APHL Advisory Committee Priorities and Workplans
2021-2022

1. Biosafety and Biosecurity
2. Environmental Health
3. Environmental Laboratory Sciences
4. Food Safety
5. Global Health
6. Infectious Disease
7. Informatics
8. Knowledge Management
9. Laboratory Systems & Standards
10. Newborn Screening & Genetics in Public Health
11. Public Health Preparedness and Response
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APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Biosafety and Biosecurity

1. Committee Charge

The Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee (BBC) provides leadership and guidance on policies and practices which impact Biosafety and Biosecurity in state, local and territorial governmental laboratories. Key activities for the committee include serving as technical experts and assisting state, local and territorial governmental laboratories and federal partners such as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with strengthening biosafety and biosecurity programs; collaborating with partners to provide guidance and resources to clinical laboratories to assist with implementing biosafety programs; and developing and delivering biosafety and biosecurity training programs.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans –

- **Serve as a Subject Matter Expert**
  i. Provide tools and promote their use: Develop and maintain tools such as a risk assessment toolkit consisting of a standard operating procedure for performing risk assessments, and checklists to assist public health laboratory (PHL) biosafety professionals while connecting with clinical laboratories. [July 2021 – June 2022]
  ii. Strengthen training programs: Survey/Ascertain PHLs and other key stakeholders to determine training needs and provide training programs using multiple modalities (e.g. webinars, regional and national meetings). [July 2021 – June 2022]
  iii. Serve as an expert resource and consultants when requested: Promote the latest biosafety and biosecurity guidance (e.g., Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) 6th Edition and ISO 35001: Biorisk management for laboratories and other related organisations) to address biosafety and biosecurity questions and provide support for discussions on the APHL Biosafety CoLABorate Communities. [July 2021 – June 2022]

- **Serve as an Advocate of Biosafety and Biosecurity Practices**
  i. Promote continuity of biosafety and biosecurity practices and knowledge in public health, clinical laboratories and with external partners through national conferences, forums and in person meetings. [July 2021 – June 2022]
  ii. Collaborate with Public Policy to update the position statement on biosafety and biosecurity and advocate for continued funding to improve biosafety and biosecurity in public health and clinical laboratories. [July 2021 – December 2021]

- **Promote Biosafety and Biosecurity at an International Level**
  i. Collaborate with the Global Health Program, Committee and other partners to provide expertise to other countries on developing and implementing Biorisk Management plans and safety related training programs. [July 2021 – June 2022]
3. New Priorities and Work Plan – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

- **Continue to support members with safely responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**
  i. Support the development and implementation of biosafety guidelines for COVID-19 testing. [Ongoing]
  ii. Develop and promote trainings to build the technical concepts of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity during COVID-19. [Ongoing]

- **Support biosafety and biosecurity practices across multiple levels**
  i. Develop and deliver a virtual training intended for microbiology bench level laboratory staff. The training is intended to build risk assessment, mitigation and performance skills of bench level staff in the laboratory. [July 2021 – December 2021]
  ii. Collaborate with external organizations to build and support academic biosafety and biosecurity curricula for perspective laboratorians entering biosafety and biosecurity field or another laboratory field. The academic curriculum will contribute to building fundamental biosafety and biosecurity skills for the next generation of the laboratory workforce. [July 2021 – June 2022]
  iii. Develop and provide biosafety trainings as well as other educational materials for non-traditional laboratory sites conducting point-of-care testing. [July 2021 – June 2022]
  iv. Assist with the development and integration of biosafety fellowship programs in the public health laboratory workforce. [November 2021 – June 2022]

- **Develop resources to support mitigation of laboratory exposure events**
  i. APHL will develop and promote a tool that articulates the value of a biosafety program in regard to avoiding a laboratory exposure incident. APHL will also work with external partners to develop peer-reviewed journal articles to better promote this tool among laboratory leadership and other staff. [July 2021 – June 2022]
  ii. Collaborate with the APHL Sentinel Laboratory Partnerships and Outreach Subcommittee (SLPOS) to finalize the APHL Exposure Assessment Tool [July 2021 – June 2022]

- **Develop resources to support laboratory biosecurity programs**
  i. APHL will develop and review existing biosecurity tools for public health and clinical laboratories. [July 2021 – June 2022]

- **Integration of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity into quality management programs**
  i. Collaborate with the Quality Systems and Analytics Program, Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee and other partners to provide expertise on integrating laboratory safety and security into broader quality management programs. [July 2021 – June 2022]

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) – Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.

- Collaborate with the APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee to provide expertise on integrating laboratory safety and security into broader quality management programs
• Collaborate with the APHL Global Health Committee to determine areas of engagement and to provide biosafety and biosecurity expertise to other countries.
• Collaborate with the APHL Environmental Laboratory Sciences Committee to determine areas of engagement on chemical safety policies in the laboratory. (i.e. integrating chemical safety discussions through the BBC if needed)
• Collaborate with the APHL Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee to determine areas of engagement on biosafety and biosecurity practices within the Laboratory Response Network.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations and feedback

• Laboratory leadership towards effective biosafety buy-in
   i. The BBC would like to engage laboratory leadership across the APHL community to discuss strategies to better promote biosafety and biosecurity practices with the goal of building a stronger culture of biosafety.

6. Additional information you would like to share with board members
   N/A
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Environmental Health Committee

1. Committee Charge – Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

The Environmental Health Committee (EHC) advises and influences public health and environmental laboratories about ongoing and emerging chemical, environmental and public health threats that impact human health. Key activities include:
   1. responding to new and ongoing laboratory issues,
   2. developing policy,
   3. increasing awareness of environmental and public health conditions,
   4. providing education within and external to the laboratory community, and
   5. coordinating response to existing and proposed legislations.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans – These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement. If it’s a regular function of the committee it may not be necessary to list.

1. Support work that will better define and improve the quality of environmentally relevant health data for use by end users and partner agencies (e.g., EPA, CDC, etc.), including the determination of exposure information for a broad range of chemicals and toxins.
   a. Promote and support development of PHLs capabilities and capacities best practices for public health surveillance activities related to the opioid and designer drug crises.
   b. Provide a forum for discussion of challenges and best practices for PHL activities related to state medical cannabis programs. Collaborate with Food Safety regarding hemp and edibles.
   c. Provide support for activities conducted by the Partnership for the Accurate Testing of Hormones (PATH) and identify areas where PHLs can benefit and utilize PATH methodologies.
   d. Increase understanding of biomonitoring and exposure data and how to best communicate it to various audiences (e.g., patient, medical community, public). Explore risk communication collaborations and investigate ways to collaborate with newborn screening on this topic.
   e. Explore workforce development issues in environmental health and inform
higher/secondary education around environmental health laboratory opportunities. Build relationships with Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU).

