Mobile Laboratory SubCommittee

Submitted by Kim Watson.

Meeting Summary – July 11, 2016

Present: Kim Watson, Paul Bergeron, Shannon Swantek.

1. Paul called the meeting to order at 1:30PM . Agenda: Update committee on activities. Review the Charter. Determine need to continue; next steps.
2. Review minutes from Sept and Minutes from Nov. 2015
3. Review Scope of the Mobile Laboratory Subcommittee for April 2014: April 2014:

SCOPE:

The committee is in agreement the subcommittee's scope includes:

The Mobile Laboratory subcommittee provides the following recommendations:

1. Charge the subcommittee with identifying the differences between NEFAP and NELAP implementation of the Standard with regard to mobile laboratory accreditation.
2. Charge the subcommittee with identifying the differences between accreditation based on the TNI standard and accreditation based on the regulations of the states which require such accreditation.
3. Charge the subcommittee with preparing a consensus definition of "mobile laboratories" for use by the NEFAP and other stakeholders.

The Subcommittee would also like to provide the NEFAP EC with the following definition for mobile laboratory:

The definition of a mobile laboratory is changing and differs among the agencies and organizations involved in the accreditation process; for example, a mobile laboratory is "a person/body performing 1) sample collection (no physical structure yet in the field), 2) person/body performing sample testing (no physical structure yet in the field), 3) person/body performing sample collection in a van or enclosure (e.g. non-permanent building or shed), 4) drone/person/body performing sample testing in a trailer or other mobile enclosure, 5) person/body performing sample collection and sample testing (no physical structure yet in the field), 6) person/body performing sample collection and sample testing in a van or enclosure (e.g. non-permanent building or shed), or 7) drone/person/body performing sample collection and sample testing in a trailer or other mobile enclosure. By extension, the accreditation process is also changing and differs among the agencies and organizations which require or are responsible for either primary or secondary accreditation.

It was discussed that the charge of the subcommittee has been completed and making recommendation for the next steps to the NEFAP EC and NELAP AC.

1. The differences between the NELAP and NEFAP were presented at the 2014 Washington DC FAC meeting. Paul Bergeron at the FAC meeting via telecast presented in a power point the differences.
2. Two different Mobile Laboratory surveys were conducted to acquire information regarding the differences in accreditations and what the mobile laboratories' were experiencing in their accreditation process. Changes have occurred since the survey and states have started to accept secondary accreditation for mobile laboratories. However, states such as NY and NJ still accreditate to the VIN unless associated with a fixed facility. Still a large set of differences exist between states. It is beyond this subcommittee to address.
3. From the survey it was clear that a consistent definition for mobile laboratory was important to the stakeholders and that TNI/NELAP and NEFAP should all be using the same definition. Therefore, the committee came up with the definition noted above which should be further vetted with other stakeholders.

The remaining question to the committee was the TNI Strategic Plan initiative.

"From the TNI Strategic Plan:

Develop and implement a plan for treatment of mobile labs among NELAP ABs and between NELAP and NEFAP."

The subcommittee agreed that this was not within the charge of the subcommittee and that a recommendation should be made to both the NELAP AC and NEFAP EC to form a subcommittee or Adhoc committee to come to a consensus document that work to address the treatment of mobile laboratories. Paul would discuss at the next NELAP AC meeting and make this recommendation.

We would like to see language within each states accreditation process that would address mobile laboratories with a consistent definition and a consistent accreditation process.

In addition, this adhoc committee could work on developing a plan on addressing mobile laboratories and address field sampling. Try to work out the issues of NELAP and NEFAP overlap and help to streamline the NELAP/NEFAP process so not all FSMOs have to have dual accreditations.

Paul would present the findings of our charge and recommendations to the EC on 7/15/16.

Adjorn: 2:45PM