



# Environmental Health Services

● *Healthy Environments = Healthy People* ●

## DEHS Directors' Meeting: 01 December 2022

Meeting recording available upon [request](#)

Next conference call 02 February 2023 1:00-2:00PM ET

<b>Alaska:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>	<b>Nashville:</b>	Charles Woodlee
<b>Albuquerque:</b>	Carrie Oyster	<b>Navajo:</b>	Donna Gilbert
<b>Bemidji:</b>	Tim Duffy	<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>	Tim Wildcat	<b>Tucson:</b>	<i>Not on call</i>

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

**Rockville:** Molly Madson; Stephen Piontkowski

### 1. Welcome and Update (Stephen Piontkowski)

- a. Staffing
  - i. Deputy Director, DEHS, vacancy announcement closed 30 November
  - ii. IEH Program Manager selection in progress
- b. DEHS Annual Meeting 2022
  - i. 01-03 November 2022 (Rockville & Zoom)
  - ii. Record of Decisions forthcoming
  - iii. SharePoint will close 23 December
- c. Due dates reminders
  - i. 30 December
    - Staffing report
    - Photo contest pics
  - ii. 09 January
    - [Environmental Health Specialist of the Year](#) nominations
  - iii. 31 January
    - Project posters
  - iv. 10 February
    - [Gary J. Gefroh Health and Safety Award](#) nominations
    - [Rick Smith Injury Prevention Award](#) nominations



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- d. WebEHRS
  - i. Mobile<sup>2</sup> now available
    - 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.
  - ii. Webinar on 13 January 2023; [register through EHSC](#)
  - iii. WebEHRS 101 course in Albuquerque, 24-26 January 2023; [register through EHSC](#)

## 2. Area Highlights

- a. Alaska – *Not on call*
- b. Albuquerque
  - i. Updating *Division Operating Guides* (Program Overview, Orientation, Employee Development, Work Plan, EH/IEH/IP) & plan to implement in CY2023
- c. Bemidji
  - i. Staffing
    - Ryan Miller, Senior Field EHS, reported to Rhinelander District Office
    - 1 COSTEP received & processing
- d. Billings
  - i. Staffing
    - Crow Service Unit Sanitarian reporting 05 December
    - Blackfeet Service Unit Sanitarian vacancy announcement forthcoming
    - Wind River Service Unit Sanitarian vacancy expected in February 2023
  - ii. General EH
    - WebEHRS Mobile<sup>2</sup> demo & Q&A session w staff in mid-December
  - iii. IP
    - Elder fall prevention project agreement w Crow & Blackfeet Tribes forthcoming
    - TIPCAP: Rocky Mountain Tribal Epi Center will host IP Conference on 13 December
- e. California
  - i. Area OEHE Workshop will be May 2023
    - Area OEHE Emergency Operation Guidelines may be on agenda
  - ii. Injury Prevention
    - Call for Area mini-projects to be distributed next week; plan to fund six projects



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- iii. COOP update ongoing (last updated in 2013); planning meeting on 29 November went well
- iv. Area IP Projects – 2022 evaluations complete
  - Increase in number of staff who are CPS Techs from 75% to 86% (2021-2022)
  - Gun lock distribution: 28 people completed survey; 42 firearms secured in home; 39% did not secure firearms in their home; 63% reported persons <18 yo resided in home & 32% of those had teenagers in the home; 92% aware of tribal suicide prevention program
- f. Great Plains
  - i. Updating 2023 Performance Improvement Indicators
    - Should be finalized in mid-December
    - Will be used in PMAPs
  - ii. IEHO vacancy announcement closes 30 December ([MP](#), [DE](#))
  - iii. Life Safety Engineer has been conducting mock surveys at a facility that will go through accreditation soon
- g. Nashville
  - i. Working w staff on improving WebEHRS data
  - ii. Thanks to all the Area DEHS Directors who have provided assistance
- h. Navajo
  - i. New Tribal EH Director reported to duty
  - ii. Staffing
    - Interviews for Kayenta, Many Farms, & Crownpoint forthcoming
    - Fort Defiance, & Many Farms Service Unit Sanitarian vacancy announcements forthcoming
  - iii. DEHS Program Planning meeting next week
- i. Oklahoma City
  - i. Staffing
    - Lawton SU EH Specialist reporting 02 January
    - Clinton & Pawnee vacancy announcements still open ([MP](#), [DE](#))
    - BioMed managed by DEHS; working on filling vacancy
  - ii. Program planning underway
    - Will enhance communications w tribal partners
    - Will focus on individual development plans
  - iii. Area Office security enhancements underway
  - iv. Successful routine networking/orientation meeting w state EH partners

- j. Phoenix
  - i. Staffing
    - Staff development plan to be written
    - Selected District IP Coordinator, Western Arizona District Office
    - Selected Pathways students: 1 at Parker SU; 1 @ San Carlos SU
    - Selected Service Unit EHO for Whiteriver
    - 1 COSTEP received & processing
    - EMPOC vacancy announcement closes 09 December ([MP](#), [DE](#))
    - IEH Program Manager vacancy announcement closes 14 December ([MP](#), [DE](#))
  - ii. IEH
    - OSHA General Industries course at San Carlos Service Unit had 40 participants; thanks to EHSC for supporting the course
    - Troubleshooting data download issue from G200 gas analyzer
  - iii. IP
    - Working w Whiteriver & Fort Yuma pharmacies to issue medication neutralization & disposal bags to patients w meds
    - Pilot work ongoing at Hualapai & Whiteriver to install firearm safes in homes to secure weapons from suicide & accidental discharge
  - iv. SplashBI assistance needed
- k. Portland
  - i. IP Media Comms contractor site visit 12-16 December
  - ii. OSHA 10-Hour course in Toppenish next week; thanks to EHSC for supporting the course
  - iii. EPA RCRA inspection at one SU
    - Renewed EPA focus on Healthcare facilities
    - EPA looked at: pharmaceutical waste; dental; maintenance shops; container labeling; fluorescent bulbs; record keeping
- l. Tucson – *Not on call* (update submitted via email)
  - i. Currently providing EH services at Annual Tamale Festival
- m. EHSC – *Not on call*



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## 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 through 04 December 2022
- 8 applicants to date
- Sessions begin Jan-Mar 2023

#### iii. TIPCAP

- Year 3 begins 01 January 2023
- Notice of Awards should be distributed by 31 December 2022

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