

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

9:30 am. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis (CLC); James Keeney (CLC); Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; Stephen Burgay, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, BU; Gary Nicksa, Senior Vice President, Operations, BU

ADMINISTRATIVE

Introductions were made. Tuohey reminded the CLC that requests had been made to invite the media to CLC meetings and to open meetings to the public and that those requests should be addressed. The CLC briefly discussed the requests to invite the media and to open meetings to the public. The two members in attendance felt it was more appropriate to involve the larger group and Tuohey agreed to coordinate a teleconference to accommodate that meeting.

REGULATORY

Corley and Tuohey reported that the timeline for completion of the NIH Risk Assessment remained as previously reported in fall 2011 to early 2012 (visit the NIH Blue Ribbon Panel website at <http://nihblueribbonpanel-bumc-neidl.od.nih.gov/default.asp> for periodic updates on the timeline).

Tuohey also thanked Keeney and Brayton for attending the Institutional Biosafety Committee meeting the previous week. The meeting included a presentation by the Director of Research Safety and a full review of applications for research projects submitted by the principal investigators.

OPERATIONS

Tuohey reported that Boston University filed the waiver request with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as previously reported to the CLC and expects to hear a decision on the waiver request in October. If granted, research operations could start at BSL-2 soon.

Nicksa presented on Community Benefits by describing the people, research and financial resources that make up Boston University followed by the economic impact that the University has on the City of Boston. The presentation described benefits provided as a result of BioSquare Research Park where the NEIDL is located as well as the economic impact specific to the NEIDL.

Burgay presented on the Community Relations efforts that are underway. He explained that his office would be assigning staff to the NEIDL who would be responsible for ongoing community outreach as well as support to the CLC.

Francis reported that he is involved with a number of community organizations and suggested that BU attend some of those meetings to share the community benefits presentation to those

external audiences. Both Francis and Keeney agreed that the CLC should suggest forums and have BU included on agendas for these meetings whenever there is interest.

11:00 AM Meeting adjourned.

ADDENDUM

The CLC met on a conference call on October 4, 2011 in response to the request of the CLC members who attended the September 27 meeting.

Participating on the call were: Robert Francis (CLC) ; Dolly Battle (CLC); Linda Lukas (CLC); James Keeney (CLC); Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU.

In response to a CLC member's inquiry prior to the call, Tuohey shared the following information:

- The CLC is an entity voluntarily created by Boston University. It is not a city agency or quasi-city agency and is not subject to any open meeting laws.
- The plaintiffs, in general, have no standing with regard to the CLC however; a current CLC member is a plaintiff in the ongoing cases.
- The CLC is charged by the Executive Committee to be the public conduit for the NEIDL and has the ability to open any and or/all meetings to the public. There are practices that are common in Boston including meetings being open to the public, being held in accessible places and being held during evening hours to allow for community participation. Open public meetings do not mean that the public is allowed to disrupt meetings. For most open meetings, the business is conducted by the membership and a public comment period is held when the business portion of the meeting is concluded.

The group discussed the presentations from the CLC meeting of September 27 as well as the requests to invite media to the CLC meetings and to open those meetings to the public.

The CLC agreed that:

- These issues should be the topic of the next CLC meeting to further discuss implementation of the generally agreed up on principles including:
- Media will be invited to observe the CLC meetings in coordination with the revamped outreach by Community Relations. Meeting format will be discussed further as will the CLC role in setting the agenda subject to the availability of University's presenters.
- The waiver process could lead to changes in the use of the building and is a significant milestone that requires increased CLC engagement.
- CLC efforts should be aligned with tentative timelines related to possible low level laboratory opening and a coordinated CLC plan should be developed to address the next year's activities.
- The CLC should select a new Chair person.

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for November 18 at 9:30 am.