



Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee



The EHO Assessment

February 2023 News and Updates

A place to learn about current events and updates from the EHOPAC

EHOPAC Leadership Message

Welcome to another edition of the all-digital format for EHO News and Updates!

Disclaimer: This newsletter/article is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS Commissioned Corps leadership.

Hello EHOs,

Welcome to the February Edition of the EHO Assessment! The fact that the first two months of 2023 are already behind us reminds me that the days may be long, but the years are short. Rest assured that the EHOPAC Voting Members (VMs) and volunteers have hit the ground running to support the ongoing work of the PAC and the needs of the category.

February is Black History Month. The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Smithsonian – among other organizations, are excellent sources that can refresh our overall knowledge about important figures or moments in African American history. Please take time to reflect and honor the spirit of Black History Month throughout the year.

The last two months I've reflected on my career, our service, our category, all that was accomplished by others before me, and so much more. I want to highlight the importance of shining a light on others. To remind us that at the heart of what we accomplish as individuals, there are always those who stand behind us, supporting us, and helping us through the hard times. They may not be in the spotlight, but they are there and without them growth, change, and accomplishment would not be possible.

So, as we come up for air from another promotion season, where it's entrenched in our process to highlight all that we've accomplished as individuals, remember that our best work and greatest achievements do not come from the individual. It really does take a village. Shine the light on that village. Shine the light on someone else. This year as your EHOPAC Chair, I will shine the light on all of you.

In Officio Salutis, CDR Erin J. Evans, EHOPAC Chair MPH, REHS

CPO UPDATE

Happy New Year! This is a fitting time to set goals and make plans, and I encourage everyone to look to the horizon. To do this, we must first stop looking in the rearview mirror. Promotion packets are complete, and Officer Promotion Package Verification System (OPVPS) has closed. We have a brand-new year to finish that degree, publish that article, finally get to that one far-off facility that seems to escape assessment every year. We have a moment to consider whether it is time to pursue a new assignment, what new skills or experiences to seek, how our career plan is progressing and if our goals remain unchanged. We can only consider these big picture concepts when we detach from the day-to-day grind. Still, we can't keep our heads in the clouds all the time. When your feet return to the ground recognize that we who wear the cloth of the nation that comprises less than 1% of its population; that the Public Health Emergencies for COVID-19, and the opioid crisis remain in effect; and that dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of people are depending upon you to protect them. Think strategically, act forcefully, and give them your best.

CAPT Timothy Jiggins, MSPH, REHS/RS, CIH, EHO Chief Professional Officer

CCHQ UPDATE

The Deployment Preparation Plan (DPP) form is now available on the CCMIS webpage under the Readiness section. The DPP will be due annually for all Public Health Service officers, regardless of birth month. Public Health Service officers may submit their DPP through March 31, 2023. The first readiness check for DPP will be April 1, 2023. Public Health Service officers who are missing a DPP in their files will be identified as "Not Qualified".

Public Health Service officers should update and resubmit their plan within three months after a change in personal status or family circumstances. If an officer updates the DPP due to personal status or family circumstances, the updated DPP submitted will be due a year after the previous submission.

Guidance and helpful information are available on the CCMIS website, under "Readiness." We have included a list of frequently asked questions and answers, provided a supplemental guide, and listed a CCLMS recorded webinar to specifically discuss this new readiness requirement and address any potential questions.

For additional guidance, questions, or specific family or personal circumstances, please reach out to Corps Care at PHSCorpsCare@hhs.gov. For readiness-related inquiries, please reach out to the Readiness Team at PHSReadiness@hhs.gov before any due dates.

Save the Date:

The EHOPAC Readiness Subcommittee, will have a presentation on the DPP during the upcoming **Open EHOPAC** meeting on **Tuesday, March 14th at 1300 ET**. Link to come in future email.

