

# 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, June 18, 2013

6:00 pm. \* 620 Albany Street

### ATTENDING

Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Chayla White, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Director, Government and Community Relations, BU; Ron Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; Thomas Robbins, Executive Director, Public Safety, BU; Nahid Bhadelia, M.D., MA, Associate Director, BMC Hospital Epidemiology and Director Infection Control, NEIDL;

At 6:25 pm, Co-Chair Lukas opened the meeting with Chief Robbins presentation.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thomas Robbins, Executive Director of Public Safety, spoke briefly about NEIDL public safety officers and the rigorous training they have in preparation to help them carry out their roles. He noted that NEIDL officers are State Police trained and licensed. Because of their extensive training and their defined roles, they are allowed to carry a firearm.

He then touched upon the various security measures that exist in and around the facility.

- Security perimeter fence around the facility is mandated because the NEIDL is a federally funded building and is required of all federally funded buildings after the Oklahoma bombing in 1995. The fence is designed to stop vehicles from crashing through and entering onto NEIDL property.
- Building set back from perimeter fence to minimize structural damage
- Cameras throughout the facility
- Limited entry points to the site
- Various access controls
  - Card readers (throughout the building)
  - Iris scans
  - No “piggy backing”
- Security screening of all persons, vehicles and items entering the site
- Background screening for all staff and visitors

- Security systems are monitored 24x7

Chief Robbins then addressed the CLC members' questions about the threat of terrorism against the NEIDL. He noted that, in addition to the security measures he previously addressed, BU Public Safety works closely with the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), the Fusion Center, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and other reliable agencies to make sure it has up to date and relevant information.

Chief Robbins then answered specific questions from the CLC relating to scenarios regarding security, damage to the structural integrity of the building, building access, redundancies and the culture of safety.

## **MEDICAL SUPPORT for OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE and ILLNESSES**

Dr. Nahid Bhadelia, Director Infection Control at the NEIDL, began her presentation by explaining her role within the Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP), and the program's main function. ROHP promotes a culture of safety in research by pre-employment screening, and utilizing best practices to perform ongoing medical surveillance, workplace risk assessments, biosafety and agent training, clinical occupational health services, and post exposure management for researchers.

The pre-placement medical surveillance examines among other factors whether a potential employee is reliable, suitable and able to perform the job requirements safely. This involves physical and mental health evaluations as well as drug screening. Further medical and surveillance history is performed, at a minimum, on a yearly basis. Also, if there are changes in job descriptions, behavior or work performance, additional testing and examinations are completed.

All BU lab workers must carry a "Medical Surveillance Card" (Card) with them at all times. This Card must be presented to a health care provider in the event of an unexplained illness. The Card contains medical contact information including the ROHP website address <http://www.bu.edu/rohp>, where health care providers and first responders can find Agent Information Sheets and emergency protocols . It provides researchers with ROHP contact information for post-exposure notification and 24/7 emergency medical support to treating clinicians. Of importance, the Card identifies the agent(s) researchers are working with.

Dr. Bhadelia concluded by discussing the post exposure management plan and procedures to provide clinical care in case of suspected or demonstrated illness from diseases that could pose public health risks such as, as a result of lab exposure, as encountered in a traveler from an endemic area, as part of a pandemic illness or in the extremely unlikely case of an act of bioterrorism. In a nonemergency situation, ROHP initiates the communication plan between the affected parties. In an emergency situation, BMC is the first line provider.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

The meeting minutes from the April 16, 2013 CLC meeting were approved.

A discussion on future CLC meetings occurred regarding times, location, and make-up of the committee. It was suggested that the CLC membership be expanded. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

## **COMMUNITY LIAISON REPORT**

Ms. Britton and Mr. Idiokitas announced that 6 Summerlab scholarships had been awarded to local students and that they are in the process of placing scholarships with local youth to attend the BU summer athletic sports camps for hockey, softball, lacrosse and basketball. Approximately 100 scholarships to BU summer sports camps will be distributed, in conjunction with Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF)

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)- Mr. Timmerman said that most proposals presented to the IBC were approved, but with conditions for further actions placed on them.

Mr. Timmerman spoke about an encounter with a recent mayoral candidate. This candidate claimed that items were being improperly shipped to the NEIDL. Mr. Timmerman reiterated that misinformation about the NEIDL needs to be discussed and corrected in a public forum.

## **SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE**

Dr. Corley discussed the concern surrounding the outbreak of the H7/N9 virus in China. He also gave an update on the judicial cases noting that the Judge had not issued her decision in the Federal lawsuit yet.

## **REGULATORY**

Mr. Tuohey said the MWRA had completed their public comment period and that BU was expecting a full discharge permit as well as a full Certificate of Occupancy to replace the existing permits that were issued with restrictions.

Mr. Tuohey said the active shooter drill went well. He thanked CLC members who served as observers that day. He noted that several city agencies were present and participated in the simulation emergency response drill. The next simulated drill will occur in the fall and address the impact of an earthquake.

*Co-Chair Lukas closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.*