

# 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 17, 2012

9:30 am. \* 620 Albany Street

#### ATTENDING

Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; Ron Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; Jamie Fay, Fort Point Associates, Inc.; Judith Kahn, Fort Point Associates, Inc;

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the June 19, 2012 meeting were distributed. Chairperson Lukas called the meeting to order and introduced those speaking to agenda items.

Ms. Britton advised the Committee on the CLC expansion process. A few completed applications have been received. The application to the CLC can be downloaded at [www.bu.edu/neidl](http://www.bu.edu/neidl). The application deadline has been extended until September 14, 2012.

Ms. Britton continues to meet with community representatives to solicit applications. New ads to solicit members will be placed in community newspapers.

Ms. Britton and Mr. Idiokitas previewed the new, redesigned NEIDL website. They noted that the website can be translated into several different languages. They discussed and showed the new additions (interactive videos and user-friendly layout), the expanded "News" section, and the revised content on the homepage. The four major homepage sections are as follows:

##### 1. Science & Research

- Introduces the NEIDL researchers and research to the community and discusses the NEIDL's role in discoveries related to emerging infectious diseases

##### 2. Culture of Safety

- Highlights the comprehensive safeguards and oversight in place to protect researchers and the community. This section addresses how the NEIDL is managed and overseen. Also, detailed is the process for emergency response.
- Mr. Tuohey briefly discussed the applicable safety plans and manuals. Of particular importance, was the Biosafety Manual which provides the guidelines for safe work in a research environment. He pointed out that not only does the NEIDL follow the applicable guidelines and the regulations of the Boston Public Health Commission, the National Institute of Health, and the Center for Disease Control, but also partners with National, State, and city offices / agencies.

- The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) page was shown. The IBC meets monthly to review and approve all applicable research projects, including the NEIDL (<http://www.bu.edu/orcommittees/ibc/>). It was noted that the IBC minutes are posted and available to the public.
- The Quarterly NEIDL Incident Report was highlighted. There have been no incidents at the NEIDL.

### **3. Community Engagement**

- Talks about the various avenues for the community to interface with NEIDL leadership and facilitate a free flow of communication between the NEIDL and the community.
- Discusses the role of the CLC and its members. Agendas and minutes are posted as are links to employment and educational opportunities.
- The CLC members offered suggestions on ways to make the Final Supplementary Risk Assessment more user friendly and understandable. They also discussed ways to make the FAQ section under Resources and the Send Us A Message section under Contact Us/Community Engagement more informative.

### **4. Upcoming Events**

- Sets out all CLC meetings for the rest of the year, and any NEIDL activities that might be of interest to the community.

## **REGULATORY**

Dr. Corley discussed the Final Supplementary Risk Assessment for the NEIDL dated July 2012. It was important to note that Appendix O (Public Comment Responses) contained fifty- four (54) letters to the NIH with respect to the Draft Supplementary Risk Assessment dated February 2012. It was noted that the NIH did not respond to positive comments. Instead, it responded in detail to issues and concerns. The fifty- fifth (55) letter is the transcript of the NIH/Roxbury Community College meeting of April 19, 2012. It is anticipated that the NIH will issue its Record of Decision in September 2012.

Mr. Fay and Ms. Kahn informed the group that as part of the permitting process for the NEIDL and Biosquare 2, BU will submit certain documents to the regulatory agencies. If BU obtains a favorable decision, perhaps BSL-3 research can begin shortly thereafter.

## **OPERATIONS**

Dr. Corley said TB related research was continuing in the building and efforts were underway to actively recruit additional TB researchers.

## **NEXT MEETING**

There is no August Meeting. The next CLC meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.