Important EHOPAC Subcommittee Updates

Awards and Recognition:

2022 Responder of the Year-CDR Leslie Jackanicz

The purpose of the EHO Responder of the Year Award is to recognize individual EHO excellence in achieving the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) mission of improving the Nation's health through the practice of environmental health during emergency preparedness, disaster response, and contributions to national or international public health threats.

CDR Leslie Jackanicz exercised exceptional environmental health expertise and leadership in support of the Fort Bliss Emergency Intake site for unaccompanied migrant children. Over the course of the mission, on behalf of the USPHS Commissioned Corps, CDR Jackanicz served as Deputy Site Lead and Officer in Charge at the largest Emergency Intake Site in the country for unaccompanied migrant children. CDR Jackanicz supported the Site Lead in overseeing all aspects of site operations to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing, and successful reunification of children on site. Among many of her accomplishments, she facilitated congressional site visits, developed, and instituted a framework for establishing a records management program, and implemented enhancements to the identification, requisition, and training of key personnel resulting in the filling of over 90% of the assigned billets for federal staff. She utilized her environmental health expertise to oversee field safety activities, such as: leading risk assessments; verifying proper PPE fit, use, and availability procedures; and implementing COVID-19 mitigation measures. These activities protected organizational health and ensured mission accomplishment targets were met.

CDR Jackanicz's contributions exemplify a top officer who demonstrates outstanding leadership and professional competence. For these reasons CDR Leslie Jackanicz is awarded the 2022 Responder of the Year Award.



Figure 1, CDR Leslie Jackanicz

Call for 2023 EHOPAC Award Nominations

The Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC) sponsors awards annually to honor outstanding Public Health Service officers. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the exceptional contributions Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) make to further U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps mission to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation.

The call for nominations for these awards is now open! Candidates for the Eason, Moran, and Todd awards may be nominated by supervisors, colleagues, or program managers. Candidates for the Crow award may also be nominated by protégés/subordinates. Please consider submitting a nomination for an EHO that you feel is doing outstanding work in the field of environmental and public health. Self-nominations are also welcome.

Please reference the 2023 Call for EHOPAC Award Nomination for additional information or reach out to the EHOPAC Awards and Recognition Chair LCDR Beth Wittry at xks5@cdc.gov. Nominations are due March 10, 2023.

Training and Events:

Mark your calendars!

Fellow EHOs, it's time to think about joining us once again at the [2023 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium](#). This is a great opportunity to get together and network, and we have another excellent line-up of speakers for you on **EHO Category Day** that you won't want to miss.

When and where?

May 8-11, 2023

Cox Business Convention Center

Tulsa, OK

EHO Career Mentoring: **Tuesday morning, May 9, 2023**

EHO Category Day & Awards Luncheon: **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM, followed by an EHO Social!**

[Registration](#) opened January 20.

JOAG is coordinating [Room and Ride shares](#).

For questions, please contact the EHO Category Day Planners:

- [LCDR Jona Johnson](#) (Lead Planner)
- [LT Kelly Genskow](#) (Senior Planner)
- [LCDR Erin Kincaid](#) (Junior Planner)

Looking for Training Opportunities?

Are you looking to start 2023 with a world of training opportunities delivered straight to your inbox? If so, sign up for the EHOPAC Training Listserv! Officers who sign up for the Listserv will receive emails highlighting current training courses,

degree programs, certificate programs, and opportunities to encourage officers seeking professional development. Email updates on new and exciting opportunities will be sent out on a regular basis.

Signing up for the EHOPAC Training Listserv is easy! To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the EHOPAC Listserv webpage and scroll down to the EHOPAC Training Listserv: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/eho/ehopaclistserv.aspx>

Ensure your name and your email address are entered accurately. Additionally, ensure the dropdown box for “EHOPAC-Training EHOPAC Training List” is selected. Once all the information is entered correctly, click on “Subscribe (EHOPAC-TRAINING).” You will receive a confirmation email from “LISTSERV.” Check your email for this confirmation. You will need to click on the link in the email to confirm your subscription to the Listserv. If you DO NOT confirm this subscription – you will not be added to the Listserv.

