

# 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, April 17, 2012  
9:00 am. \* 620 Albany Street

### ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Chairperson, CLC; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; Michael Kozu, CLC; Christopher Brayton, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; Ara Tahmassian, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; William Gibbons, Assistant Director, Public Safety, BU; Seth Jaffe, Foley Hoag LLP

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting were distributed. Chairperson Francis called the meeting to order and introduced those speaking to agenda items.

Following up on previous meetings, Britton proposed Community Liaison Committee Reorganization Guidelines.

The revised committee would be called the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The Committee would be advisory and operate on consensus. Thus, the group would not be required to vote on proposals. The CAC would be self-nominated. Community representatives would be the majority of new CAC members. Britton requested that consideration be given to finalizing guidelines by mid-May, so that outreach process to obtain new members can begin.

Kozu inquired about the news reports of the suspected suicide of the BU graduate student in the South End and asked if there was any connection to the NEIDL. Tahmassian replied that the graduate student was researching Alzheimer's and did not work in or have access to the NEIDL. Although the name of the chemical (sodium azide) she supposedly ingested was being widely circulated in news reports as the cause of death, BU has not been advised of the cause of death yet.

Seth Jaffe provided a brief summary of the NIH's Draft Supplementary Risk Assessment for the NEIDL. CLC members were reminded that for further explanation and/or additional information, they should review the Reader's Guide, a twenty-three page synopsis or reference the complete Risk Assessment document. The sites for these documents are <http://nihblueribbonpanel-bumc-neidl.od.nih.gov/Readers%20Guide.pdf> or <http://nihblueribbonpanel-bumc-neidl.od.nih.gov/default.asp>. Both documents are available in hard copy at any of the following Boston Public Library branches: Central (Copley), Dudley, Grove Hall, and the South End.

## **REGULATORY**

The CLC was reminded that the NIH would be holding a public hearing to take comments on the Risk Assessment on April 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Roxbury Community College.

## **OPERATIONS**

Ara Tahmassian, representing NEIDL administration for Ron Corley, reported that equipment and investigators have moved into the NEIDL to conduct BSL-2 level research on Tuberculosis.

William Gibbons discussed NEIDL access procedures in response to a request from Dolly Battle at a previous meeting.

- Employees – After extensive screening procedures pre-employment, employees are enrolled in the Access Control System. Access is allowed via iris and/or badge swipe. Access permissions within the NEIDL are based on work assignment. Employees are only granted access clearance to areas of the facility where they need to perform their work.
- Visitors – Will not be enrolled in Access Control System. Pre-registration and security approval are required. All visitors must bring a government issued photo ID with them on the day of the visit. Visitors must be accompanied by an escort at all times. At the conclusion of the visit, all visitor badges must be returned to the NEIDL Safety Officer(s).

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.