

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

THURSDAY DECEMBER 20, 2012

5: 30 PM * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Chairperson, CLC; Christopher Brayton, CLC; James Eliscar, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Valerie Shelley, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Chayla White, CLC; Matthew White, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; John Murphy, Interim Director, NEIDL; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU;

ADMINISTRATIVE

The December 18, 2012 CLC meeting was cancelled and all CLC members were invited to attend new member orientation. Ms Britton welcomed the new CLC members. She stated that the NEIDL is part of a network of secure facilities studying infectious diseases. One of the NEIDL's missions is to develop diagnostics, vaccines and treatments for infectious diseases and reaffirmed that the CLC is important to the success of the NEIDL's missions. The members then introduced themselves and gave a little background on themselves.

Ms Britton then gave the following NEIDL 2012 highlights.

In an effort to broaden community involvement and improve transparency, the CLC has added six new members to the existing CLC. We now have 11 members that come from the communities adjacent to the NEIDL and bring a wealth of expertise and skill sets to the CLC.

Members of the CLC have been appointed to sit on the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The IBC meets monthly. It reviews and approves all applicable research projects, including those of the NEIDL. Accidents and incidents involving biological material must be reported to this committee as well.

The NEIDL Safety Committee will be looking for a community member to sit on the NEIDL Safety Committee. This committee evaluates, monitors, and analyzes safety issues to reduce the risk of lab incidents, injuries, and property damage.

The NEIDL website is up and current.

OPERATIONS

In April, BU researchers moved into the NEIDL to begin conducting BSL-2 research on a close relative of the organism that causes TB. This is important public health research on a disease that affects 1/3 of the world's population.

Equally important, researchers began being recruited to work on BSL-2 agents and their research was expanded to include use of BSL-4 space. No BSL-4 research is being conducted at the NEIDL. This expansion allowed researchers to work as teams and become familiar with procedures and protocols.

Dr. Bossart came to a CLC meeting and talked about her research on Dengue Fever and the vaccine she successfully developed on the Hendra Virus.

REGULATORY

The NEIDL Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was submitted to the BPHC.

The CEMP provides a framework whereby BU will perform emergency functions during a NEIDL emergency event. The plan includes actions that the city and state will take in the event of a NEIDL emergency. Drills, exercises, and training sessions involving NEIDL internal personnel and external responders such as EMS, Fire, Police and others identified by the Boston Public Health Commission will be ongoing through the year.

The first emergency drill involving external responders was on December 11, 2012 and involved a simulated medical incident at the NEIDL. CLC members were invited to attend. Mr. Keeney attended.

The NIH issued its Final Supplementary Risk Assessment in July 2012. BU is waiting for the NIH to issue its Supplemental Record of Decision. Once this occurs, BU plans to move forward with the approval process and request a MEPA certificate to operate BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories.

DR MURPHY GAVE A PRESENTATION ENTITLED INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH FOR THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL GOOD.

CLC Members toured the NEIDL.

After the NEIDL tour, CLC members brainstormed about issues they consider of importance. First, they discussed methods to overcome misinformation about the NEIDL. Second, they discussed the importance of conveying the economic benefits of the NEIDL opening at full capacity.

It was suggested that education and outreach to community leaders, elected officials and media should continue in order to support these goals. These issues will be addressed at future CLC meetings.

Mr. Brayton resigned from the CLC effective immediately. Mr. Brayton was an original member of the CLC. The NEIDL leadership and the CLC thanked him for his many years of service.

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for JANUARY 15, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.