AAVLD Committee Report
(Note: Please attach any additional pages necessary for the following subtopics and your minutes / narrative)

AAVLD/USAHA committee on the NAHLN	**October , 2015**
Committee	Date
Barb Powers	Harry Snelson
Committee Chair	Co-chair if applicable
_Barb Powers_____	Harry Snelson_____
Nominees for upcoming chair / co-chair	Nominees for upcoming chair / co-chair

Committee Statement of Purpose:

The mission of the joint AAVLD/USAHA NAHLN committee is to address issues of mutual interest regarding the NAHLN and make recommendations to USDA and the NAHLN Coordinating Council on policies affecting the NAHLN structure and function. The committee will help develop strategies to assist in the continued enhancement and securing adequate funding of the NAHLN with the eventual goal of providing the coordinated state and federal laboratory support necessary to protect animal health and assist in protecting public health and food safety

Strategy(ies) for Committee Activity Supporting AAVLD Strategic Plan (Please List):
Monthly committee calls with minutes as needed
Coordination and communication of lobbying effort
Congressional contact via email, phone or congressional visits
Fund raising in support of the lobbying effort
Communication with NAHLN Coordinating Council and USDA

Items for Review by the Executive Board (Please List):

Continued support/ funding of lobbying effort

Action Items for the Committee (Please List):

As above

Report of the USAHA/AAVLD Committee on NAHLN
Chair: Barbara Powers, CO
Vice Chair: Harry Snelson, NC

Helen Acland, PA; John Adaska, CA; Bruce Akey, TX; Gary Anderson, KS; A. Catherine Barr, TX; Bill Barton, ID; Tim Baszler, WA; Tammy Beckham, KS; Steven Bolin, MI; Richard Breitmeyer, CA; James Britt, AR; Sandra Bushmich, CT; Beverly Byrum, OH; Craig Carter, KY; Estela Cornaglia, QC; Marie Culhane, MN; Barbara Determan, IA; Edward Dubovi, NY; François Elvinger, VA; Mallory Gaines, DC; Joseph Garvin, VA; Patrick Halbur, IA; Steven Halstead, MI; Timothy Hanosh, NM; Bob Hillman, ID; Stephen Hooser, IN; Pamela Hullinger, CA; Marv Jahde, KS; Bill Johnson, OK; Jim Kistler, FL; Elizabeth Lautner, IA; Randall Levings, IA; Christina Loiacono, IA; Rodger Main, IA; David Marshall, NC; Barbara Martin, IA; Terry McElwain, WA; Michael McIntosh, NY; Thomas McKenna, MA; Rey Molina, TX; Igor Morozov, KS; Thomas Mullaney, MI; Dustin Oedekoven, SD; Claudia Osorio, MD; Kristy Pabilonia, CO; Lanny Pace, MS; Elizabeth Parker, TX; Roger Parker, TX; Amar Patil, NJ; Jewell Plumley, WV; Robert Poppenga, CA; M. Gatz Riddell, Jr., AL; Keith Roehr, CO; Jeremiah Saliki, GA; Kathryn Simmons, DC; Marilyn Simunich, ID; Wendy Stensland, IA; Deepanker Tewari, PA; Sarah Tomlinson, CO; David Zeman, SD.

The Committee met on October 25, 2015 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island from 12:05pm until 3pm. There were 31 members and 36 guests present.

Time-Specific Paper Title.

- Stan Bruntz – NLRAD update.
    - Concept paper put up on APHIS web site for review last year. 30 – 40 individual comments received concerning:
        - Adding /removing diseases to the list
        - Notification of emerging diseases
        - Reporting structure
        - Use of official premises ID
    - How does NLRAD affect NAHLN labs?
        - Formed a working group of NAHLN coordinating council and NLRAD steering committee to discuss – charged with developing a draft implementation plan
            - Intellectual property questions
            - When/how to report emerging diseases
            - Developing a case definition
            - confidentiality concerns
        - Developing SOPs
    - Goal to start regulatory implementation process by the end of the year.
    - To improve and standardize reporting, meet international reporting requirements, ensure U.S. animal health reporting.
    - Will help improve emerging and endemic disease reporting
    - Disease classifications
        - Notifiable – FAD, emerging, high impact diseases
        - Monitored diseases
    - Discussion:
        - It was suggested the need for programming dollars to support further LMS IT to allow data sharing back to the states.
        - A need to ensure the state animal health official makes the final call on reportability.
- NAHLN Restructuring Project -- Christina Loiacono
    - Coordinating council report – Outlined 3 levels of lab participation plus affiliate recognized labs (approved by the NAHLN). Specialty labs – private labs brought on to fill a niche that the NAHLN labs cannot meet.
        - Interested labs were asked to self-assess in 2014.
        - External review and updating self-assessments completed.

