (n=3); substance misuse (n=1); opioid overdose (n=1)
  - iii. 1<sup>st</sup> in-person course held at CDC in Atlanta in June 2019
  - iv. 2<sup>nd</sup> in-person course held in Denver in July
  - v. 3<sup>rd</sup> in-person course will be the field course in Shiprock in October



*Injury Prevention Fellowship class, Atlanta, GA*

- b. IP Specialist Meeting and TIPCAP Project Officer Training
  - i. Held at CDC in Atlanta in June
  - ii. Topics discussed included: the next TIPCAP notice of funding opportunity; long-term program planning; formed workgroup to develop framework for injury prevention app
  - iii. 2020 IP Specialist meeting in Rockville in June alongside the Fellowship Symposium



*IHS Injury Prevention Specialists at their annual meeting, Atlanta, GA*

- c. National AI/AN Injury Prevention Conference
  - i. Held in Denver in July and overall a successful conference
  - ii. 287 registered, ~260 attended, 30 sessions, 81 abstracts accepted; final summary report from contractor pending
  - iii. Two outcomes from the conference
    - 1. Editor in Chief of the journal, [Injury Epidemiology](#), offered an invitation to publish the conference proceedings which IHS and conference partners will pursue
    - 2. [World Injury Conference 2020](#), Sydney, Australia, 08-11 November 2020 invited the IHS IP Program to participate in the conference with a spotlight on AIAN injury issues; extent of IHS participation TBD
- d. Area IP Projects
  - i. There are 10 projects and most are over occurring over two years
  - ii. Year 1 ended in July 2019
  - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report due 02 August 2019



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- e. HQ IP Position [new]
  - i. Molly Madson selected as the new Injury Prevention Specialist
  - ii. Reports to duty 04 September 2019
  - iii. Molly will work on TIPCAP
- f. TIPCAP
  - i. Working on notice of funding opportunity for 2020-2024 cycle
  - ii. Target announcement date is December 2019 or January 2020

## 6. IEH Program Update (Charles Woodlee)

- a. WebCident Replacement
  - i. Non-patient safety team helping with implementation process (M. Smith, R. Murga, B. Hroch, S. Aboagy, J. Jones)
  - ii. Currently developing the reporting form and discussing data migration
  - iii. Already included several improvement and opportunities to improve data quality
- b. Residency
  - i. Brandon Parker began his studies at USU
    - 1. He will be reaching out to IEH staff to inquire about recommended topics for his research thesis
- c. Policy Revisions
  - i. Chapter 9: workgroup finished responding to comments; a few loose ends to tie up, and need to consult with legal on one issue
    - 1. Tentative final version will be ready end of August 2019
    - 2. Discussing ideas for a roll out strategy to provide information and resources to various niche audiences across IHS
  - ii. Chapter 33 on infection control
    - 1. Recently discussed document with Matthew Ellis who will have partial ownership in his new role in the IHS Office of Quality
    - 2. Plan to move ahead with chapter for national comment w/o significant revision
  - iii. OEHE Technical Handbook
    - 1. Pharmacy compounding workgroup re-established address new sterile compounding standard (K. Cook, M. Box, D. Cramer, B. Hroch, P. Ninomura (DES), A. Schaber (pharmacy))

## 7. Area Highlights

*Roll call question: Does your area use REHS/RS as a selective placement factor (SPF) in vacancy announcements?*

- a. Alaska
  - i. SPF: no; no hiring of EHOs in Alaska Area
  - ii. Infection prevention control training with CDC in September 2019
    - 1. 100 participants expected to join plus more via webcast



