

# Boston University Medical Campus

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## Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

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### MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

9:30 am. \* 620 Albany Street

### ATTENDING

Dolly Battle; Linda Lukas; Alexis Brubaker, Training Manager, NEIDL; Gene Olinger, Director, Maximum Containment Training, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; Carla Richards, Director, Community Relations, BU

### REGULATORY

#### NIH Risk Assessment

Tuohey gave an update on the NIH Risk assessment. The NIH expects the public comment period will take place late November 2011. More information on the timeline and status of the NIH risk assessment is available at the Blue Ribbon Panel website at <http://nihblueribbonpanel-bumc-neidl.od.nih.gov/default.asp>.

#### Boston Public Health Commission

Tuohey reported on the status of ongoing meetings and discussions with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). These meetings are an opportunity for BPHC to provide feedback and recommendations as emergency, chemical and biosafety response plans are developed for the NEIDL as well as to review plans for the safe use of the equipment in high containment areas. BPHC has also been actively involved in review of operations involving the MRI and the irradiator that will operate in the NEIDL.

### OPERATIONS

#### Commissioning

Tuohey gave an update on recent operations and noted that during the commissioning process that has been underway over the past several months, 'spidering' was found in the epoxy finish of the walls in some BSL-4 areas and BSL-3 animal housing facilities. Tuohey explained that epoxy paint is used to cover walls in areas throughout the lab to create a smooth, hard surface that is durable and allows for ease of cleaning. It was reported that the NIH has been notified, that there are no such issues in BSL-2 or BSL-3 laboratory spaces and that remediation will include removal and replacement of the epoxy paint

Tuohey reminded the CLC members that commissioning provides a unique opportunity to identify and correct these types of issues prior to building operation.

#### Suit Demonstration

Brubaker and Olinger led members to the Training Simulator for a demonstration of the steps involved in donning a BSL-4 suit and an overview of suit training. Olinger gave an overview of the history and use of BSL-4 suits. Brubaker explained that the suits are

made by Dover, the same company that makes space suits for astronauts. BSL-4 suits at the NEIDL are referred to as 'Dover suits' .

Brubaker reported on the types of things they look for in trainees including how they physically feel wearing a suit and their level of patience during inspection and preparation and demonstrated the steps involved in visual inspection and preparation (e.g., sealing valves). Due to the constant positive air pressure, trainees may have reactions like chapped lips, nose bleeds, dehydration, and more. Olinger mentioned that mentoring is a key component of the training program.

Brubaker donned the suit and entered into a simulated chemical shower wearing the suit after the demonstration. CLC members had opportunity to observe the simulated chemical shower.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### Meeting Schedule

The CLC will not meet in August.

11:00 AM Meeting adjourned.