



Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

DEHS Directors' Meeting: 10/07/21

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call December 03, 2021 1:00-2:00PM ET

Alaska:	<i>Not on call</i>	Navajo:	Donna Gilbert
Albuquerque:	Carrie Oyster	Oklahoma:	<i>Not on call</i>
Bemidji:	Tim Duffy	Phoenix:	Dave Cramer/Kenny Hicks
Billings:	Darcy Merchant	Portland:	Chris Fish
California:	Carolyn Garcia	Tucson:	<i>Not on call</i>
Great Plains:	<i>Not on call</i>		
Nashville:	<i>Not on call</i>		
Environmental Health Support Center: Jeff Dickson			
Rockville: Kelly Taylor, Charles Woodlee, Holly Billie, Mike Reed, Stephen Piontkowski			

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

- a. Staffing
 - i. Injury Prevention Program Manager
 - Holly on terminal leave 11 December
 - Retiring 01 February 2022
 - ii. Institutional EH Program Manager
 - Charles transferring to Director, DEHS, Nashville Area on 30 October
 - iii. Deputy Director, DEHS
 - Martin transferring to Deputy Director, OEHE on 01 November
 - iv. Director, DEHS
 - Kelly retiring 01 March 2022
 - v. Vacancy announcements for these positions forthcoming

2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque
 - i. Staffing
 - Brian Hroch retired 01 October
 - Jeff Conner transferring to EHSC
 - ii. Rabies lay vaccinator training in November
 - DEHS staff should not be administering vaccinations of any kind (Kelly Taylor)
 - Rabies lay vaccinator program is not supported for federal staff, & tribes can support for their staff at their discretion (Kelly Taylor)
 - DEHS staff may assist w linking tribes to services & other vector/zoonotic disease prevention work (Kelly Taylor)

- c. Bemidji
 - i. Staffing
 - Barry Hugo is District EHO, Rhinelander District
 - Tim Taylor is District EHO, Minnesota District
 - Rachel Stokes to report to new Mt. Pleasant, MI office in late October
 - Kathy Covington selected as field EHO, Minnesota District, reporting late October
 - Casey Crump retiring 01 February 2022
 - IEH/Deputy Director vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - Area IP Specialist vacancy announcement forthcoming
 - ii. Staff getting back in field this summer conducting establishment assessments
- d. Billings
 - i. Staffing
 - Supporting tribal vacancies: 1 in Ft. Belknap & 1 in Ft. Peck
 - ii. Staff quarterly call recently completed
 - iii. Rabies vaccination clinic at Black Feet
 - Veterinarian assisted & interested in lay vaccinator program
 - iv. Rabies lay vaccinator program
 - Veterinarian seek state approval
 - When approved DEHS host lay vaccinator training for DEHS staff
 - DEHS staff should not be administering vaccinations of any kind (Kelly Taylor)
 - Rabies lay vaccinator program is not supported for federal staff, & tribes can support for their staff at their discretion (Kelly Taylor)
 - DEHS staff may assist w linking tribes to services & other vector/zoonotic disease prevention work (Kelly Taylor)
 - v. COVID-19
 - Some tribes shutting down again (primarily in northern MT)
 - vi. Staff getting back in field this summer conducting establishment assessments
- e. California
 - i. Staffing
 - Ukiah Field Sanitarian vacancy to be re-announced a third time
 - Jim White, Director, OEHE, CAO, transferring
 - ii. COVID-19
 - Some childcare & Head Start centers beginning to re-open & DEHS staff supporting them
 - Infection control support to programs (n=3) related to monoclonal infusion treatment



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- iii. Wildfires
 - 77 fires in CA since 04 July
 - 18 directly impacted tribes
 - Evacuations
 - Air quality
 - DEHS: Distributed 550 air purifiers & distributed N95s to 17 programs received
- iv. IP mini-grant work ongoing
- f. Great Plains – *Not on call*
- g. Nashville – *Not on call* (updates submitted via email)
 - i. Staffing
 - Charles Woodlee reporting as Director, DEHS, Nashville Area, in early November
 - Kit will return to full-time IEH duties & plans to retire in Spring 2022
 - Riley on TDY but they advertised the position he is covering & he has been assisting w DEHS workload as needed
 - ii. RRM updates nearly complete
- h. Navajo
 - i. Staffing
 - Gallup position filled w 12 October report date
 - Shiprock position to be re-announced
 - Three vacancy announcements forthcoming (Many Farms, Kayenta, Crownpoint)
 - ii. COVID-19
 - In orange phase
 - Re-opening work (50% businesses open)
 - Vaccine support (COVID-19 & flu)
 - iii. Staffing
 - The two GS-7/9 non-supervisory Sanitarian positions in Gallup & Shiprock were re-advertised & recently closed
- i. Oklahoma City – *Not on call*
- j. Phoenix
 - i. Staffing
 - Two 1662's in process to convert current civilians to CC
 - Three EHS vacancies: 1 coming soon in Parker; 2 in San Carlos
 -
 - ii. Increase in West Nile virus cases across AZ; DEHS team accelerated mosquito trapping
 - iii. District team identifying playgrounds in tribal communities to record them as Type 57s; analyzing inspection frequency