2. Maximize and illustrate the value of the LRN-C.
   a. Identify mechanisms to link the LRN-C with the National Biomonitoring Network.
   b. Identify mechanisms to link LRN-C with LRN-B, including providing input to the annual All-Hazards Survey and national LRN meeting agenda.
   c. Representation on and from the Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR) committee, the APHL Chemical Threat Work Group, and CDC’s LRN-C monthly calls.
   d. Promote LRN-C to cultivate consequential utilization during an environmental contamination event. This work should be linked with epidemiologists and the medical community (coordinate with Environmental Laboratory Science Committee).
   e. Communicate the effectiveness of the LRN-C as a model for formation of an LRN-R for radiological emergencies.
   f. Provide input to the biannual LRN-C technical meeting by offering feedback on speakers and training needs.
   g. Based on resource needs assessment, draft one original document to address LRN-C laboratory needs.

3. Champion and advance the National Biomonitoring Network.
   a. Promote the National Biomonitoring Network and oversee the work of the National Biomonitoring Network Steering Committee (NBNSC).
   b. NBNSC to work with toxicologists and other PH partners (e.g. CDC, ATSDR) to determine the process for identifying "actionable levels" of analytes in biomonitoring studies.
   c. NBNSC to provide input to the National Biomonitoring Meeting (January 2022) by offering feedback on speakers and session topics during the agenda planning process.
   d. NBNSC to work with epidemiologists, exposure scientists and biostatisticians to promote harmonization of methodology from study/questionnaire design through sample/data analysis.
   e. Implement Biomonitoring Position Statement.
   f. Investigate possibility of private sector support of NBN.

4. Provide Subject Matter expertise and a laboratory voice in the national environmental health arena.
   a. Nominate members for federal advisory committees.
   b. Explore EHC/APHL role around climate change issues, such as wildfires, air quality, flooding, increase in tropical and tick borne diseases. (Potential collaboration with ELSC and ID.)
   d. Elevate profile of PH laboratory scientists through involvement in national organizations promoting EH interest e.g., International Society for Exposure Science (ISES).
   e. Elevate APHL members as key SMEs for testing of chemical hazards by developing outreach opportunities, such as sponsored webinar series, newsletter/journal articles, roster of experts for science reporters, etc.

3. New Priorities and Work Plan – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

2. Work with EHC partners including CDC NCEH and EPA to draft guidance for the utilization of non-targeted analyses for both public health surveillance and emergency response in clinical and non-clinical matrix analyses based on EHC member individual or collective experience (e.g., EVALI, opioids, etc.). Lead: Paul Moyer/Ken Aldous. Plan: Explore topic on committee calls and with High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) work group to address data and protocols. Timetable: Initiate workgroup calls in Fall 2021 with CDC LRN-C program staff, and determine a guidance outline by Spring 2022.

3. Assume responsibility for Chemical Threat Collaborative Work Group (from TWD program) and explore possibility of creating an Excel training course specific to laboratorians.


5. Explore how biomonitoring activities might incorporate hormone or other clinical endpoint measurements to help link public health surveillance activities to health outcomes. Lead: Bob Rej. Plan: Schedule related webinar in collaboration with PATH. Timetable: Plan webinar by May 2022.

6. Support public health laboratories as they implement and increase childhood lead assessments and related lead activities. Lead: Patrick Parsons. Plan: Determine need for a workgroup on Elemental Analysis (broader spectrum than lead) to discuss topics like thresholds for analysis, and whole blood or urine as matrices. Timetable: Discuss with full EHC in Winter 2021 to begin meeting by Spring 2022, as needed.

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) — Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.
   1. Work with WDC/ELSC committees on the radiochemistry workforce shortage workgroup.
   2. Work with ELSC on climate change issues.
   3. Work with FSC and related subcommittees and ELSC on food chemistry and cannabis issues.
   4. Work with PHPR around LRN-C and LRN-R efforts.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals — Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations, and feedback
   1. Issues around biomonitoring assays as laboratory developed tests.
   2. Issues around environmental justice.
6. Additional information you would like to share with board members
Environmental Laboratory Science Committee:

1. Committee Charge — Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

The Environmental Laboratory Science Committee (ELSC) works on issues related to water, soil and air testing by:

- advising APHL about ways to drive government policy,
- providing technical assistance to environmental laboratories and programs,
- addressing emerging environmental issues, and
- enhancing public awareness of the value of environmental laboratories.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans — These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement; otherwise it may be a regular function of the committee and therefore not necessary to list.
   
a. By June 2022, complete the following activities to complete year three of the principal state laboratories (PSL) position statement: 1. field survey to all PSL audiences, 2. analyze results, and 3. determine strategy to achieve position statement goals based upon those results.

b. By June 2022, explore all possible funding options for the NextGen Radiochemists training proposal to work to address radiochemistry workforce shortage issues.

c. By June 2022, develop at least two webinars for environmental laboratory scientists. One will be on environmental microbiology outbreak response and a second will cover issues such as contaminants of concern, cyanotoxins, microplastics, radionuclide contamination, private well water, climate change or lead.

d. By June 2022, experiment with different approaches for committee-led quarterly environmental laboratory topics and discussions.
3. **New Priorities and Work Plan** — Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

   a. Understand the current state of environmental microbiology and wastewater surveillance testing at all public health laboratories to strengthen the National Wastewater Surveillance System and increase environmental microbiology outbreak testing capabilities.
      
      i. *How:* ELSC will review and approve a survey that will be fielded for two different funding purposes.
      
      ii. *Leader(s):* Abidat Lawal
      
      iii. *Timetable:* June 2022

   b. Work with CDC’s Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch to develop and finalize an environmental microbiology outbreak response toolkit for laboratories and other stakeholders.
      
      i. *How:* Identify committee members to do focused work and then bring back to committee.
      
      ii. *Leader(s):* Cody Danielson, Abidat Lawal, Enoma Omorogie
      
      iii. *Timetable:* Complete by June 2022

   c. Elevate environmental laboratory policy issues, particularly related to our funding areas (wastewater surveillance, environmental microbiology, PFAS/contaminants of concern, cyanotoxins, microplastics, private well water, radionuclides, climate change, lead, food chemistry).
      
      i. *How:* With APHL policy, the committee will monitor federal and state policy issues and respond as needed.
      
      ii. *Leader(s):* Hunter Adams, Lori Pillsbury, Michael Wichman
      
      iii. *Timetable:* Monthly call updates through June 2022

   d. Explore what has been and what needs to be done to better position environmental laboratories for success for topics such as:
      
      1. **Funding** - for equipment, preventative maintenance, staff; how to acquire it through federal grants; how to use public health lab impact tool and communication templates for these purposes.
      
      2. **Workforce** - recruitment, retention, succession planning, management advancement, integrating DE&I into these practices.
      
      3. **Data management** – plans or guidance for how environmental labs can electronically integrate their data into local, state and national databases.
4. PFAS – what are the basics of what APHL would propose for a national testing strategy? Consider environmental justice in this plan.

