

Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative

Partners Forum

December 16, 2013
Teleconference
4:00pm–5:00pm



Creating a Sustainable Public Health Laboratory System

Meeting Summary Report

Purpose

The purpose of the forum is to provide partner organizations a standing, structured opportunity to contribute to the LEI, to facilitate ready exchange of information about the LEI, and to find where there could be further alignment of LEI activities with partner public health priorities.

Meeting Goals

This meeting provided LEI stakeholders the opportunity to:

- Review examples of products and tools that have been created or are in stages of development to assist public health laboratories in becoming more efficient in laboratory operation and management.
- Explore efficiency-related activities that the partners are considering and have adopted.
- Engage in open discussion to explore opportunities for collaboration on additional efficiency related directions.

In Attendance

Partner Representatives:

Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, APHA
Jeff Engel, MD, Executive Director, CSTE
Paul Etkind, MPH, DrPH, Senior Director of Infectious Diseases, NACCHO

CDC Representatives:

May Chu, PhD, Senior Advisor for Lab Strategy, Office for Public Health Scientific Services, CDC
Tony Moulton, PhD, Associate Director for Policy, CSELS, CDC
Renee Ned, Health Scientist, CSELS, CDC
John Ridderhof, DrPH, Senior Advisor for Planning, CSELS, CDC

APHL Representatives:

Scott Becker, Executive Director, APHL
Eric Blank, DrPH, Senior Director, Public Health Systems, APHL
Karen Breckenridge, Director, Quality Systems, APHL
Sadira Daher, Senior Specialist, Quality Systems, APHL

Introduction

An overview of LEI's new products and projects in progress, along with an overview of changes to the CDC organizational structure were presented. Slides can be viewed [here](#).

Discussion

Is the LEI looking at genomics testing and bioinformatics?

APHL is looking at the advancement of the genomic initiative. Planning can be done for Next-Gen sequencing to be more efficient. At this time it is anticipated that not every state needs this kind of technology. That is what was thought when Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) was introduced, but once all found out how useful this testing was for outbreak investigations all states wanted access to this technology.

There are already some models on genetic sequencing, particularly the reference center model used for TB. The reference center model most likely will be the model used for genetic sequencing. We will have to wait and see how technology unfolds, what platforms there are, and how to use the platforms for public health.

APHL captured lessons learned about technology adoption through previous transitions that should help guide the transition to this technology more efficiently.

Since molecular detection services are expensive, are they being adopted?

Molecular detection services are getting to be more affordable. You can get an instrumentation package for under \$100,000. There are add-ons and data management services from the manufacturers may increase costs. It is critical that we all support CDC's [Advanced Molecular Detection Initiative](#).

Will this make other kinds of tests unnecessary?

There is a need to have a national conversation as to where classical services will remain. Eighty percent or more results are still dependent on isolates extracted from a sample culture. In the future, there is a need to highlight the importance of maintaining this knowledge and skill somehow.

Action Items

- Scott will send Dr. Benjamin an email with an angle for an LEI-related story such as CDC's activity on the hill focusing on the AMD, which has an efficiency spin.
- Dr. Etkind suggested considering an LEI presentation at NACCHO.

Links

APHL's LEI website: www.aphl.org/lei

CDC's LEI website: <http://www.cdc.gov/osels/lspppo/lei>

CDC's AMD website: <http://www.cdc.gov/amd/>

PHR Supplement: <http://www.publichealthreports.org/issuecontents.cfm?Volume=128&Issue=8>

CDC's Science Clips: <http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/v5sup2.html>