



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 04 August 2022

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call 06 October 2022 1:00-2:00PM ET

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

**Environmental Health Support Center:** *Not on call*

**Rockville:** Molly Madson, Mike Reed

### 1. Acting Director's Welcome and Update (Mike Reed)

- a. Congratulations Molly Madson – IHS HQ Employee of the Month (August 2022)
- b. CAPT Mike Reed, Director, DEHS, official report date 01 August 2022
- c. DEHS Director's Priorities
  - i. Improve relationships, communication, & customer service
  - ii. Backfill DEHS HQ vacancies
  - iii. Unify DEHS
    - Will solicit input from Areas
  - iv. Better describe our work (WebEHRS, RRM, etc.)
  - v. Conduct Area Reviews
- d. Dedicated to a team management approach

### 2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska
  - i. Alaska Area OEHE current vacancy rate 50%
  - ii. From the Alaska Tribal EH quarterly meeting
    - Staffing "census" initiative: who is where; identify current vacancies & future needs
    - IIJA – determining how EH staff can support sanitation projects resulting from forthcoming funds
    - New Emergency Preparedness Manager
    - More water/Sewer trainings being planned
    - Avian flu work ramping-up
- b. Albuquerque
  - i. Staffing
    - Michael Box, Area IEH Specialist, reported to duty
    - Working thru panels for current vacancy listings in field EHS positions



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- ii. Head Start Summit complete
  - Recommended other Areas consider using the EHSC online platform to assist with training/conference registration
  - Virtual & on-demand offerings very valuable & likely to continue
- iii. Determining how to best support field staff when they are on-site by themselves
- c. Bemidji
  - i. Annual Head Start trainings offered virtually two consecutive years & works really well
  - ii. Staffing
    - Achieved 100% staffing level 😊
    - Area Office will host an OSHA 30 Hour course
- d. Billings
  - i. Staffing
    - One sanitarian vacancy at Crow Service Unit; announcement closes 04 August
    - Blackfeet Service Unit sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
  - ii. General EH
    - Mass gatherings/powwow inspections being conducted
  - iii. IEH
    - CAPT Murga will assist Bemidji Area w several mock surveys
- e. California
  - i. Staffing
    - Brian Lewelling selected & reported to Escondido District Office
  - ii. Wildfires
    - Staff monitoring three fires
    - Tribal members homes lost in Oak Fire & McKinney Fire
    - McKinney Fire: one clinic evacuated; helped secure generator thru TRANSAM
    - Procuring 125 air purifiers
  - iii. All Hazards Management Plan
    - Draft completed by DEHS
    - Tabletop exercise in August
  - iv. Annual Head Start trainings being conducted
    - Included info on monkeypox
  - v. Conducted plan review of new casino
  - vi. Conducting pre-operational surveys of new casino
- f. Great Plains – *Not on call*



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- g. Nashville
  - i. Medication drop box project ongoing
  - ii. Collaborating w NEHA to conduct special processes food training for casino food service managers
  - iii. Mid-Atlantic Service Unit, Richmond, VA is new & DEHS providing consultation on several issues & they initiate operations
  - iv. IIJA & how to DEHS & SFC can better collaborate in the future to meet program needs
- h. Navajo
  - i. Staffing
    - Currently six vacancies
  - ii. COVID-19
    - Providing consultation to schools which plan to conduct in-person instruction this year
    - Cases increasing
    - Navajo Nation mask mandate remains in place
  - iii. Conducted PREPaRE training in Shiprock
- i. Oklahoma City
  - i. Staffing
    - One vacancy in Pawnee District
    - Clinton, OK vacancy announcement forthcoming
    - Bio-med Director vacancy announcement forthcoming
  - ii. COVID-19
    - Cases increasing & response work continues
- j. Phoenix
  - i. Staffing
    - DEHS Director position vacancy announcement closes today
    - Cori Crocker reporting to San Carlos in a few days
    - LCDR Pink transferring to USCG
    - LCDR Isaac Ampadu transferring to CDC Center for Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
    - Still waiting on certificate for San Carlos, Colorado River and Elko Service Units using the Pathways Hiring Authority
  - ii. EH
    - CDC awarded the San Carlos Apache Tribe \$203K to conduct community education for RMSF; special thanks to CDR Sarah Snyder who wrote the grant
  - iii. IEH
    - G200 Nitrous Oxide meter arrived; CDR Hansen will collaborate with LCDR Parker during Nitrous studies
    - LCDR Parker has been very helpful at PIMC managing response to monkeypox
    - CDR Hansen prepared a monkeypox guidance document for safety & DEHS staff



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- CDR Hansen & LCDR Wiggins continue to build a SharePoint library with IEH survey guidance for a variety of topics including casinos, healthcare, childcare, fire extinguishers, eyewash stations etc.; SharePoint will be open to DEHS staff for use w facility customers
- iv. IP
  - Conducted [virtual] course 2 in June: 18 attendees from 5 Areas; thanks to Casey Crump for assisting
  - Falls Prevention Tool kit: nearly ready for external SME review
  - Working with Whiteriver Pharmacy to issue medication neutralization and disposal bags to patients with meds
  - Pilot work being done on installation of firearm safes in homes to secure weapons from suicide and accidental discharge
- v. COVID-19
  - 28.4% positivity rate is currently highest in IHS
  - Area IC continues to meet every other week; OEHE continues to fill key roles
  - Procured 30 3M Versaflo PAPRs for SUs and Area Office
- k. Portland
  - i. Staffing
    - Two vacancy announcements forthcoming
  - ii. OEHE tribal consultation approaching on the Portland Area OEHE ESHA distribution methodology
  - iii. Wildfire season
    - 15 occurring
    - Supported Warm Springs Health Center
  - iv. Workplace Violence Prevention program & response to GAO
    - HR/EEO & I-STAR challenges
- l. Tucson – *Not on call* (email submitted stating no significant updates)
- m. EHSC – *Not on call*

### 3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention (Molly Madson)
  - i. TIPCAP
    - Continuation applications will be due this fall
  - ii. IP course schedule
    - 22-26 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 ongoing
    - Site visits to OKC Area and SW locations complete

- b. WebEHRS (Mike Reed)
  - i. WebEHRS mobile<sup>2</sup> upgrade
    - User Acceptance Testing (i.e. pilot) in August/September 2022
    - Development ongoing w launch in fall 2022
    - Mobile<sup>2</sup> will replace current WebEHRS mobile
    - Mobile<sup>2</sup> will offer user interface folks expect when using an app on a mobile device
    - Mobile<sup>2</sup> 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.*
- c. DEHS Annual Meeting 2022 (Mike Reed)
  - i. Rockville & Zoom
  - ii. 01-03 November 2022
  - iii. Please see Stephen's 03 August email asking who will attend in person and who will attend virtually
  - iv. Planning committee (Carrie, Danny, Stephen) in-progress
- d. COSTEPs/Externs
  - i. Instant Messaging during the call regarding the value of COSTEPs/Externs & CCHQ challenges
  - ii. DEHS HQ plans to look into IHS Extern options

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