

ELTAC Meeting - August 31, 2011

1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Ken O. A quorum of 8 ELTAC members was established. Agenda reviewed and updated.

ELTAC Voting Attendees: Andy E., Cindy B., Dave S., Ken O., Gerry G., Pamela S., Soccoro B., Tony P., Terri P.

2. Minutes approved from last meeting. Dave S. moved, Socorro B. Second. Mark asked that the attendees from the last meeting be added: Andy E., Cindy B., Dave S., Ken O., Gerry G., Mark B., Pamela S., Soccoro B., Tony P., Terri P. Amendment accepted. Passed - Unanimous.

Leah Walker was present at the meeting and provided an update on ELAP direction and asked for input from ELTAC.

3. ELAP Updates: Hiring freeze extended. Hiring priority comes first from "excess employee" list. Hiring from within department is second choice. Without guarantee that revenue won't decrease, hiring is not allowed. Fees need to increase to allow for hiring. Labs numbers are decreasing, and/or labs dropping FoT's. Regulations are trying to be updated to make up for it.

Two staff hired, but likely will lose two current staff to moves to other departments. EPA training still needed for two new hires. Looking to get EPA out to CA, but EPA will only come out every 5 years, and they came out last year.

14 auditors now on staff, with various capabilities. Includes two for bioassay audits. 8 staff can do NELAC labs. 87 labs are NELAC. 40 are primary and need ELAP to do the certification. The others have their primary certification through another state. A few states have asked for help in doing the assessments. Also other labs from other countries seeking accreditation.

Cost of assessments is covered by labs, except for assessor salary. Trip requests now have to be approved on an individual basis by the Governors' office. Two month lead time, and not assured of being approved. Washington is the only state CA has reciprocity with (non-NELAC state). All trips have been approved to date, however. Part of the equation is: "what are the impacts of dropping labs from out of state?"

4. ELAP budget issues/regulations: \$3.14 million in revenues last year. \$6.14 million in expenditures. Two So Cal vacancies filled last year, using up a large part of the budget. Server also replaced. Salary and benefits are the primary expenses for the program. Until fees are increased, staffing won't change.

Fee increase and program changes may be incorporated into one package. A 15 to 20% fee increase is likely, but based on labs FoT structure. Some labs might even see some decrease. A packet should be posted for feedback shortly. Then, it will go out for 45 day formal comment

period. ELTAC will get a look at it and it will be posted on the website. Looking to get the fee structure approved by January 1st, 2013.

Lack of resources make So Cal site assessments and follow-up assessments difficult.

Bill R. points out that proposed regulation removes requirement that the lab pass an onsite assessment. Currently, it is required. It does open up the door for not only not doing audits every two years, but also doing it more frequently than every two years.

Onsite assessment fees are going to be based on the actual time required, not a flat fee. Suggestions were to base the fee based on the size of the lab and number of FoT's, etc.

Enforcement actions will also be billed at the department's cost.

Questions was raised about the discrepancy in fees between an ELAP assessment vs a NELAC assessment. More time is required on the site assessment. Paperwork-wise, the two are similar, especially for the secondary labs.

New NELAC labs number around 20 a year, maybe 3 ELAP labs. The overall net is a loss.

The basic regulation package is mostly unchanged in the last year, with the exception of the addition of the fee proposal. ELAP is planning on submitting to the office of Regulations by the end of September and needs comments within the next two weeks.

5. NELAC Updates: AB renewal season is upon us. 15 states in the program. Fred C. participated in the assessment of other states. California's application is due at the end of October. Auditors will come out to perform an evaluation. Lead evaluator will be from New Jersey. Likely to be three to five days, sometime before Christmas. ELAP is currently using 2003 NELAP standards. Must transition to the 2009 TNI standards after this cycle. Labs will have to transition as well. Auditors for ELAP will have to take 40+ hour training before they can assess labs to the new standards.

Third-party assessors could also be used to perform site assessments.

Oklahoma is in process to become an AB.

6. PT Updates: TNI vs NELAC requirements are different. TNI website has more information. Cr6+ low-level PT sample may be generated after EPA mandates lower level requirements.

7. New ELTAC Appointments/Member at Large: Mark B. would like to continue to serve, even though he isn't employed by a sector represented by the current categories in the by-laws. One option is to apply as a Representative from the Public.

Calvin Liu may be interested, as well as Antoine. We have 10 voting members, can have up to 12. Interest needs to go to George K., and is approved by Lea W.

8. Officers and Elections: No new business.

9. Next Meeting: Next date would typically be in December. If the comment period for the draft regulations are still open, then it might make sense to have a meeting then. Potential dates (12/7 & 8) to be circulated by Ken O.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

ELTAC ATTENDEES LIST			Date: August 31, 2011			
			Richmond	Scal	Phone	Absent
Aida	Dente	ELAP				X
Andrew	Eaton	ELTAC		x		
Antoine	Chamsi	EBMUD	x			
Bill	Ray	SWRCB	x			
Bill	Draper	DDWEM	x			
Bill	Lum	DFDRS	X			
Bruce	LaBelle	DTSC				X
Catherine	Ewing	CDPH				X
Cindy	Bamfield	ELTAC		x		
Dan	Trembly					X
Dave	Sandusky	ELTAC	x			
Dave	Spath	DTSC				X
Eileen	Wong					X
Fred	Choske	ELAP	x			
George	Kulasingam	ELAP	x			
Gerry	Guibert	ELTAC			x	
Jane	Jensen	ELAP				X
Joel	Ondo	ELAP	x			
Kenneth	Osborn	ELTAC	x			
Leah	Walker	DDWEM	X			
Linda	Lamboy	ELAP				X
Lorna	Garcia	DTSC				X
Mark	Banuelos	ELTAC			x	
Neilia	Beeman	ELAP	x			
Nirmal	Saini	CDFA				X
Pamela	Schemmer	ELTAC	x			
Richard	Spinner	ELAP				X
Socorro	Baldonado	ELTAC		x		
Stefan	Cajina	DDWEM				X
Steven	Book	DDWEM				X

Terry	Powers	ELTAC			x	
Tony	Pirondini	ELTAC				x