

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

6:00 pm. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; James Eliscar, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Director, Community Outreach/MED, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Director, Community Relations/CRC; Dr. Ronald Corley, BU Department of Microbiology, Director, NEIDL.

At 6:00 pm, Co-Chair Lukas opened the meeting.

Discussion on Restructuring the CLC Post Permitting

In the spring, in anticipation of BSL-4 approvals and the subsequent beginning of full-scale operations at the NEIDL later this year, the CLC requested that the NEIDL's existing CLC be restructured to facilitate greater civic involvement with the community at large. As such, Government and Community Affairs formed a working group to research community advisory boards used at similar research facilities, such as the Galveston National Laboratories and Rocky Mountain Laboratories as well as other community advisory committees at local hospitals and peer research institutions.

The working group's investigation of other community advisory models revealed that the current CLC model is in line with industry practices. Diversity, especially professional diversity, was the one area in which the CLC was in need of revamping compared to its peers. Given these results, the existing CLC endorsed a new membership recruitment strategy.

It was recommended that the CLC be expanded to no more than 15 members, to bring greater diversity, both ethnic and professional as well as to foster a more dynamic committee structure. In addition, to adding new members, the CLC asked that existing CLC members who can no longer be active be removed prior to recruiting new members.

On the issue of committee membership, the CLC agreed that membership should include members from the greater Boston community, with emphasis on recruiting and retaining members of the host community and neighborhoods. Additionally, based on information gathered about peer community advisory committees, other potential industry and community representatives to consider for membership should include: unions, students, law enforcement, local business/private industry, life sciences, public health/hospital, Boston Public

School educators/administrators, public relations/communications and nonprofit/community-based organizations.

The CLC discussed membership recruitment strategies that would include traditional outreach methods and reviewed a draft ad and application for recruitment. Input and recommendations regarding recruitment should also be sought from the current CLC members. It was proposed that outreach begin with organizations and/or institutions that the NEIDL is currently or planning to build collaborations with. Another recommendation was that we reach out to members of the faith community. This would help with education and awareness in the future.

Under the new restructured model, it was recommended that the CLC meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Co-chairs would have the discretion to determine the dates and times of meetings, but would try to schedule meetings at times and places that allow for maximum possible community participation. Subcommittees were mentioned, but the CLC liked the idea of Ad Hoc subcommittees as needed.

The CLC voted to revise and expand the CLC's Mission statement and its roles and responsibilities stated in the March 2006 Guidelines. The new Mission statement language is as follows: The mission of the CLC is to ensure and facilitate a continuing conversation between the community and the NEIDL about the NEIDL's activities and research. This dialogue must be an honest and respectful exchange of information, questions, and concerns intended to build trust and understanding.

SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Corley invited CLC members to the symposium entitled Ebola, The Disease and Immune Privilege on 10/29. The symposium will feature guest speaker Ian Crozier, MD. The second invited speaker with Dr. Crozier will be Dr. Yeh, who led the team to save Dr. Crozier's vision. Drs. Muhlberger and Bhadelia from the NEIDL will also give presentations. CLC members were invited to attend a table-top exercise involving a transport accident of a select agent pathogen on 10/22. Dr. Corley announced that Sierra Leone was in a 42-day countdown toward being Ebola free.

Dr. Corley also informed the CLC that the NEIDL would be hosting an inaugural symposium beginning on September 18, 2016. The first day will be open to the public, while the next two days will be of specific interest to scientists and researchers. Invited speakers are Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and David Quammen, author of Spillover.

REGULATORY

Dr. Corley reported that the BSL-4 permit has not been issued yet.

Next CLC Meeting: October 27, 2015