5. Considerations of using digital PCR vs. qPCR.
   
   ii. **How:** During ELSC calls throughout the year, define questions that need to be answered and identify speakers/resources that can help answer those questions to determine the investment we should put into these topics.

   iii. **Leader(s):** Mui Koltunov, Sin Urban, Lori Pillsbury, Enoma Omorogie, Mary Robinson

   iv. **Timetable:** By June 2022

4. **Joint Activities (with other committees)** – Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.

   a. Address the declining workforce in radiochemistry. (Environmental Health Committee and Workforce Development Committee)

   b. Determine approaches to increase public health and environmental laboratory Legionella testing capacity (Infectious Diseases Committee)

   c. Continue determining a path forward for supporting food chemistry at APHL. (Environmental Health Committee, Food Safety Committee)

5. **Aspirational or Parking Lot goals** – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations and feedback

   a. Examine with other stakeholders how public health laboratories can provide existing and future data to address climate change data gaps.

   b. Identify additional funding opportunities and federal agency partnerships to grow the environmental health laboratory program.

6. **Additional information you would like to share with board members**

   a. The committee appreciates the board’s continued support of the Task Force to Engage Agricultural and Environmental Laboratories and looks forward to hearing about and contributing to its progress in identifying how APHL can best serve these populations.
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Food Safety

1. Committee Charge –

The Food Safety Committee advises and influences the practices of non-federal, governmental laboratories that perform clinical, food and environmental testing in support of public health surveillance and investigation of foodborne illness. The committee develops and disseminates standard practices; conceives, integrates, and helps drive collaborative activities with relevant stakeholders; ensures member advocacy through representation on national working groups and committees and monitors the capabilities and capacity of member laboratories.

2. Priorities and Work Plans –

Please note- Priorities did not change from last year. Activities are labeled as ONGOING or NEW.

1. Support the advancement of next generation sequencing (NGS) for food safety testing.

   • NEW- Liaise with CDC’s PulseNet Steering Committee to provide state/local input on bioinformatics analysis needs and explore potential integration of long-read sequencing technologies in PulseNet workflows. Through targeted discussions, committee members will provide input to liaison Kelly Oakeson to bring back to the PN Steering Committee.
   • NEW- Begin a conversation with APHLs AIMs working group on data interoperability.
     FS staff will reach out to Informatics staff in January 2022 to arrange a call(s) to define a scope and flesh out some specific deliverables.
   • NEW- Participate in sustaining member-led focus groups or discussions to provide input on PHL member needs/ contribute to the development of new sequencing technologies.
     Five committee members participated in a focus group co-hosted by APHL and Clear Labs on October 19, 2021, shared their current and future food safety testing needs and helped shape a menu of NGS-enabled diagnostics options for the future.
• ONGOING- Liaise with APHL’s NGS Subcommittee in order to ensure cross-collaboration and arrange for updates to the committee at least quarterly. 

NGS Subcommittee liaison Joel Sevinsky will be asked to provide regular updates and take committee members’ questions and thoughts back to the subcommittee.

2. Champion and advance foodborne disease surveillance programs.

• NEW- Promote an interactive, web-based visualization tool using the Microsoft Power Bi service to display 2019 CIDT survey data. 

FS staff are in the process of finalizing the tool which will be presented to the committee in fall 2021. Committee members will be asked to help promote tool usage among colleagues. 

• NEW- Promote findings from the 2018 CIDT meeting and work with APHL’s CIDT Subcommittee to address identified gaps. 

APHL’s CIDT Subcommittee will be tasked with coming up with solutions to address identified gaps. Committee members may have the opportunity to help address such gaps.

• ONGOING- Arrange for at least one presentation from CryptoNet, CycloNet, CycloTrakr, CaliciNet and the OUE metagenomics work (Jo Williams and Andrew Huang) on monthly calls or during a virtual committee meeting in order to continue to explore opportunities for collaboration.

• NEW- Assist with development of OUE Guidelines through review of documents and beta testing an application in SEDRIC. 

In collaboration with APHL consultant John Besser, committee members will be asked to review OUE guidelines protocols and help beta test or become early adopters of the OUE Guidelines tool being built in SEDRIC.

• NEW- In collaboration with APHL’s Environmental Health Program, explore how wastewater surveillance for SARS CoV-2 can be used to enhance foodborne disease surveillance. 

FS staff will facilitate discussions with EH staff and Wastewater Surveillance Community of Practice members.

3. Contribute to the development of best practices and guidelines related to food safety and foodborne illness testing.

• NEW- Review and provide feedback on Campylobacter isolation and characterization guidelines for public health laboratories. Assist APHL in promoting the guidelines. 

Committee members will be asked to review and give their blessing on Campy guidelines which are nearing completion and slated for release in winter 2022.

• ONGOING- Champion and explore ways in which the committee or Human and Animal Food Subcommittee can help implement FDA’s
Strategic Plan for State Human and Animal Food Laboratory Partnerships and New Era of Smarter Food Safety.

Through regular FS staff and FDA liaison updates, committee members will explore ways in which they can assist with the implementation of both efforts.

- NEW- Work closely with a consultant and CDC to finalize updated recommendations for the Diagnosis of Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli Infections for public health laboratories. Committee members will be asked to review and give their blessing on updated STEC guidelines slated for completion in spring/summer 2022.

4. Support CIFOR activities to improve foodborne disease outbreak detection, investigation and response.

- NEW- Support CIFOR Promote Development Team activities around a hard launch and implementation of the 3rd Edition of the CIFOR Guidelines.
  In collaboration with the committee, FS staff and CIFOR member reps will plan to propose CIFOR-related sessions and posters for upcoming meetings including APHL 2022 and the InFORM Conference.

- ONGOING- Participate in the finalization and promotion of the Third Edition of the CIFOR Guidelines Toolkit
  The Third Edition CIFOR Toolkit is nearing completion and is slated to be published in winter/spring 2022. In collaboration with the committee, FS staff and CIFOR member reps will plan to propose CIFOR-related sessions and posters for upcoming meetings including APHL 2022 and the InFORM Conference.

- ONGOING- Provide member representation and a laboratory voice on the CIFOR Council and Development Teams.
  FS staff have been soliciting additional member representation on both the Council and multiple development teams. We hope to have additional CIFOR representation by no later than winter 2022.

3. Joint Activities (with other committees) –

a. Stay engaged with and provide regular updates on other workgroups on guidance around WGS (including the NGS Subcommittee)
b. Work with the Environmental Laboratory Science Committee (ELSC) on food chemistry issues and wastewater surveillance efforts.
c. Begin conversations with Informatics staff and the AIMS work group on data interoperability.
4. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals –
   Nothing additional at this time.

