

## May 2002

Attendees, Area announcements, and call-in instructions are listed after the minutes.

### General Environmental Health Topics

#### Head Start Update

Ralph Fulgham, Lead Environmental Health Specialist, IHS-Head Start Program, gave a brief review of where we were in distributing Head Start funds to the Areas. Ory Cuellar, the IHS Head Start Program Coordinator, has received the proposal to continue the joint initiative between IHS DEHS and the AI/ANPB of the Administration for Children and Families. The proposal is for \$285,000 and includes \$150,000 to be distributed to the Areas for their technical assistance to Head Start Grantees and \$35,000 to expand the current Sleep Safe Initiative and conduct a pilot test of the new Ride Safe Initiative. The other \$100,000 supports Ralph's and Bob's salaries. We all hope the funds arrive in the Areas soon.

#### Facility Code Definition Finalization

Final comments were supposed to be sent to Kelly by April 26. The only somewhat controversial comment is the definition for Facility Type 01 Comprehensive Health Care Referral Facility. Since this is an effort to clarify, not change, definitions, we'll go with what was originally there. It did not include an option to add additional DEHS-funded safety officer positions. After the final version is compiled into one document, Darren will replace the definitions currently in WebEHRS with these clarified ones. I think we're all pretty much in agreement with everything else, so what is needed now, is some work by the Branch Chiefs to ensure their staff are familiar with the definitions.

#### GPRA/Budget Process

Kelly and Alan gave an overview of the national one-day GPRA and two-day Budget Formulation meetings. The Environmental Health GPRA indicator won't change between FY 2003 and FY 2004, however the two Injury Prevention Indicators will. Injury Prevention Indicator # 25 (maintain the number of Part 1 Grantees) will be replaced with a new one that addresses project implementation. Indicator # 26 (mortality rate for unintentional injuries) will be changed slightly to incorporate 5-year aggregate data instead of annual data. The Injury Prevention Specialists will receive a detailed briefing soon. Thanks to those who participated in the Injury Indicator Revision Conference Call.

Efforts by the Areas to highlight injury prevention as a health priority in Area Budget Formulation Meetings may have helped us with 8 out of 12 Areas listing Injury Prevention in their top 10 health priorities for FY 04. In FY 03, 7 Areas listed it in their top 10, so we had a net gain of 1 during FY 04's process. This time, Aberdeen, Alaska, Albuquerque, Bemidji, Nashville, Navajo, Oklahoma, and Portland listed injuries in their top 10. It made the top 5 for Aberdeen, Albuquerque, and Oklahoma. Thanks to all those who participated either directly or indirectly. Alan was able to initiate a discussion on the importance of prevention vs. treatment funding issues during the Budget Formulation Meeting, and help the Area Representatives position Injury Prevention high on the priority list. This year, the I/T/U Budget Formulation Committee decided to reject OMB's instructions to hold to less than a 4% increase from FY 03 and came up with a request that began with a 35% budget increase. Though Injury Prevention ranked high for enhancements, it remains to be seen where it will end up. Generally, the Committee was favorable to Environmental Health and Engineering funding issues. There will be a tribal meeting with the Department soon to request this FY 04 budget.

#### Indian Health Care Improvement Act

We were asked to comment on Title II Sec. 215. Environmental and Nuclear Health Hazards for the reauthorization efforts. The comments we submitted basically said we weren't supportive of the proposed study and monitoring of all possible environmental health hazards. We suggested a more focused approach would be more beneficial to the tribes. We weren't invited to comment on anything else, but

because we had been working for years on including language authorizing the Injury Prevention Program, we also included proposed language for that. Candace Jones, Acting Deputy Director, OPH, is the contact for all Title II issues. She combined our comments with everyone else's and will submit to Dr. Trujillo to be included in a decision memo. I emailed our final comments to the DEHS Directors, but we had a power failure just as I hit the "send" button so I'm not sure it actually went out. Let me know if you didn't receive it and I will try again.

