

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

9:08 am. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Chairperson, CLC; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Christopher Brayton, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; Ronald B. Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL;

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the October meeting were distributed and approved. Chairperson Francis called the meeting to order and introduced those speaking to agenda items.

Mr. Idiokitas spoke about the Holiday Reading Program. The students that will be visited and read to on December 13th and 14th by the BU student athletes attend the following South End and Roxbury schools:

- Hurley
- Hernandez
- Quincy
- Blackstone

Ms. Britton discussed the community grants and announced the two local community organizations that offer programs that benefit youth that are each receiving a \$2500 grant.

- Boston City Lights is a free performing arts and training program designed to develop the artistic abilities of inner city youth. It is located in the South End.
- Mandela Resident Cooperative Association is located in Lower Roxbury and will use the grant to help fund its 2013 Annual Get Connected Youth Fair.

Ms. Britton announced that the six people have been appointed to fill the open positions of the NEIDL CLC. The new members come from neighborhoods adjacent to the NEIDL and bring a variety of different perspectives and skill sets to the CLC. The new candidates are:

- Mr. Kenneth Nwosu
- Mr. Matthew White
- Ms. Valerie Shelley
- Ms. Chayla White
- Mr. James Eliscar
- Mr. Robert Timmerman

Both Mr. Timmerman and Mr. Keeney will also serve as community representatives to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

Ms. Britton informed the group that BU received an award for “Making A World of a Difference” at Orchard Garden’s Annual Gospel Dinner.

The CLC members then discussed the future role of the CLC, potential agendas, as well as the role and purpose of the NEIDL Executive Committee. Members queried whether there was a real need for an Executive Committee and how often it should meet. Members also expressed concern about having a NEIDL Executive Meeting one month and a regular CLC meeting the next month.

OPERATIONS

Dr. Corley said the NIH is still in the process of creating an index as part of the Record of Decision. Shortly after the Record of Decision is published, BU will file with the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to get a MEPA certificate so that BSL-3 and BSL-4 work can commence. In addition to the MEPA certificate, the NEIDL also needs full occupancy permits and Boston Public Health Commission approval.

REGULATORY

Dr. Corley talked about the Boston Business Journal’s recent article on the sale of Boston Medical Center’s (BMC) NEIDL share to BU. After reviewing expenses, BMC decided to focus on its core mission – patient care. The sale will allow BMC to recover its investment of \$25 million over a set time period. This action does not affect NEIDL operations or leadership in any way.

Given the negativity surrounding this article and the South End Patch article on the same content matter, the CLC strongly recommended a positive response from BU regarding the articles. Mr. Keeney said that BU must be more vocal, proactive, and develop better methods of consistently informing the community and elected officials about the various good deeds that BU does for the community on a daily basis. BU must reiterate, by words and deeds, that it is making a difference in the communities it serves.

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.