5. Additional information you would like to share with board members
   None
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Global Health Committee

1. Committee Charge – Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

- The Global Health Committee advocates for and enhances the visibility of APHL’s Global Health program. The committee advises and supports GHP strategies and activities, and at the request of other programs, serves as a resource for their global health activities. The committee informs members and partners on the Global Health Program Strategic Map and showcases APHL’s global health program-related initiatives.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans – These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement; otherwise it may be a regular function of the committee and therefore not necessary to list.

a. Promote and educate our members and our partners on the Global Health Strategic Map and its relevance and alignment with the association’s strategic plan. *(Strategic Objective A-2)*

   i. Share information on global health activities quarterly, targeting APHL’s membership. *(Strategic Objective A-2)*
   
   ii. Committee Chair and/or member representatives to present on APHL Global Health initiatives at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partner meetings and other appropriate conferences and meetings. *(Strategic Priority C)*

b. Facilitate and contribute to the development of a business plan that includes the diversification of global health funding streams in collaboration with the global health program and APHL leadership. This plan will have a three-pronged approach that includes: *(Strategic Objective A-3)*

   i. Development of a Twinning Institute program proposal
   
   ii. Development of strategies for continued funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and
   
   iii. Development of a diversification of funding plan that explores establishing new partnerships
c. Advocate for the continued support from policymakers, legislators, and ambassadors to enhance the visibility of the work we do. (*Strategic Objective A-2*)
   i. Advocate for support for global health initiatives with congressional legislators, ambassadors and other stakeholders as appropriate including at a Global Health Hill Day.

3. New Priorities and Work Plan – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

a. The committee will promote regional and national public health laboratory networks and associations through a multi-year effort in the;
   a. Formation of a consortium of laboratory networks inclusive of human diagnostics, animal network, water network, and food network (*Strategic Objective A-1*).
      i. By June 2022, the committee will identify relevant players in this field that could be part of this consortium.

b. During the committee year, the membership will begin to explore partnerships with academia focused on global public health related to the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP). (*Strategic Objective B-3*)

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) – Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.

   a. During the committee year, collaborate with the infectious disease committee to share COVID-19 resources especially around next generation sequencing (NGS) to build awareness and align activities and messages associated with the global and domestic responses when possible (*Strategic Objective C-3*).

   b. The pandemic has made our traditional method of on-site consultation and training impossible. The committee is interested in investigating options for virtual learning platforms for global health along with the workforce department and committee.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations and feedback.

   a. During the committee year, the global health committee will begin to explore what the global environmental health laboratory space looks like and will find ways to engage with the environmental health program and committee as we explore these opportunities (*Strategic Objective A-1*).
6. Additional information you would like to share with board members

   a. International travel continues to be limited due to COVID-19
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Infectious Diseases Committee

Committee Charge – The Infectious Disease committee serves to advise the board, the Association, and its partners on laboratory capacity and capability and the role of the laboratory in the detection, control, and prevention of infectious diseases of public health significance. In addition, the committee advises on the evaluation and implementation of new technologies for the detection of infectious agents, addresses challenges facing public health and provides input to shape public health policy as it relates to infectious diseases.

➢ Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans

1. **Address issues pertaining to the maintenance of laboratory capability and capacity for infectious diseases of public health importance, including the exploration of shared service models.**
   a. Develop and field a survey on STD capability and capacity in public health laboratories. (STD Subcommittee; To be fielded May 2022)

2. **Explore the use, performance and utility of new and existing diagnostic technologies and consider the impact of these technologies on public health practice.**
   a. Develop a best practices document outlining the use of MALDI-TOF MS for identification of bacterial and fungal isolates, and dangers of misclassification. (ID Committee; in progress but paused due to COVID-19 response)
   b. Establish a community of practice and provide information to support public health laboratories in response to the discontinuation of Hologic Accuprobe products for the culture identification of *Mycobacteria* spp. and dimorphic fungal pathogens. (TB Subcommittee)
   c. Evaluate the use of digital PCR for wastewater surveillance and other possible applications. (ID Committee, collaborate with Environmental Sciences Committee)
   d. Identify best practices or considerations for incorporating automation into your infectious disease testing. (ID Committee and NGS Subcommittee)

3. **Assist public health laboratories with guidance and tools for monitoring and responding appropriately to existing or impending infectious disease threats, outbreaks and/or emergencies.**
   a. Identify, develop and review guidance, resources and tools to support the public health response to COVID-19 including monitoring, responding to and planning for supply chain challenges, laboratory space requirements, instrument maintenance. (ID Committee, IRP Subcommittee; ongoing and ad hoc)
b. Finalize a best practices document for *Legionella* testing and collaborate with partners including CSTE and IDSA on dissemination and implementation. (ID Committee, collaborate with Environmental Science)

c. Develop white paper on the PHL role in detection and surveillance of non-tuberculous mycobacteria. (ID Committee; draft in progress)

d. Develop a document that makes recommendations for essential public health laboratory capabilities for arbovirus testing in the United States (VBD Subcommittee).

4. **Monitor and respond to new and revised federal regulations that may impact infectious disease testing in public health laboratories.**
   a. Monitor reimbursement issues for multi-pathogen panels. (ID Committee and IRP Subcommittee).
   b. Monitor and respond to ongoing changes to legislation or regulation related to laboratory developed tests (ID Committee)
   c. Work with FDA, members and corporate partners to explore the appropriate pathway(s) for regulatory approval of specimen collection in non-clinical settings for STI, HIV and other infectious disease testing. (STD Subcommittee)
   d. Present to CLIAC on needs associated with next generation sequencing in clinical and public health laboratories. (NGS Subcommittee).

5. **Support APHL initiatives to develop and maintain relationships with organizations and other entities that influence practices related to infectious diseases.**
   a. Continue to engage with CSTE on Position Statement development and review as well as providing representation on workgroups such as CORHA and the COVID 19 Thought Leaders Group. (ID Committee)

6. **Identify and promote the role of public health laboratories in applied and collaborative research including publications and national conference presentations.**
   a. Advise in the planning of ID Con 2023 and ensure PHL research is incorporated appropriately. (ID Committee)
   b. Continue to identify opportunities for engagement at APHL sponsored conferences as well as other associations’ national conferences to promote the work of PHLs in ID practice and applied research activities. (ID Committee)

➢ **New Priorities and Work Plan**

1. Address challenges associated with CLIA’s increased scrutiny on pre-analytic monitoring of specimen handling conditions including but not limited to engagement with CLIAC. (Aligns with Priority 4)

2. Increase engagement with partner organizations within the clinical lab community.
   a. APHL and AMP have established the APHL-AMP NGS Quality workgroup and are working on a joint publication. (Aligns with Priority 5)
   b. APHL will explore expanding our relationship with IDSA and CAP on infectious disease topics of mutual interest.
➢ Joint Activities (with other committees)
  • Collaborate with the Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee to review COVID-19 laboratory response and provide recommendations for coordinating future responses.
  • Collaborate with the Environmental Sciences Committee to develop a best practices document for Legionella testing including suggested laboratory testing algorithms and information on existing assays.
  • Share COVID-19 resources and tools with the Global Health Committee to build awareness and align activities and messages associated with the global and domestic responses when possible.

