



**External Laboratory Safety Workgroup (ELSW)  
Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

**Attendees**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ Joseph Kanabrocki, PhD, CBSP – <i>Co-Chair</i>        | ✓ Kenneth I. Berns, MD, PhD – <i>Co-Chair</i>                                     |
| ✓ Thomas V. Inglesby, MD                                | ✓ Elaine Baker, MPH, <i>Designated Federal Officer*</i>                           |
| ✓ Patty Olinger, RBP                                    | ✓ Kathleen Ethier, Program Performance and Evaluation Office, <i>Director*</i>    |
| ✓ Fred Sparling, MD                                     | ✓ Michael Shaw, <i>LSIW Member, Acting Senior Advisor for Laboratory Science*</i> |
| ✓ Jill Taylor, PhD                                      | ✓ Sarah Wiley, <i>LSIW Member, Public Health Analyst*</i>                         |
| ✓ Domenica (Dee) Zimmerman                              | ✓ Liz York, <i>LSIW Project Manager*</i>  |
| ✓ Heather J. Sheeley, BA, MS, CBiol, MSB, CMIOSH, FISTR |   |
| Debra L. Hunt, DrPH, CBSP                               |   |
| Michael A. Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)                       |   |
| David A. Relman, MD                                     |   |
| ✓ <i>In attendance</i>                                  |   |
| * <i>CDC employee</i>                                   |   |

**Summary of Meeting Notes**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

*Elaine Baker, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), ELSW*

**Update from the Laboratory Safety Improvement Workgroup (LSIW)**

*Liz York, LSIW Project Manager and Michael Shaw, LSIW Member and “Clean Sweep” Lead*

Since the September 15-17, 2014, in-person meeting with ELSW, the LSIW has collected additional information from various groups throughout CDC having any connections with laboratory safety or laboratory operations.

- A draft report of LSIW’s findings and recommendations was submitted to CDC’s Chief Operating Officer and will be disseminated to stakeholders to allow the groups engaged in laboratory science to provide feedback.
  - Improvements are needed in consistency and documentation.
  - LSIW recommends standardized, competency-based training programs as well as specialized training in particular laboratories.
  - Identifying additional resources is key to improving safety.
- “Clean Sweep”
  - Completed on laboratory spaces and associated areas at all of CDC campuses.
  - Along with the “Clean Sweep” effort, a sweep was conducted of the agency’s archival repository, the CDC and ATSTR Specimen Packaging, Inventory and Repository (CASPIR).
  - The LSIW will provide a report to the White House on the “Clean Sweep.”
    - The report will be shared with the ELSW upon its completion.

**Discussion Points**

*ELSW Members and LSIW Members*

- Michael Bell, MD Interim Director for Laboratory Science, will present LSIW findings and recommendations during the October Advisory Committee to the Director, CDC (ACD) meeting.
- LSIW Future Operations



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- The completion of the findings and recommendations report is the culmination of the first of three phases.
- A small group of LSIW may be involved in Phase II, supporting the crafting of the new organization while continuing to work with other entities throughout CDC.
- The implementation of a new structure will occur during Phase III, with CDC's new laboratory safety leader leading implementation efforts.
- **Moratorium Review**
  - LSIW has received 49 submissions. Of these, 21 have been released to complete activities for transfer either internally or externally, 14 have been released with provisions, and 15 have been unconditionally released.
    - 5 groups have asked for an extension for the review process.
- **ELSW Recommendations**
  - ELSW Co-Chairs will draft a preliminary draft of topic areas and preliminary recommendations based on the ELSW observations.
    - The recommendations of the LSIW and ELSW will be developed separately and independently.
  - ELSW will present its preliminary findings and observations to ACD on October 23, 2014

**Update on Laboratory Safety Survey Results**

*Dr. Kathleen Ethier, Director of Program Performance and Evaluation Office*

- The majority of perceptions of laboratory safety were high among CDC laboratory staff.
- Consistent differences were found in the responses to perceptions of safety, the utility of protocols, and response and reporting of safety concerns
  - Fewer differences were observed regarding training issues.
- 27% of BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratory staff and those individuals working with select agents expressed concerns regarding repercussions of reporting safety concerns.
  - ELSW raised concern that personnel who would have the greatest consequences in the event of a mistake are indicating that they have concerns about either the reporting or the emergency management response.

**NIH and FDA Responses to the ELSW Letters**

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

- The Chairs drafted letters to Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- The letters outline the ELSW's charge and request clarity on what this external group can do for these other agencies.
- Elaine Baker, will share the drafts of the NIH and FDA letters with the ELSW members.

**Administrative Matters**

*Elaine Baker, DFO, ELSW*

- A follow-up meeting with Dr. Bell, Dr. Kanabrocki, and Dr. Berns is scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 5PM.
- The next ELSW teleconference will be Monday, November 3, 2014.

**Wrap up and Adjournment**

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