iv. Injury prevention

- Partnering w/ USC on home-based falls prev. tool kit to compliment the CDC STEADI program
- Piloting gun safe project w 2 tribes to prevent unintentional fire arm injuries
- Community opioid intervention manuscript accepted by British Medical Journal of Injury Prevention

v. COVID-19

- OEHE continues to fill key roles: Hicks IC; CAPT Cramer, EMPOC/Safety; CDR Hansen, Logistics; CDR Morones, Planning
- 6 CC pharmacists deployed to PIMC
- OSHA inspection at PIMC last week: needed to see a COVID-19 plan based on OSHA emergency temporary standard issued in June
- LCDRs Pink and Chung and LT Wrona presented regional fit testing initiative to support COVID-19 response at EHOPAC Virtual Training Series in September

k. Portland

i. Staffing

- Forthcoming vacancy announcement at Toppenish
 - Looking to revise billet description to an O-5
 - Chris to work w Kelly on billet before 1662 issued
- Extern completed her assignment

ii. BIE & CDC completed consult at Chemawa Indian School

- CDR Matthew Ellis represented DEHS
- Final report from CDC pending

iii. COVID-19

- ID has most cases
- NWPaiHB has been busy w COVID
- DEHS collaborated w SFC on wastewater surveillance interest from tribes; SFC is IHS lead on this
- DEHS has supported re-opening efforts, conducted ventilation assessments; & infection control consults related to monoclonal infusion treatment

iv. OEHE RRM meeting w NWPaiHB

- SFC RRM has caused concern
- DEHS RRM call w NWPaiHB forthcoming
 - REMINDER: WebEHRS auto-inactivate feature not implemented for a while for Title V tribes so Areas had time to notify & work w tribes (Kelly Taylor)
 - REMINDER: Areas determine distribution of ESHA funds between DEHS & SFC (Kelly Taylor)



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- I. Tucson – *Not on call* (updates submitted via email)
 - i. COVID-19
 - TU Area ICS remains active
 - Travis continues to serve as EMPOC, Safety Officer, Vaccine POC
 - ii. Conducting routine surveys for facilities that are open (mostly casinos and schools)
- m. EHSC
 - i. Staffing
 - Jeff Conner reporting as IEHO end of October
 - ii. COVID-19
 - Jeff Dickson IC (backfilling that role as a result of Brain Hroch's retirement)
 - iii. IP training courses
 - Intro to IP pilot courses complete
 - Intermediate IP course in November (22 people currently registered)
 - iv. Share your training needs w Jeff

3. HQ Announcements

- a. Injury prevention (Holly Billie)
 - i. Intermediate IP pilot course
 - 15-19 November
 - Registration open on [EHSC website](#)
 - ii. Holly's retirement
 - Terminal leave begins 11 December
 - Retirement 01 February 2022
 - Tim Wildcat, GPA, will be Acting
- b. IEH (Charles Woodlee)
 - i. I-STAR: OSHA reports
 - Tailored Sharps log: info released
 - Tailored 300 log: pending release
 - 301 Form function/instructions: pending software update
 - Tailored 300A summary: in development
 - ii. ECOMP: BLS report due soon
 - IEH/SOs need to close cases – help supervisors
 - OSHA Record-keepers need to recertify
 - iii. Program management
 - Planning for Woodlee vacancy (01 November)

4. Other

- a. Hazardous Duty Pay for DEHS Commissioned Officers (All)
 - i. Constructive discussion on DEHS staff meeting the criteria for this benefit
 - Group agreed there should be a unified position for all EH staff
 - Decision there will be an effort to determine the DEHS position
 - We may wish to reach out to OEHE engineers as well
 - Volunteers: Carrie Oyster; Dave Cramer; Tim Duffy
 - More to come in the near future
- b. Rabies lay vaccinator program (Kelly Taylor)
 - i. DEHS staff should not be administering vaccinations of any kind
 - ii. Rabies lay vaccinator program is not supported for federal staff, & tribes can support for their staff at their discretion
 - iii. DEHS staff may assist w linking tribes to services & other vector/zoonotic disease prevention work (Kelly Taylor)
- c. FY22 RRM freeze scheduled for 15 October (Stephen Piontkowski)
- d. COSTEPs 2022 (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. Request for wish list to be emailed by Stephen soon
- e. Lead in drinking water (Stephen Piontkowski)
 - i. If your staff have done any lead in drinking water work at childcare centers or schools please reach out to Stephen by 15 October in preparation for a routine call he has w EPA in early November
- f. NDECI (Mike Reed)
 - i. Request for list of names (District EHOs and higher) who will need user accounts to be emailed by Mike soon
 - ii. Launch 15 November

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