➢ Aspirational or Parking Lot goals
  • The ID Committee is exploring how to address health disparities and the need for greater health equity in its activities. This year, the concept will be incorporated into activities related to the COVID-19 response. The ID Committee will reflect on how to continue and expand that effort in the 2021-22 committee year.

➢ Additional information you would like to share with board members
Committee Name here: Informatics

1. Committee Charge – Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

The Informatics Committee serves to advise the board and association on information systems, electronic lab messaging and health information exchange. This committee is the Association’s resource for subject matter expertise on information systems, systems standards and the informatics workforce. This informatics Committee will provide technical assistance to public health in the area of LIMS implementation and electronic data exchange.

**The committee would like to add the word electronic to categorize the type of data exchange**

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans – These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement. If it’s a regular function of the committee it may not be necessary to list.

Communicate laboratory informatics needs and resources regularly with members, partner organizations, federal partners, health IT organizations and other key resources [Goal B2]

1. Continue to highlight the committee work and its members through various communication channels (i.e. Informatics Newsletter, Lab Matters)
   a. Quarterly editions and submissions
2. Support APHL’s Annual Meeting and any other conferences/meetings as appropriate
   a. APHL (May 2022)
   b. PHII/NACCHO 360 (July 2022)

Provide subject matter expertise and a laboratory voice for Electronic Test Order and Result (ETOR) [Goal B2]

1. Support the activities of the ETOR Taskforce and:
   a. Promote and publicize the ETOR Implementation Roadmap
b. Serve as advocates for proposed centralized approach in member laboratories and lead adoption efforts from within individual laboratories
c. Work in tandem with CDC to develop and refine the ETOR Maturity Matrix
   b. Identify solutions and provide guidance to public health labs to advance ETOR capabilities

*The ETOR Taskforce has provided significant input into the development of the ETOR Roadmap but APHL is currently waiting on funding announcements. If funding comes through at the proposed levels, this will be an intensive and ongoing effort on the part of the Informatics Program and the committee

Develop an organizational stance on key public health informatics policies [Goal A2]

1. Respond to requests for comments as they relate to national policies and rules as a public health informatics community when appropriate
   a. Responses will be drafted upon request for comments on an ongoing basis, approximately 3-4x/year

Contribute to the planning, marketing, communication and execution of laboratory informatics training [Goal C2]

1. Provide subject matter expertise to the Training and Workforce Department as they finalize the curriculum framework and begin developing resources and courses

3. New Priorities and Work Plan – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

   1. ETOR Implementation across PHLs

   Helping laboratories implement ETOR through onsite and remote technical assistance is one of the key priorities for the Informatics Program in 2021-2022 and will depend on committee involvement with members serving as early adopters, advocates for this approach, and technical workflow experts

   2. Interoperability Forum

   This has been a longstanding priority for the Informatics committee that is starting to come to fruition this year. Through this forum, the committee will address widespread informatics challenges or relevant topics and feature laboratories doing something innovative to address them. This community resource will be open to all laboratorians with the intention to foster a sense of community and collaboration.

   Several committee members met on September 17 to outline the first forum, which will be an after action review of the COVID response from an informatics standpoint and examine tools, methods, and
systems that were implemented to accommodate the unprecedented volume of test orders. The overall theme for the year will be “the paperless laboratory” featuring methods and solutions to move away from manual processes in the lab.

34. LIMS Resource Directory and User Groups

As laboratories consider migrations to different systems, it may be useful to connect with other laboratories that can share their experience on using specific LIMS and the potential pros and cons. Committee members using various systems serve as resources for other members as they navigate their options.

Additionally, several members have expressed interest in launching informal user groups to troubleshoot issues, address common challenges, and develop solutions with laboratories using the same systems. Informatics committee members represent a wide variety of LIMS in PHLs and will help coordinate initial communication and outreach. APHL staff are working to secure a platform to host these groups and ongoing discussions, but efforts will be member-driven once groups are established.

The committee is helping to compile this information currently being collected by staff, and through the Monitoring and Evaluation Team’s annual profile survey.

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) – Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.

1. The Informatics Committee has been working with the Global Health Program since September, 2021 after they issued a call for participation to assist in-country staff with data science initiatives, and to examine solutions, tools, and methods to utilize data beyond its initial use case. The group is currently providing input and guidance to APHL staff in Zambia, and plans to expand to other countries as requested.

2. Informatics monthly committee calls have representatives from NBS, Policy, and GH. The committee works with Policy on understanding and furthering the Data Modernization Initiative activities, and as funding dictates, will work with Newborn Screening on the ETOR implementation activities as that will likely be an important use case for laboratories as they adopt ETOR solutions.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations, and feedback
1. The committee may be interested in developing a Policy Statement around ETOR and plans to discuss with Policy at an upcoming meeting what this would entail, intended audience and use, goals it would achieve, etc.

2. Developing the Interoperability Forum will be a major accomplishment for the committee, but it would also be beneficial to develop supplemental resources based on the forums—a collection of resources, trainings, solutions featured, or potentially a white paper synthesizing lessons learned throughout the series.

6. Additional information you would like to share with board members
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Knowledge Management Committee

Committee Charge — The Knowledge Management Committee (KMC) provides guidance on effective management and use of APHL information resources for members to improve laboratory processes, procedures and systems. The committee adapts, develops, collects, organizes, and disseminates tools to promote public health practice.

(Approved by the APHL Board of Directors 10/29/18)

1. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans — to be completed by the end of committee year (June 2022)
   A. Collect, develop, and introduce Knowledge Management (KM) practices and tools to improve laboratory management.
   - Collect stories of change from the use of the Public Health Impact tool and investigate potential for creating a Public Health Impact Tool for COVID response turn-around time.
   - Continue to update the Public Health Laboratory Systems Database (PHLSD) with new tests, equipment, and inventory which includes clinical, forensics/toxicology, environmental, human and animal food, and animal/insect testing capabilities. Continue to enroll new labs and improve user tools.
   - Upload documents from the training coordinators SharePoint site and other member developed resources from ColLABorate to the Member Resource Center (MRC) to enrich the resource repository.
   - Enhance the Knowledge Retention Toolkit by improving the existing Lab Manager module and initiate the development of a module for public health laboratory Radiochemistry positions.
   - Develop a resource to support the engagement, recruitment, and retention of laboratory staff across generations using findings from the Understanding Effective Public Health Laboratory Practices across Generations survey.
   - Develop a resource that targets model practices for public health laboratory compensation.
   B. Guide and support the Quality Systems & Analytics (QSA) program by interpreting data, providing feedback and drawing conclusions from different APHL surveys and evaluation projects.
      - Review and assist with finalizing the PH Lab Profiles to be uploaded to the PHLSD.
      - Review and assist with finalizing the Workforce Profiles survey (with the WDC).
C. Promote the use of APHL resources including tools and data-driven dashboards.
   • Promote the use of the Public Health Impact Tool for *Salmonella*.
   • Promote the utilization of multiple tools (PHLSD, Economic and Social Impact tool, Recruitment and Retention Guidance, and the Knowledge Retention Toolkit).
   • Promote data findings, publications, and visualizations/infographics developed by the QSA program.