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- b. Albuquerque
  - i. SPF: yes; required for all supervisory positions (GS 11 and above) and ladder positions with RS as SPF, and IEH positions may have them (e.g. CSP)
  - ii. Staffing
    - 1. 3 field-level announcements forthcoming (Taos, Santa Fe, Durango)
    - 2. Jeff Connor reported to Institutional Environmental Health Program
  - iii. Trainings
    - 1. Intermediate IP Course originally scheduled for August has been postponed to November (only 1 person registered to attend)
  - iv. National AI/AN Injury Prevention Conference: several staff participated and it was great
- c. Bemidji
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 12 and above with REHS as SPF and asks Pathways applicants to earn REHS within 2 years of employment
  - ii. Staffing
    - 1. Francis Park selected for Ashland Field Office vacancy
    - 2. Current Pending Vacancies
      - GS 7/9 EH Specialist in Minnesota District Office
  - iii. COSTEPs
    - 1. Hosted 3 high performing students
    - 2. 1 student will be looking for employment at end of Fall 2019 semester if you will have a vacancy then
  - iv. Drug Diversion initiative
    - 1. Contract is in place for the collection containers
    - 2. 20 containers will be installed in healthcare centers
- d. Billings
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 11/12 and above with REHS as SPF
  - ii. Working on mid-year review on the Environmental Health Program
- e. California
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 12 and above with RS as SPF
  - ii. Staffing
    - 1. Anticipates receiving a panel shortly for the 2 vacancies they have advertised
  - iii. Hosting Intro to Injury Prevention course, September 2019
- f. Great Plains
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 12 and above with RS as SPF
  - ii. *eColi* outbreak in Sisseton
    - 1. Cause suspected to be linked to a non-tribal swimming pool
    - 2. ~8 cases (mostly children; 2 hospitalized)
    - 3. Ongoing





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- iii. Staffing
  - 1. Dusty Joplin reported to duty and IEH Officer
  - 2. Forthcoming announcement for GS 12 Senior EH Specialist in Aberdeen
- g. Nashville – *Not on call*
- h. Navajo
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises District Sanitarian positions with RS as SPF
  - ii. Partnered with Colorado State University Veterinarian students to help with rabies vaccination clinics
    - 1. 2018 rabies vaccination clinics
      - 4 CSU Vet students
      - 1,300 rabies vaccinations
  - iii. Staffing
    - 1. Making selections for the Industrial Hygiene position
    - 2. Forthcoming announcements for Fort Defiance, Shiprock and Gallup
  - iv. Interested in hearing if there are enhanced recruitment efforts for the IEH program
- i. Oklahoma
  - i. Staffing
    - 1. New hire reporting to Holton, KS
    - 2. Forthcoming announcement for Shawnee, OK
- j. Phoenix
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 11 and above with RS/REHS as SPF
  - ii. Staffing
    - 1. New hires
      - Kayla Davis reporting to Tempe from Oklahoma
      - Brad Strait reporting to Reno
      - Andrew Park reporting to Elko
    - 2. Current/pending vacancies
      - GS 7/9/11 in Reno, San Carlos, and Yuma
      - GS 12, District Environmental Health Specialist, in Reno
    - 3. 601 Series Classification issue per Sept 2017 OPM Update to the Job Family Standard for Professional Work in the [600] Medical and Healthcare Group
      - Phoenix Area HR stated EH should not be placed in 601 series
      - Issue ongoing
  - iii. Child Care eSurvey marking instructions in development
  - iv. COSTEP Symposium held 31 July 2019
    - 1. 3 EHOs, 3 ENGs
    - 2. EHO project highlight: Fire safety at temporary food vendors



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- k. Portland
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises GS 12 and above with RS as SPF
  - ii. Portland Area DEHS 638 to Portland Area Indian Health Board
    - 1. Tentative effective date: 01 October 2019
  - iii. Staffing
    - 1. EH Specialist, Spokane, on extended medical leave
- l. Tucson
  - i. SPF: yes; advertised GS-11/12 with RS as SPF
  - ii. Staffing
    - 1. Travis Bowser reporting to duty in September
- m. EHSC
  - i. SPF: yes; advertises EH Consultant and IEH Consultant positions with RS/REHS as SPF
  - ii. Intermediate IP Course originally scheduled for Billings canceled due to lack of participant registrations; rerouting folks to Albuquerque course in November
  - iii. National AI/AN Injury Prevention Conference was excellent
  - iv. OEHE Orientation (September 2019)
    - 1. Finalizing agendas and will be distributed soon
  - v. Leadership and Personal Development Program
    - 1. Leading-Self Cohort
      - Has a webinar on 06 August
      - In-Person training on 13-15 August (this is cohort's last class)
    - 2. General webinar for all OEHE staff: 08 August
  - vi. On-Demand Learning Tool
    - 1. Converting on work that Areas are doing to convert into an Adobe Connect presentation for future educational purposes
  - vii. Lay vaccinator training
    - 1. Staff should not be administering vaccines
    - 2. Assisting tribes interested in becoming lay vaccinators and administer the training themselves
    - 3. Future project: tribal animal control program development resources

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