

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 06 October 2022

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call 01 December 2022 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Nashville:	Charles Woodlee
Albuquerque:	<i>Not on call</i>	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:	<i>Not on call</i>	Tucson:	Travis Bowser

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

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

- a. [Roselyn Tso, Director, IHS](#)
- b. Staffing
 - i. IP Program Manger selected – congrats LCDR Molly Madson
 - ii. DEHS HQ vacancy announcements on hold as a result of Hiring freeze at IHS HQ
- c. WebEHRS Change Control Board
 - i. Current Board completed their assignment
 - ii. New Board members (3-4) will be needed & call for nominations forthcoming
- d. FYSA – Billet review & upgrade being discussed among OEHE leadership
 - i. SFC position paper written
 - ii. IHS DCPS conducted an assessment of how IHS billets compare to similar positions in other agencies
 - iii. Updates will be shared w Area DEHS Directors as they become available

2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque – *Not on call*
- c. Bemidji
 - i. Area OEHE Workshop in Duluth, May 2023
 - ii. Seeing an increase in workload
 - Two Title I/V tribes requested services from DEHS
 - This will create a new position to the Mt. Pleasant, MI duty station

- d. Billings
 - i. Staffing
 - [Crow Service Unit sanitarian vacancy announcement](#) closes 07 October
 - Blackfeet Service Unit sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - Wind River Service Unit sanitarian vacancy expected in February 2023
 - ii. General EH
 - Conducting end of fiscal year evaluations of EH programs
 - Partnering w Humane Society of Western Montana to establish lay vaccinator program; thanks to Albuquerque Area for sharing materials
 - Seeking approvals from Veterinary Board of Medicine
 - Mike requested a call w Darcy to learn more details about the project to ensure it aligns w Division scope of services
- e. California
 - i. Injury Prevention
 - Call for Area mini-projects to be distributed next week; plan to fund six projects
 - ii. All Hazards Management Plan
 - Approved by Area Director & distributed
 - Tabletop exercise in August was a wildfire at a YRTC
 - iii. Wildfires
 - Fairview Fire caused mandatory evacuation of a YRTC for one week; seemed to go smoothly; after-action report forthcoming
 - iv. COOP update ongoing (last updated in 2013)
 - v. Area OEHE Emergency Operation Guidelines updated
 - vi. Tribe invited DEHS to provide services at a community event
- f. Great Plains – *Not on call*
- g. Nashville
 - i. Hurricane Ian
 - No major impacts on tribes but the event identified additional work for Area EMPOC (i.e. Charles) such as enhanced communication
 - ii. Area Director requested a review of OEHE scope of services
 - May involve formal tribal consultation in CY 2023
 - iii. Staff to take CPFS exams soon
 - iv. iSTAR
 - Charles still involved w development team
 - Charles sincerely thanks all Area IEHOs who provide assistance

- h. Navajo
 - i. Staffing
 - Kayenta, Fort Defiance, & Gallup Service Unit sanitarian vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - Shiprock & Navajo District EHO vacancy announcements forthcoming
 - ii. COVID-19
 - Navajo Nation mask mandate remains in place
 - iii. General EH
 - Continuing to conduct work at fairs & mass gatherings
- i. Oklahoma City – *Not on call*
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Commissioned Corps deployments – 7 COs currently on alert status
 - ii. Rabies virus vaccination clinics – searching for new Veterinarian
 - Meeting w Veterinary CPO to explore options
 - iii. Staffing
 - Area IPS position selected – Robert Morones to report as Civil Servant in March 2023
 - District IP Coordinator, Western Arizona District Office, vacancy announcement should post next week
 - Elko , Parker, & San Carlos Service Units [Pathways vacancy announcement](#) closes 17 October
 - Thanks Bemidji Area for language requiring graduates from EHAC accredited schools
 - New EMPOC position has been classified & announcement forthcoming
 - iv. IEH
 - OSHA course at San Carlos Service Unit approaching; thanks to EHSC for supporting the course
 - Exercised contract option year 2 w Worldwide Medical Physics
 - Joint Commission completed at Whiteriver Service Unit
 - No significant deficiencies in Environmental of Care
 - v. IP
 - Working with Whiteriver & Fort Yuma pharmacies to issue medication neutralization & disposal bags to patients with meds
 - Pilot work being done at Hualapai & Whiteriver to install firearm safes in homes to secure weapons from suicide & accidental discharge; tribal resolutions recently passed