2. New Priorities and Work Plan –
   A. The KMC would like to develop a white paper focused on broadening the public health laboratory (PHL) funding distribution to increase number of local labs who receive funding. The white paper aims to change the funding limitations placed on local labs by grant writers by proving their value and contributions to the public health system especially during COVID surge.

3. Joint Activities (with other committees) –
   A. KMC will work with the **Environmental Lab Sciences Committee (ELSC)** to:
      • Enhance the Knowledge Retention Toolkit to include a specific section for PHL Radiochemistry professionals.
   B. KMC will work with the **Laboratory Systems and Standards (LSS) Committee** to:
      • Continue to update and improve the functionality of the PHLSD under the guidance of the PHLSD Taskforce.
      • Collect stories of change from use of the Public Health Impact tool and investigate potential for creating a Public Health Impact Tool for COVID response turn-around time.
   C. KMC will work with the **Workforce Development Committee (WDC)** to:
      • Finish uploading documents from the training coordinators SharePoint site and other member developed resources from ColLABorate to the Member Resource Center (MRC) to enrich the resource repository.
      • Enhance the Knowledge Retention Toolkit by improving the existing Lab Manager module.
      • Develop a resource to support the engagement, recruitment, and retention of laboratory staff across generations using findings from the *Understanding Effective Public Health Laboratory Practices across Generations* survey.
   D. KMC will work with the **Environmental Lab Sciences Committee (ELSC)** and **Environmental Health Committee (EHC)** to:
      • Continue to update and promote the Environmental Health testing and equipment module of the PHLSD under the guidance of the PHLSD Taskforce.
E. KMC will work with the Human and Animal Feed (HAF) Subcommittee, under the Food Safety Committee (FSC), to:
   - Continue to update and promote the Human and Animal Food and Animal/Insect testing and equipment modules of the PHLSD under the guidance of the PHLSD Taskforce.

4. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals –

5. Additional information you would like to share with board members
   A. Nothing at this time.
Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee:

1. Committee Charge — Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

The LSS committee strengthens quality management systems by promoting the sustainability of public health laboratory systems and supporting the improvement of accuracy and reliability of laboratory results and services in member laboratories. The committee identifies and develops tools and resources to optimize the performance quality of member laboratories and their systems.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans — These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement; otherwise it may be a regular function of the committee and therefore not necessary to list.

   A. Support national, state, local and regional public health laboratory system models.
      • Maintain, promote, and advance the Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP).
      • Promote and share the tools from the regional consortia and offer assistance as requested.
   
   B. Support continuous quality improvement in member laboratories by providing tools, training, evaluation and consultation to meet regulatory requirements (i.e. CLIA, CAP, ISO, TNI, EPA, FDA, etc.) and public health agency accreditation.
      • Continue to promote the use of the Member Resource Center by highlighting quality improvement relevant information in various formats.
      • Continue to support the Quality Improvement Forum by identifying quality-related topics and speakers.
      • Provide guidance as needed on NGS Quality Systems Essentials.
   
   C. Function as a liaison between public health laboratories, regulatory agencies, professional organizations and other stakeholders, i.e. CMS and PHAB.
3. New Priorities and Work Plan — Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

A. Finalize a mechanism for measuring the two Healthy People 2030 developmental objectives on laboratory services.
   • Increase the proportion of state public health laboratories that provide comprehensive laboratory services to support emerging public health issues.
   • Increase the proportion of state public health laboratories that have implemented emerging technology to provide enhanced laboratory services.

B. Support continuous quality improvement in member laboratories by providing tools, training, evaluation and consultation to meet regulatory requirements (i.e. CLIA, CAP, ISO, TNI, EPA, FDA, etc.) and public health agency accreditation.
   • Develop a learning ladder to capture resources and trainings that the committee recommends a quality manager use as they advance in their career.
   • Promote the CLIA checklist and related tools.
   • Collect model practices for one Quality System Essential: Process Management.

C. Function as a liaison between public health laboratories, regulatory agencies, professional organizations and other stakeholders, i.e. CMS and PHAB.
   • Address current CLIA issues and address questions that the PHL community has through the CLIA workgroup.
   • Review the “Rescind CMS’ Nursing Degree Equivalency Determination” position statement and work with APHL Public Policy to revise as necessary.

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) — Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.
   • Collaborate with the Knowledge Management Committee by promoting the use of the Public Health Laboratory System Database (PHLSD), Member Resource Center (MRC) and supporting the Economic and Social Impact project.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals — Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations and feedback
- Bigger goals that the committee think will be critical to further strengthening PHLs include:
  - Providing long-term funding for L-SIP assessments and regional consortia activities to strengthen the public health laboratory system
  - Providing tools and resources for PHLs that focus on the importance of quality in the laboratory, since that seems to be an issue pushed to the forefront during the COVID-19 response
- We would welcome any board support on these items. Thank you.

6. Additional information you would like to share with board members
- Nothing we can think of at this time.
Newborn Screening Committee

1. Committee Charge — Your committee charge is an important statement to assist you in determining your priorities. In the event you believe modifications are necessary to the charge, you must get prior approval from the board. Please insert your committee charge below:

The Newborn Screening (NBS) Committee serves to advise the Board and the Association on matters relating to newborn screening and genetic testing as they relate to issues affecting the membership. Membership is open to all members having interest in newborn screening for congenital conditions. (no change needed)

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans — These ongoing priorities should have a timetable for achievement. If it’s a regular function of the committee it may not be necessary to list.

   1. The Newborn Screening Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Subcommittee, under the guidance of the NBS Committee, will update the NBS Analyte Interferences List to enhance search criteria, expand the list, and improve usability. The subcommittee will also develop a webinar on an emerging topic of interest regarding NBS quality assurance and quality control. (Timeline, May 2022)
   2. Monitor and provide input to the NewSTEPs Steering Committee on revisions to harmonized national quality metrics and on annual reports highlighting the current status of newborn screening practices and data driven trends. (Timeline, annually)
   3. Collaborate with the NewSTEPs Steering Committee to develop guidance on provider and follow-up staff education for newly added disorders to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) and NBS panels in the United States annually as appropriate. (Timeline, annually or as disorders are added to the RUSP)
4. Oversee and provide guidance to the Newborn Screening Health Information Technology (HIT) Subcommittee’s review and updating of the Common Data Model on an annual basis. (Timeline, annually)

5. Collaborate with the Legal and Legislative Issues in Newborn Screening (LLINBS) workgroup in supporting the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan NBS program as the case Kanuszewski v MDHHS (regarding genetic privacy concerns and retention of DBS) goes to trial and any additional cases of this nature. (Timeline, June 2022, as needed).

