

MEETING MINUTES

MEDICAL LABORATORIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MLAC)

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Roll Call

Meeting called by Keri King, Administrative Assistant III

MLAC Members

Present: Christie L. Elliott, M.D.; Alexander Stojanoff, Ph.D.; Taylor Noyes, BS, MT; Jill Brown, MT; Kennedy Ukadike, M.D, M.S., FACR

Absent: David P. Marmaduke, M.D.; Iain L. O. Buxton, Ph.D.; Ihsan Azzam, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer State of Nevada

Call to Order

- Attendance was taken and a quorum of MLAC members was present.
- Under Nevada's open meeting law, Nathan provided the phone number 775-321-6111 and conference ID 527 189 661#.

MLAC General Business

- Public Comment – None.
- Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from June 12, 2023. – Jill Brown asked for review and possibly approve the meeting minutes from June 12, 2023. Taylor Noyes moved to approve, motion seconded by Kennedy Ukadike, M.D., M.S., FACR. Motion carries.
- Kennedy Ukadike, M.D., M.S., FACR. Licensed Physician MLAC position – Statement on the role of MLAC in the “Tripledemic” season (i.e. flu, RSV, and COVID-19) to counseling patients who get all the appropriate vaccines for this season and some still end up getting the infection because the vaccines don't always prevent the infection and the goal is to keep people from dying from these infections. Is there more we need to do to put it out there for the public?
 - ✓ Brad Waples - If any positive results found, they are to be part of the notification to the state so they can monitor patients that are affected by this and keep their statistics current as to what you describe. As far as patients are being seen by the healthcare providers, as far as the treatments and vaccinations of that would depend on the provider and that also would be something that could be brought to the attention of Dr. Ihsan Azzam. Dr. Azzam would be the person who watches the trends nationwide and how Nevada is affected. Maybe different parts of the country see different amounts of infection rates based upon the flu, RSV or COVID-19.

- ✓ Bottom line making sure all positive results get routed appropriately to Department of Health to monitor outbreaks and what parts of Nevada are more effective than others.
- ✓ Dr. Ukadike asked if the statute requires the labs to automatically send positive lab results to the state? Taylor Noyes said, “Renown has an automatic process when there are positives, they automatically go to the state database and they work with the public health lab. We get a comprehensive view of what’s in the community. It’s an automatic positive notification to the state and then the sequencing side is sent over positives and point of care specimens in the urgent care and Med groups. That it is an expectation and might be a law that medical laboratories across the state do the same thing.”
- Revision of MLAC bylaws. Possible changes include:
 - 1) Changing MLAC member length of service to even number of years (e.g., two or four years) – suggested by Kennedy Ukadike
 - ✓ Nathan Orme said, “Terms of the members are set in statute, and something to take up with the Legislature if changes are requested or needed.”
 - 2) Membership
 - i. Process for appointment/reappointment of members.
 1. Terms – specific dates for each member (date of Board of Health approval)
 - ✓ After the BOH approves membership is the date of membership appointment.
 2. Ask incumbent about reappointment two meetings before expiration of term.
 3. Email to announce vacancies as standard practice.
 - ✓ Nathan Orme stated, “Brad and Keri and himself will go through the MLAC bylaws regarding membership, appointment and reappointment, expiration of term, notification of vacancies and look at striking out some pieces and keeping some pieces, bringing back specifics for actual voting by the members before a final.”
 - 1) MLAC officers
 - ✓ Nathan recommended that the bylaws include a vice chair or secretary and suggested any interest or thought to have additional MLAC officers. Does two years for a chair position seem fine?
 - 2) Preparation for MLAC meetings
 - i. MLAC administrative support provided by Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance Medical Laboratories Licensing staff.

- ✓ Sending email to members asking for agenda items and can submit at any time to be run through the chair prior to the meeting on what items will go on the agenda and members can email anytime suggesting agenda items.
- Subcommittees
 - ✓ Shall be appointed by the chair.
- Open suggestions from members
 - ✓ Can email Brad, Keri, or Nathan with thoughts later.
 - ✓ Nathan to work with Med Labs staff on new draft of bylaws, maybe have a draft by next meeting.
 - ✓ Give better instruction on how the committee should do business and its availability for the public to know how the committee runs.
 - ✓ Provide detailed information on the Members web page as an overall awareness and visibility of the MLAC.
- State Medical Laboratory statistics. Brad Waples – Discussion Item.
 - ✓ Brad provided a detailed description of each type of laboratory, personnel licenses, and inspections that Med Labs licenses. Provided information on the number of personnel who are licensing and why there is at least a one- to two-month wait to process.
 - ✓ 2 AA's to process all laboratory licenses
 - ✓ 6 Med Labs inspectors to inspect and approve laboratories from initial licensing of a lab to Statement of Deficiency/Plan of Correction, Change of Ownership, etc.
 - ✓ 2 AAs to process laboratory personnel and laboratory renewals.
 - a. Number of applications received and waiting for processing.
 - ✓ More than 200 applications between 2 AA's.
 - b. Number of applications waiting for inspectors.
 - ✓ 12
 - c. Number of applications per inspector.
 - ✓ one inspector has 53 applications; another one has 39; one that started a month ago, she's already got 10.
 - d. Number of laboratories that are licensed by the State according to the type of laboratory (Exempt, Registered, Licensed and HIV only).
 - ✓ 1,971 - from August to November 2023, Med Labs received an average of about 74.5 applications a month. Two administrative assistants go through each application, making sure they are correct before being forwarded to a laboratory inspector.

- e. Number of laboratory personnel licensed or certified by Medical Laboratories.
 - ✓ 18,794 laboratory personnel licensed and certified with only Med Labs 2 AA's processing them.
- Future project for the Medical Laboratory Advisory Committee – Providing education to schools for medical assistants as well as schools of laboratory medicine to assist students in understanding the importance of laboratory medicine as well as explaining the importance of regulatory compliance. Brad Waples – Discussion Item.
 - ✓ Brad Waples provided a brief presentation. ASP's Journal are very involved in trying to recruit the new generation to our professionals.
 - ✓ In 2024, Med Labs would like to reach out to institutions and medical assistants and educate them on what laboratory medicine is about and the importance of making sure what laboratory testing they will be providing, make sure they are reading the manufacturer's instructions to do the test.
 - ✓ Brad wanted to provide an understanding to the MLAC members and make sure that people are in compliance, and to reach out to the people that are actually doing the laboratory testing for these laboratories and assist them in understanding what needs to be done so that they can provide the best accurate, reliable test results.
 - ✓ Dr. Ukadike asked the question, "How would it be presented to the schools?" Virtual and/or in-person to provide the education and instructions in laboratory medicine.
- Determine date of next meeting – Tentatively, Monday, March 11, 2024, at noon was the next suggested meeting, after the BOH meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, March 1, 2024. Would like to meet before BOH regarding the bylaws to see if those revisions need to be approved by the BOH and after approved schedule the next MLAC meeting.
- Public Comment – None.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Jill Brown and seconded by Christie Elliott. The meeting was adjourned.