### **COSTEP Update**

None are on board yet (as of the day of the call), but they will start to arrive shortly. Some Areas are having problems with orders from DCP. Alan suggested those Areas contact their CO Liaisons directly. We will continue to ask Areas to get digital photos and narratives from their COSTEPs this year, so they can be added to the website as a marketing tool.

### **Gila River Meeting (Ad hoc Tribal Work Group and ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs)**

Fan attended the Ad hoc Tribal Work Group and ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs meeting in Gila River, April 24-25 and gave a brief overview of what went on. She said they discussed tribal environmental health needs and representatives' concerns with environmental contaminants. They also discussed potential areas of improvement in the way the federal government deals with environmental health issues concerning AI/AN: data collection and analysis, funding issues, how we quantify what we do that relates to funding, consultation with tribes, training, communications and marketing. Fan has agreed to represent IHS on the work group and will continue to keep us updated on activities.

### **Frequency of Conference calls and Annual Meeting**

Conference calls will continue on a monthly basis and the meetings will continue on an annual basis.

## **Injury Prevention Topics**

### **Part 1 Grantee Continuation Funding**

Part 1 Grantees will be submitting paperwork soon to continue their funding into the third year. There are concerns about some programs that are having trouble and may need additional assistance. If you haven't heard from your Injury Prevention Specialists how the programs in your Area are doing, please contact your Specialist or Alan.

### **National meeting in May**

Plans continue for the IHS and tribal injury prevention meetings scheduled for May 20-24 in Seattle. Alan will be checking in with Injury Prevention staff to make sure everything is in order.

## **Participants and Area Announcements**

**Aberdeen:** Dave Compton. Dave has been busy reviewing the CDC/HRSA Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant proposals.

**Albuquerque:** Fan Robinson. Fan asked if there was any update on Emergency Preparedness Activities as a result of the meeting in Rockville. Merritt said there wasn't.

**Anchorage:** Jeff Smith. Dean Seneca, from ATSDR, is in Anchorage this week.

**Bemidji:** Not on call

**Billings:** John Sery. John has been busy reviewing the CDC/HRSA Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant Proposals.

**California:** Paul Young. Paul has been meeting with the Regional Office on Emergency Preparedness. Their first COSTEP arrives next week.

**Nashville:** Not on call.

**Navajo:** Chuck Freeman. The Tribal Council approved a resolution to allow Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc., Winslow, and Tuba City to contract directly with the Area, separate from the actions of the NHCSC (the Corporation). The previously tabled resolution to approve the contract negotiated with the Corporation was not discussed. The Area has not yet received copies of the three affiliates' proposals stating what exactly they want to contract, nor has it seen a copy of the passed resolution.

**Oklahoma:** Kevin Meeks. Kevin clarified the Stage 2 review process for the CDC/HRSA Bioterrorism Preparedness Grants and offered to send a copy of the guidance for Continuity of Operations Plans to Fan if she needed it. The Shawnee SU Sanitarian position has been filled, pending approval, and the Lawton SU Sanitarian position is going to be announced soon.

**Phoenix:** Mike Welch. Mike was participating in the Phoenix Area Introduction to Injury Prevention course that was going on this week. There were 27 students in attendance. Mike attended Paul McSherry's DCP Pre-Retirement Seminar held in Phoenix and encouraged mid-level EHOs to attend one in their Areas. The SU Sanitarian position in San Carlos is open and the PIMC Safety Officer position is coming soon.

**Portland:** Not on call.

**Tucson:** Mark Pike. Two COSTEPs will be arriving next week. Tucson is advertising for an O-2/O-3 Sr. Field EHO position in Casa Grande. Call Quannah Nail for more information.

**Environmental Health Support Center:** Bobby Villines. Bobby is one of the Category Recruiters and has materials available for people who want to do recruiting visits to schools.

**Rockville:** Kelly Taylor, Alan Dellapenna, Merritt Lake, Darren Buchanan.

## Vacancy Table Info

Remember to update your vacancies and see vacancy postings at [www.dehs.ihhs.gov](http://www.dehs.ihhs.gov).

## Next Call

**June 6, 2002**, conference call numbers are the same for each call:

Dial In Number: **1-888-323-7711** (for all calls)

\* Pass Code: **90841** (for all calls)