3. **New Priorities and Work Plan** – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority/Activity</th>
<th>Details and sub-activities</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Timeline for completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Strengthening | - Ensure all states on NBS committee have a COOP in place  
- Facilitate at least one drill and/or tabletop exercise to practice execution of COOPs for states on the committee  
- Aid the newborn screening community, in collaboration with the CDC and HRSA, in the development of validated, tested and sustainable contingency plans, including:
  o considerations for states that outsource to private/commercial laboratories,  
  o considerations for outages or service interruptions at state and commercial labs.  
  o considerations for manual back-up practices in the case of an electronic outage | TBN | June 2022 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact(s)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Validation guidance</td>
<td>In collaboration with the Newborn Screening Molecular subcommittee, contribute to development of a guidance document on conducting validation studies and daily quality control.</td>
<td>Rachel Lee, Michele Caggana</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Driven Outcome Assessments</td>
<td>In collaboration with the NewSTEPs Steering Committee, contribute to the themed development and guidance of an annual report that relies on NewSTEPs Data Repository harmonized metrics to detail and evaluate trends in newborn screening.</td>
<td>Brendan Reilly, Amy Gaviglio</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS Workforce Issues</td>
<td>Review and provide feedback to the NBS Workforce Task Force on the staffing survey and guidance document developed based on survey findings.</td>
<td>Susan Tanksley</td>
<td>April 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformity in counting conditions</td>
<td>Review and provide feedback on the framework that the Condition Counting Task Force develops to define and achieve uniformity in how NBS conditions are counted on state panels.</td>
<td>Rachel Lee, Amy Gaviglio, Sue Berry, Mei Baker, Stan Berberich</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) — Make sure this is communicated to the other committee(s) so that there is continuity across the organization.

- Collaboration with Informatics on Electronic Test Ordering and Reporting (ETOR) activities
- Collaboration with the Workforce Development Committee on workforce issues
• Collaboration with the Public Health Preparedness and Response committee on Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning for NBS

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations, and feedback

6. Additional information you would like to share with board members

The Committee is an overarching one that has diverse representation in the newborn screening community. The field has many challenges and our work highlights these and the professional resources available in this group serve to resolve current challenges while predicting future challenges.
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Public Health Preparedness and Response

1. Committee Charge – The Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee serves as technical experts to advise the Board and the association on all-hazards laboratory preparedness for, and response to, emergencies including terrorism, natural disasters and emerging threats, as they relate to issues affecting the membership. Key activities for the committee include promoting maintenance of laboratory capability and capacity for responding to all-hazard threats, guiding evaluations of new and emerging technologies, and establishing and maintaining partnerships and outreach efforts with key stakeholders such as federal partners, clinical laboratories and first responders.

2. Ongoing Priorities and Work Plans

1. Provide Leadership and Technical Expertise to Enhance Laboratory Practice, Preparedness and Response through Rapid Detection and Identification of Emerging Threats [Ongoing]
   a. Provide member expertise to support the use of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) to respond to public health events, including emerging threats. PHPR members on the following committees and workgroups that support LRN:
      i. LRN Joint Leadership Committee (JLC)
      ii. LRN Operational Workgroup (OPS WG)
      iii. Sentinel Laboratory Partnership and Outreach Subcommittee (SLPOS)
   b. Provide guidance to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies on laboratory studies designed to collect performance data on assays/technologies to detect biological threat agents, including the acquisition of specimens necessary for verification. See select examples:
      i. The PHPR committee has representation at CDC LRN assay design control meetings.
      ii. The LRN OPS WG provides expertise to CDC regarding LRN operational requirements.
      iii. PHPR committee members at LRN Advance laboratories assist CDC with activities such as 1) the deployment of new technologies, 2) assay development initiatives, 3) evaluation of new or improved methods, 4) training, and 5) surge testing capacity.
c. Provide input to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs such as the BioWatch Program.

d. PHPR committee members 1) provide feedback to and educational opportunities for the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) on the unique impact of the FSAP on the mission of public health laboratories and 2) monitor and provide guidance to state and local public health laboratories regarding the FSAP.

e. Address policy changes to the transportation of specimens and infectious agents, including select agents and toxins.

f. Collaborate with the Global Health Department to promote public health laboratory preparedness and response, including providing leadership for implementation of Global Health Security initiatives in national lab systems development, biosafety and biosecurity and emergency operations.

2. **Participate in the Refinement and Development of Public Health Preparedness Policy Documents, Funding Guidance and Performance Measures [Ongoing]**

   a. Collaborate with the APHL Public Policy Department to monitor and contribute to regulations and legislations which impact public health preparedness and response.

   b. Review and provide input to CDC and other partners on the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Cooperative Agreements and other relevant funding opportunities.

   c. Provide input to CDC and other federal partners on performance measures for public health preparedness and response.

   d. Provide guidance to DHS, Department of Defense (DoD), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), CDC, and other partners on the development and implementation of the public health and related target capabilities.

   e. Provide guidance to APHL’s Public Health Preparedness and Response Department on the Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) preparedness measures and laboratory measures used in the National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSPI) and other performance measurement indices.

3. **Enhance and Maintain Partnerships and Outreach among Sentinel Clinical Laboratory and First Responder Groups [Ongoing]**

   a. Maintain the Sentinel Laboratory Partnerships and Outreach Subcommittee, comprised of representatives from APHL, CDC, sentinel clinical laboratories, and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), to provide guidance and educational materials to laboratories on clinical laboratory training and technologies for biological threat agents and to provide technical guidance to the College of American Pathologists (CAP) on the national Laboratory Preparedness Exercise (LPX).
b. Collaborate with CDC, APHL’s Workforce Development Department and training staff to develop and provide preparedness courses for public health and sentinel clinical laboratories.

c. Collaborate with members and partners to develop tools and templates for state and local public health laboratories conducting training and outreach to first responder communities.

d. Collaborate with the APHL Environmental Health Committee to maintain partnerships and promote collaborative trainings between state and local public health laboratories, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Guard Bureau (NGB) Civil Support Teams (CST) and local first responders.

e. Collect success stories and model practices to share with state and local public health laboratories to promote coordinated technical and biosafety outreach to sentinel clinical laboratories.

f. Collaborate with the Department of Transportation to develop guidance for resolving laboratory issues with shipping infectious materials.

4. Promote a Consistent, Coordinated Lab Systems Approach in Federal Responses [Ongoing]

a. Collaborate with CDC Emergency Operations Center and other partners such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to shape training and improve incident management system for public health laboratories at all levels (local to global).

b. Serve as public health lab systems experts to CDC and other federal agencies to support effective responses.

c. Collaborate with CDC partners to convene experts across the agency, other federal agencies and non-governmental partners to better address surge capacity needs and to better prepare for and respond to public health threats.

d. Enhance pre-analytical communication and post-analytical data management and reporting.

e. Collaborate across APHL and with federal partners, CDC, Tri-Agency Workgroup, to provide guidance on emerging technologies to include the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approval process.