For any questions or concerns related to the EHOPAC Training Listserv, please contact the Training Workgroup at Timothy.Albright@fda.hhs.gov.

Information Technology:

APAN

Are you an EHOPAC VM or Subcommittee Volunteer who uses APAN? If so, please sign into your APAN account at minimum once a month (every 30 days) to maintain access. If you do not login once a month, APAN will automatically disable your account and it may take several days for your access to be restored.

Max.gov

Do you use MAX.gov? Max.gov will sunset on December 31, 2023. Users will need to make plans and transition to a new platform that will meet their technology needs. After Dec 31, 2023, Max.gov shared services will no longer be available. For more information, visit [Max.gov](https://www.max.gov/).

Mentoring and Orientation:

Table 1. Mentoring Moments and Tips for February.

| Mentoring Moments and Tips |
|---|
| <p><u>Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace through Mentorship</u></p> <p>EHOs – Consider registering for this free, self-paced online course from the Public Health Training Center Network. The 45-minute course introduces mentorship and organizational strategies to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace through mentorship.</p> <p>Course objectives include:</p> |

- Describe at least three ways mentorship is used to advance DEI.
- Differentiate between the four roles of mentorship.
- Identify at least three best practices for successful mentorship.
- Describe at least three expectations to maintain a successful mentorship.
- Apply at least two organizational strategies to support mentorship programs that advance DEI.

Course link: <https://r4phtc.org/advancing-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei-in-the-workplace-through-mentorship/>

Officer Leader Profile



Figure 3. CDR David Bales

Officer Leader Profile
CDR David Bales, CSP, MPH, REHS
Injury Prevention Program Manager
Indian Health Service - Oklahoma City Area
(OCA)

*“What
 you feed
 grows.”*

Leadership Perspective:

In my role as Injury Prevention Manager and Institutional Environmental Health Officer, I provide consultation and technical assistance in Injury Prevention to 40 federally recognized tribes with the largest Indian Health Service (IHS) area population (388,486), as well as six environmental health field offices. This involves coalition building, epidemiology, special projects and studies, granting writing, and training for tribal organizations, IHS staff, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

I am responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating the Oklahoma City Area-wide (OCA) safety management and occupational health program serving approximately 1,700 federal employees as well as the tribes. I serve as technical consultant for federal hospitals and tribal hospitals, seven federal health centers, 15 tribal health centers, and four urban health centers. In addition, I am the Logistics Section Chief for OCA Incident Command, and OCA Commissioned Officer Awards Committee Chair.

Career Highlights/Accomplishments:

- Authored and obtained Tribal Council approval for a Tribal Food Code and a Solid Waste Ordinance increasing tribal capacity and safety on the reservation.

- Secured and/or managed over \$4M in injury prevention grants for tribal communities, including:
 - \$1.2 million 'Zero Suicide' grant resulting in the suicide screening of over 20K patients annually.
 - Established the Claremore Indian Hospital 'Newborn Ride Safe' program by providing 150 car seats and assisting nurses to obtain Child Passenger Safety Technician certifications.
 - Purchasing and coordinating the distribution and installation of over 1,460 child passenger safety seats and over 350 smoke detectors.
 - Led the development of an area-wide medication lock box program providing 251 patients with a safe location to store their medications to reduce poisonings.
- Increased security and emergency preparedness within the OCA by:
 - Coordinating and implementing five community-wide full scale disaster drills including tornado, active shooter and Hazmat incident - resulting in an increase in community and hospital preparedness.
 - Authoring a workplace violence (WPV) policy used by all OCA healthcare facilities.
 - Developing a WPV training attended by over 2,400 OCA staff.

