

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

9:30 am. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Dolly Battle (CLC); Robert Francis (CLC Chairperson); James Keeney (CLC); Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Michelle Consalvo, Executive Director, Government and Community Affairs, BU; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Robert Donahue, Associate Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, BU; Kevin Tuohy, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting were distributed.

Introductions were made of all attendees. Keeney was recognized for his recent appointment to the BU Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Chairperson Francis reported that the CLC sub-committee recommendation related to open meetings is that the CLC should start small and identify and invite community representatives to attend meetings as opposed to opening meetings to the entire public at once. Battle agreed that that it would be more productive if the process started small. Francis reported he would bring the issue up at the March meeting so that all members could consider the recommendation and a decision could be finalized.

Representatives from the Boston University Office of Government and Community Affairs led a discussion regarding the reorganization and expansion of the CLC. First, it was acknowledged that no one wanted to lose the expertise and knowledge of the existing committee. Donahue stated that to better understand and recommend changes to the CLC membership, they looked at a number of Boston-based models whose goals were to broaden community participation and transparency. Some conclusions reached were that the most productive boards had around fifteen members. In addition, new membership should include community, business and union leaders, scientific, medical, public health and communications experts. The current CLC would function as a steering board to the new larger group, set the agenda and direct the committee's operations.

Donahue suggested that CLC members think about this new proposal and that his office would continue to work closely with the CLC to provide support and advice.

CLC members reacted favorably to the discussion and agreed to review proposed changes in the CLC structure. Keeney suggested that while considering changes to the number of members the group should also consider a member orientation process to bring new members up to speed upon appointment.

REGULATORY

Tuohey provided an update on the progress of the MWRA permit and Certificate of Occupancy as well as the training programs being provided to emergency responders.

The CLC was advised that the public meeting being hosted by the NIH would take place on April 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Roxbury Community College and that documents released on the risk assessment would be placed in local libraries as normally done.

OPERATIONS

At the request of Francis, Corley provided a timeline for moving laboratory operations into the NEIDL once the Certificate of Occupancy is received. That timeline would be subject to Institutional Biosafety Committee amendment approvals for moving equipment and materials. Given the use of the building will be at BSL-2 level there are no anticipated external approvals required but the process will include continuous communication with the Boston Public Health Commission. Corley reported that the timeline for these moves is currently anticipated to be four weeks following receipt of the certificate.

Francis reported that the local safety associations he belongs to would be interested in touring the building. Consalvo and Corley reported on the status of building tours. Battle asked what the background check consists of and suggested that invitations to tour include a notice that background checks are necessary prior to entering the building. Britton and Consalvo agreed and are in the process of redefining the way information is requested from each tour participant.

The CLC agreed that the agenda at the next meeting should include a description of the personnel clearance process.

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for March 20 at 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am..