3. New Priorities and Work Plan – Please list in order of importance no more than five goals your committee can realistically accomplish over the next 12 months. Include how you plan to accomplish this priority, who will lead this effort, and a brief timetable.

- APHL will utilize SLPOS to collaborate with the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in an extensive review of all 12 Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols over the next two years. [November 2020 to June 2021]* Substantial priority which will continue into 2022. APHL PHPR and ASM staff have established a timeline for completion of the review and are also monitoring the revision process.
• Collaborate with CDC partners to convene experts across the agency, other federal agencies and non-governmental partners to better address surge capacity needs and to better prepare for and respond to public health threats. PHPR Committee members will collect stories and lessons learned from PHLs on surge capacity issues related to COVID-19 and other response efforts to develop and improve surge capacity guidance for laboratories. This guidance will be delivered as a tool and/or webinar in spring 2022. APHL PHPR staff will oversee these efforts.

• The PHPR Committee will reactivate the First Responders Standards and Technology (FiRST) Workgroup to gain a better understanding of PHL member needs and develop resources/tools to help PHLs better engage with first responder communities. Members of the PHPR Committee’s FiRST Workgroup will inquire about what additional tools are needed to support training and outreach to first responders with the PHL community as well as engage the FBI to learn about their state and local outreach efforts. The workgroup will develop tools and other training materials throughout 2022 and will likely complete this project by June 2023.

4. Joint Activities (with other committees) –

• Collaborate with the APHL Environmental Health Committee to maintain partnerships and promote collaborative trainings among state and local public health laboratories, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Guard Bureau (NGB) Civil Support Teams (CST) and local first responders.

• Collaborate with the APHL Global Health Department to promote public health laboratory preparedness and response, including providing leadership for implementation of Global Health Security initiatives in national lab systems development, biosafety and biosecurity and emergency operations. A joint project to be determined will focus on sharing domestic and global COVID-19 lessons learned.

• Collaborate with the Infectious Diseases Committee and associated subcommittees to review COVID-19 laboratory response and provide recommendations for coordinating future responses.

5. Aspirational or Parking Lot goals – Goals you hope to achieve in the future, or would like additional support, recommendations, and feedback

• Increase engagement with first responder groups and federal partners to establish a quality assurance program in support of APHL Position Statement: Field Screening Kits and Devices Must Work.
6. Additional information you would like to share with board members
   • Nothing additional at this time.
APHL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN and Priorities for 2021-2022

Workforce Development Committee

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The APHL Workforce Development Committee helps to identify and recommend strategies to solve current and future workforce needs, steer training and continuing education, and promote and encourage diversity in the workforce. WDC supports the fielding of workforce characterization and salary surveys and translates relevant data into key messages for the APHL membership.

ONGOING PRIORITIES AND WORK PLAN

1. Support online DrPH program with University of South Florida – College of Public Health (USF-COPH) as needed.
   a. Meet with director of program and identify areas of collaboration, including review of program evaluations, consider recommendations for enhancements to curriculum or developing resources to address gaps in curriculum. (Q2-Q3 (Lead: Chair, Dr. Leah Gillis)
   b. Contribute a series of scenarios for The Summer Institute for DrPH students as part of an interactive leadership workshop.
   c. In collaboration with the APHL Marketing and Communication team, the WDC will develop a communication plan to promote the DrPH program and the ARP funded scholarship program, including articles, podcasts, Infographics and content for social media. (Q2, ongoing)
   d. Distribute promotional materials to encourage DrPH candidates to participate in the APHL Boot Camp to prepare for board certification examination. (Q3) (Lead: Dr. Marty Soehnlen)
2. WDC members will submit a proposal for a breakout session at the 2022 APHL Annual Meeting. The session will highlight a critical workforce issue and propose possible solutions to attendees (Q2).
3. WDC members support the portfolio of leadership development activities. (Ongoing)
- Serve as reviewers of candidates applying to the Emerging Leader Program for Cohort 16. Solicit for volunteers from the committee in May. (Q4)
- Serve as prospective reviewers of candidates applying to APHL fellowship programs. (Q4)
- Explore opportunities with academic groups and medical laboratory science programs to establish partnership to facilitate and engagement and promote recruitment opportunities and address workforce issues. (Ongoing)
- WDC Academic Work Group will collect, distribute and promote best practices, lessons learned to demonstrate ways that these partnerships support strengthening the PHL workforce pipeline. (Ongoing)
- Promote career awareness and STEM activities; review existing career awareness resources and recommend updates or additions as needed. (Ongoing)

4. Continue to promote certification for Public Health Laboratory Leaders (Ongoing)
- Promote certification in public health microbiology and other specialties as appropriate. (Ongoing)
- Deliver the board certification study resources through the Boot Camp; update and improve study materials and continue to monitor engagement on the laboratory leadership collaborator group.
- Contribute to the discussion on CLIA personnel requirements and provide comment as requested by CMS in efforts to review and recommend changes to relevant regulations.

**NEW PRIORITIES**

5. Participate in a facilitated focus group to provide feedback on a new, updated and expanded NLDO program, including contributing topics for the agenda, providing recommendations for improving the experience and extending the experience through virtual think tank offerings, and a mentoring component.
6. WDC will collect success stories from DrPH graduates on their experiences to demonstrate impact and track career progression and as potential promotional and marketing content.

**JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

7. WDC will work with the Knowledge Management Committee (KMC) to:
- Promote documents housed in the Member Resource Center (MRC) to enrich the resource repository. (Ongoing)
- Provide feedback to KMC to enhance the Knowledge Retention Toolkit by improving the existing Lab Manager module. (Q2, Q3)
• WDC, in collaboration with the Knowledge Management Committee (KMC) (and TWD and QSA staff) sponsors the workforce compensation and characterization surveys on a regular basis. WDC will contribute to support the APHL research agenda by sponsoring workforce compensation and characterization surveys on a regular basis. (Q2-Q4)

• Develop a resource to support the engagement, recruitment, and retention of laboratory staff across generations using findings from the Understanding Effective Public Health Laboratory Practices across Generations survey. (Q3)

• Develop a resource that targets model practices for public health laboratory compensation (we have reached out to 4 laboratory directors who have already successfully increased salaries for their staff. We will provide them with questions to answer, like lessons learned and the process for improving compensation levels. Ultimately, the KMC-WDC wants to produce a resource doc and/or a webinar/podcast featuring some lab directors mentioned to talk about their experience. (Q4)

**Work Aspirational or Parking Lot Goals**

Nothing at this time.

**Additional Information you Would Like to Share with Board Members**

Nothing at this time.