- k. Portland
 - i. Area OEHE Workshop in Yakama, December 2022
 - OSHA 10-Hour course to be offered; thanks to EHSC for supporting
 - ii. Many EMPOC duties filled by Chris
 - Submitted four deployment requests
 - iii. Reviewing service delivery model & strategic plan
 - iv. Please share any materials your program uses to manage the national food safety indicators
- l. Tucson
 - i. Returning to a state of “normalcy”
 - Pascua Yaqui recently issued a proclamation that essentially resumed all services & in-person events
 - Travis remains Area’s EMPOC & IC
 - ii. Working on Area’s COOP & Workplace Violence Policy
 - iii. DEHS staff assisted Pascua Yaqui conduct active shooter training
 - iv. Provided EH services to Guadalupe (a part of Pascua Yaqui)
 - v. Conducting mosquito trapping in partnership w county
 - vi. IP
 - Resumed smoke & CO detector project
 - Resuming Child Passenger Safety efforts
 - Supportng potential IP Fellowship applicant
 - vii. Planning to provide EH services at Annual Tamale Festival
 - viii. Julie Frazier recently earned REHS! 😊
- m. EHSC
 - i. REHS study group in-progress led by LT Shelby Forge-Haddeland
 - ii. Train-the-Trainer group in-progress led by LCDR Sam Frank
 - iii. Playground Safety course
 - Led by LT Braden Hickey
 - Pilot in Portland Area in spring 2023
 - Content same as certification course but less expensive & not competencies lost
 - iv. NFPA codes course
 - EHSC determined EH staff should not be attending facilities-based courses
 - EHSC piloted NFPA for EHOs course virtually & received feedback
 - Revised virtual course to be offered in November 2022
 - NFPA course for facility managers forthcoming & any EH staff who register for that course will be routed to NFPA for EHOs course
 - v. IP Pilot 1 of in-person course 1 in Albuquerque, 05-09 December 2022

- vi. WebEHRS training in development
 - Webinar potentially 17 November 2022
 - WebEHRS 101 [in-person] potentially 13-15 December 2022
 - Webinar potentially 13 January 2023
- vii. LPD Cohort – Leading the Organization ongoing
 - Please ensure staff are participating in the course if they registered

3. HQ Announcements

a. Injury prevention (Molly Madson)

i. IP course schedule

- December 2022: Pilot 1 of in-person course 1
- July 2023: in-person course 2
- December 2023: in-person course 3

ii. Fellowship 2023-2024

- Adhere to [pre-application process](#)
- Applications open now through 04 December 2022
- Sessions begin Jan-Mar 2023

iii. TIPCAP

- Continuation applications
 - 24 of 27 submitted on time
 - 2 sites received extensions
 - 1 site TBD
 - Project officer technical reviews will be completed
- Will there be funding to support project officer work? HQ determining if that will be possible to offer

iv. [National AIAN IVP \[virtual\] Conference](#)

- 26-28 July 2022
- It was a great event
 - 1,233 registrants; 737 who actually attended some of the conference
 - 24% of attendees were CDC or IHS
 - 13 total federal agencies attended
 - 35% identified as tribal members from 117 unique tribes
 - State gov't employees from 27 states
 - 12% of attendees went to the 2019 conference

- v. Discussion regarding an Area's 4F Table that includes a line item for "special projects" & the Area has been using the funds for IP work (the line item coincides w an O&M line item). Do other Areas have that? The Area's OEHE Director is exploring the possibility removing that line item & placing it into the EHSA that could potentially be used for other purposes not IP related
 - None recalled a line item & stated they would need to look closer but most of their Area's IP work is funded from EHSA
- b. Institutional (Mike Reed)
 - i. CY 2022 BLS Report completed & submitted; thanks to the Area IEHOs for their support & help
- c. DEHS Annual Meeting 2022 (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. Rockville & Zoom
 - ii. 01-03 November 2022
 - iii. Please see Stephen's 06 October email for details
 - iv. Lodging room block close 11 October
- d. WebEHRS (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. WebEHRS mobile² upgrade
 - User Acceptance Testing (i.e. pilot) October 2022
 - Initial release November 2022 will include most frequently used features
 - Release additional functionality 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. RRM Freeze (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. 17 October 2022
- f. COSTEPs/Externs (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. EH [Civil Service] externship in development
 - IHS HQ hiring freeze applies to this project
 - DEHS & HR laying the ground work for the project & completing as much as possible to have the vacancy announcement posted after freeze thaws
 - More details to be shared at Annual DEHS Directors mtg net month
- g. 2022 DEHS Awards (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. See Mike's 06 October email for details
 - ii. [Environmental Health Specialist of the Year](#) nominations due 09 January 2023
 - iii. [Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award](#) nominations due 10 February 2023
 - iv. [Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award](#) nominations due 10 February 2023

- h. NDECI (Mike Reed)
 - i. Kickoff meeting & initial training/webinar offerings
 - Schedule TBD
 - ii. Phase II development complete
 - Change in Data Window
 - Now limited to “Workload Reportable”
 - Updates go live next week
 - Phase III development underway
- i. Performance Measures (Mike Reed)
 - i. Data pull will occur 17 October
 - ii. Update on how to record in WebEHRS IP trainings that involve multiple Areas & their staff
 - If there is not one obvious Area that is hosting the course (e.g. short course pilots), then Areas & their staff involved in conducting the course should determine one person/Area to enter the course into WebEHRS as instructed in the *Guidance on the 2021-2025 Injury Prevention Performance Measure* & enter the names & Areas of the staff involved in the comments section of that WebEHRS entry; the comments will be included in the DEHS internal summary reports
 - Do not create multiple entries for one training among all Areas involved or split/separate the number of people trained among trainers
 - If an individual trainer would like to document in WebEHRS their involvement in a training course they may enter it as an “activity”, “program support”, “injury prevention”

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