        - Conducted national needs assessment – geographic locations, species in the state, numbers of animals by species, etc
        - Coordinating council provided a recommendation for moving forward based on a scoring system ranking each lab.
    - Determined that all 3 levels will receive some funding based on percent capacity provided to the network. Example: Level 1 labs = 46% of the capacity and will receive 46% of the funding.
    - Re-evaluated on an annual basis/full network reassessment every 3 years.
    - Implementation: Funding will be implemented in the next funding cycle depending on whether or not funding comes through NIFA or APHIS.
    - Discussion: The committee expressed gratitude for the efforts of the coordinating council
- Brad Mollet – AAVLD lobbying efforts
    - NAHLN received an authorization in the Farm Bill but has not received an appropriation.
    - Has conducted ~ 80 meetings in Washington, DC in the last year
    - Received additional $5 million in House budget this year, not included in the Senate. So, need to push to maintain the House funding.
    - Continue to push for a separate line item and eventual $30 M total funding
    - Goal: mandatory funding in the next Farm Bill.
    - Discussion:
        - produce one pager by state of the value of the lab in the individual state that shows the value of the industry protected by the lab and the programs that need additional funding.
        - Friends of the Lab fundraising effort to support continued lobbying.
- AI response and preparedness – Christina Loiacono
    - NAHLN responded well to the outbreak – 16 labs responded (12 can electronically message) 80,000 total PCRs were conducted. NAHLN Labs sent techs to assist states in need. Estimating a new outbreak could result in 4 times that amount of testing.
    - 30,000 PCR tests per day is the total NAHLN lab capacity needed for FMD – could we even collect 30,000 samples/day to submit to the lab?
    - Working with vendors to ensure adequate reagent availability given the projections going forward.
    - There has been discussion/resolution from USAHA TDP committee to allow NPIP labs be allowed to do AI testing. AAVLD directors expressed concern regarding quality assurance and the ability to message/IT capabilities with utilizing private NPIP labs.
    - *Motion (Akey/Breitmeyer): NAHLN committee put forth a resolution urging USDA to require that all regulatory testing conducted under USDA programs must maintain quality assurance comparable to NAHLN-approval, AAVLD accreditation or ISO 17025 standards. Motion approved by voice vote (with one abstention).*
- IT update
    - USDA
        - 20 new labs can electronic message (bringing the total to approximately 30 labs which can message). 10 others are working to begin messaging.
        - 9 different diseases can be messaged – ASF, FMD and VS were added this year.
        - Working to get the message data into EMRS.
        - Working to continue to expand the number of labs and diseases that can message.
    - IIAD processing and usage of HL7 messages in enhanced passive surveillance – Austin Riddell
        - Field personnel collect and submit diagnostic data via mobile devices. Can be combined with other data streams via AgConnect. lab results reported back to practitioner and to central repository.
        - IIAD is offering incentives for lab and practitioner participation and wants to expand program
- Antimicrobial Resistance
    - USDA AMR update
        - USDA developed a strategy to collect data on-farm in food producing animals.
        - System to monitor resistance data within NAHLN labs. Stood up a joint committee (AAVLD, FDA, Clinical labs standards, CEAH, NAHLN, NVSL)

        - Need to gather info on current practices – developed and conducted a survey submitted to VDLs.
            - Diseases or bacteria (eg E coli, Staph spp, etc)
            - Species tested (companion animals were in the top 5)
- NAHLN Portal – Christina Loiacono
    - Contact information for the VDLs
    - Hoping to streamline proficiency testing – 13 are available through the portal
    - 8 APHIS PTs are available through the portal
    - Will offer training for non-NAHLN APHIS PTs.
- Other topics
    - USDA – Beth Harris
        - VS –
            - fairly large outbreak
            - de-listed by OIE leads to variety in state response
            - 5 labs currently activated and outbreak is on-going
        - Quality management training – 2 classes this year
        - IAV-S, PRV/BR, CSF surveillance testing
        - Exercises and Drills working group put on educational exercises this year and held its first annual meeting
        - Aquaculture – first round of PT completed for 2 diseases
    - Priorities for 2016
        - Implement NAHLN structure
        - codification of NAHLN
        - Increasing lab messaging
        - Finalize process for validating test methods
        - NLRAD implementing lab activities
        - AMR – finalizing data collection
        - Swine surveillance disease funding