

**External Laboratory Safety Workgroup (ELSW)  
Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, February 24, 2015  
8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

**Attendees**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ Joseph Kanabrocki, PhD, CBSP – <i>Co-Chair</i>        | ✓ Leslie Dauphin, PhD, <i>Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Sciences and Safety (ADLSS), CDC</i> |
| ✓ Debra L. Hunt, DrPH, CBSP                             |   |
| ✓ Thomas V. Inglesby, MD                                | ✓ Michael Shaw, PhD, CDC  |
| ✓ Patty Olinger, RBP                                    | Kenneth Berns, MD, PhD – <i>Co-Chair</i>  |
| ✓ Heather J. Sheeley, BA, MS, CBiol, MSB, CMIOSH, FISTR | Michael A. Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)   |
| ✓ Jill Taylor, PhD                                      | David A. Relman, MD   |
| ✓ Sarah Wiley, MPH, <i>Designated Federal Officer</i>   | Fred Sparling, MD   |
|   | Domenica (Dee) Zimmerman  |
- ✓ *In attendance*

**Summary of Meeting Notes**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

*Sarah Wiley, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), ELSW*

**Update on CDC Laboratory Safety Improvements**

*ELSW Members and Les Dauphin, Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Sciences and Safety (ADLSS)*

Dr. Dauphin offered the following updates regarding CDC's efforts to address the ACD recommendations concerning laboratory safety at CDC:

**ADLSS Position** – CDC is making progress toward permanently filling the ADLSS position. A certificate of qualified candidates, internal and external, has been received and interviews are being scheduled.

**Laboratory Safety Review Board (LSRB)** – This board was established to review protocols for safety elements and continue the process begun by the internal Laboratory Safety Improvement Workgroup (LSIW). All protocols and procedures related to inactivation of pathogens and transfer of pathogens from CDC's Biological Safety Level (BSL)-3 and BSL-4 laboratories will continue to be reviewed by the board.

**Risk Assessment** – A Biological Risk Assessment pilot course will be held on February 24, 2015. This is being offered in collaboration with the Environmental Safety and Health Compliance Office (ESHCO). This course will also be taught at Fort Collins, which has 12 BSL-3 facilities. Select Agent Principal Investigators (PIs) and BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories are the primary target groups intended for this course, but there are plans for continued expansion across the agency.

**Training** – The Biosafety Training Working Group has identified competencies for standard core laboratory safety training, conducted a formal review of the currently online- and instructor-led training, and is conducting a gap analysis to identify training needs. The Laboratory Training Branch (LTB) in CDC's Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (CSELS) will develop the training, with ESHCO serving as the subject matter experts (SMEs) for the content of the courses.

**External Accreditation** – Plans are underway to conduct a pilot program for external accreditation; this pilot will include five laboratories from CDC's infectious disease centers. The goal is to pilot the process

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for attaining International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-17025 accreditation. CDC completed stakeholder meetings to gather input on how best to implement this process. Feedback is being used to develop an implementation plan for the pilot. These efforts will also include internal and external benchmarking to gather lessons learned.

**In- and Out-Processing of Staff** – The Clean Sweep activities highlighted that the agency did not have a standard way to out-process laboratory staff, which resulted in lack of clarity with regard to laboratory inventory. New procedures have been established to address this issue moving forward.

**CDC Culture of Safety** – CDC has implemented a new recognition program called *Laboratory Safety Champions* where laboratory staff or their leadership may nominate staff who promote laboratory safety and best practices. The first Champion was selected, and the Interim OADLSS is working with *CDC Connects*<sup>TM</sup> staff to publish a story to highlight this individual.

### **Discussion Points**

#### *ELSW Members*

- External Accreditation
  - Ms. Olinger cautioned that ISO-17025 addresses little with respect to biosafety; accreditation for laboratory quality is different from biosafety.
- Risk Assessment Course
  - This instructor-led course is currently being taught as a pilot in order to target Select Agent laboratories first. Dissemination across the agency will occur in the future.
- CDC's Efforts to Date
  - Dr. Kanabrocki applauded CDC's efforts to date; the ELSW will anticipate a comprehensive institutional risk assessment process for all research proposals and activities.

### **Follow-up from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Visit**

#### *Dr. Joseph Kanabrocki, ELSW Co-Chair*

- Dr. Kanabrocki will provide the outline drafted during the NIH exit briefing to the group for review.

### **Plans for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Visit**

#### *Dr. Joseph Kanabrocki and Dr. Kenneth Berns, ELSW Co-Chairs, and ELSW Members*

- Agenda
  - Additional time will be requested for the group to engage with laboratory staff.
  - The visit will last two and a half days from May 11-13, 2015.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### *Sarah Wiley, DFO*

- The ELSW observations/suggestions made to and approved by the ACD went forward to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on February 13, 2015.
- The next ELSW teleconference will be March 9, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. EST.

### **Wrap up and Adjournment**

#### *Dr. Joseph Kanabrocki, Co-Chair, ELSW*