Education/Training:

- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health from East Central University
- Master of Public Health in Interdisciplinary Public Health from the University of Oklahoma
- Certified Safety Professional, Certified in Public Health, Registered Sanitarian and Child Passenger Safety Technician & Proxy

Professional Associations:

- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- Commissioned Officer Association (COA)

Upcoming Events

Officer Intermediate Course:

The USPHS Commissioned Corps Officer Intermediate Course Training aims to build on the foundations set forth in the Officer Basic Course (OBC) and prepare the Public Health Service officers with knowledge, disposition, and skills necessary to serve as intermediate level Public Health Service officers and the future leaders of the United States Public Health Service. This 5-day training is open to O-3 and O-4 officers and builds upon their current skills and provides a sustainable training delivery model that aims to improve efficiency and performance of Public Health Service officers. They will learn the skills necessary to lead effectively, including assertive communication, motivation methods, problem-solving, strategic decision-making, and teamwork.

The May 2023 course is a pilot program and participants will play a crucial role in helping to shape the future of this learning experience. Participants will be expected to provide feedback which will be utilized to refine and improve future iterations.

Dates & Locations:

- May 1-5, 2023 (pilot) in Rockville, MD
- June 5-9, 2023 in Rockville, MD
- September 25-29, 2023 in Rockville, MD

Advanced Leadership Training

The USPHS Advanced Leadership Development Program is open to O-5 and O-6 officers and focuses on developing practical solutions to contemporary public health challenges in leadership and management on deployment and at your duty station.

This virtual course is highly interactive and will tailor content to each Public Health Service officer based on their specific needs related to course objectives. Topics covered include emotional intelligence, building relationships, collaboration, coaching and mentoring, solving complex problems, and more.

This course is a pilot program and the participants will play a crucial role in helping to shape the future of this learning experience. Participants will be expected to provide feedback which will be utilized to refine and improve future iterations. Further courses will be offered throughout the fiscal year.

Dates:

- March 27-31, 2023 (Pilot Course)
- May 22-26, 2023
- June 26-30, 2023
- July 24-28, 2023
- August 28-September 1, 2023

For more information on these preparedness and leadership training opportunities and to apply, please go to the [Commissioned Corps Learning Management](#) site. Public Health Service officers selected to attend a course or program will be provided a more detailed schedule when the schedule becomes available to CCHQ. Public Health Service officers accepting an assignment to attend a course or program are expected to attend and complete the opportunity.

Please email your questions to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov.

Organization of the Month

Organization of the Month: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

The [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology \(APIC\)](#) is the leading professional association for infection preventionists (IPs) with more than 15,000 members.

Vision: A safer world through the prevention of infection

Mission: To advance the science and practice of infection prevention and control

Most APIC members are nurses, physicians, public health professionals, epidemiologists, microbiologists, or medical technologists who:

- Collect, analyze, and interpret health data to track infection trends, plan appropriate interventions, measure success, and report relevant data to public health agencies.
- Establish scientifically based infection prevention practices and collaborate with the healthcare team to assure implementation.
- Work to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in healthcare facilities by isolating sources of infections and limiting their transmission.
- Educate healthcare personnel and the public about infectious diseases and how to limit their spread.

Many IPs are employed within healthcare institutions and serve as educators, researchers, consultants, and clinical scientists. The majority of APIC members are affiliated with acute care settings. An increasing number practice in ambulatory and outpatient services where they direct programs that protect patients and personnel from HAIs. Members are also involved in long-term care, home health, and other practice settings where infection prevention and control is an increasing area of responsibility for nurses and other healthcare personnel.

****Do you have an 'Organization of the Month' you'd like to see highlighted?** The organization can be local or national but should provide resources applicable to all EHOs. Please share your organization and a summary of its resources with your EHO Assessment Team below!**

About EHOPAC News

Do you have a news story to share? Submit your *EHOPAC News* stories or questions for inclusion in a future edition to LT Stephanie Bridges, stephanie_bridges@nps.gov, LT Stephen McLane, Stephen.mclane@fda.hhs.gov, and LT Philip Mathis phillip.mathis@fda.hhs.gov!

For More EHOPAC Information:

Visit the [EHOPAC Website](#)

Check out our FACEBOOK pages:

[EHO Closed Facebook Group](#)

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Thank you for all you do,

EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team

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