

**UofL Center for Predictive Medicine
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee
Room 136B, Founders Union Building
Oct. 23, 2007**

Attendance

Dennis Sullivan, UofL's director of emergency management, opened the meeting at 6 p.m. The following people attended:

Mike King, Holly Springs neighborhood
Jerry Klopfenstein, Old Dorsey neighborhood
Judi Sikes, Bellemeade neighborhood
Ed Wessell, Bellemeade neighborhood
Cheri Hildreth, director, UofL environmental health and safety
Carol Whetstone, UofL environmental health and safety
Denise Fitzpatrick, UofL communications and marketing

Dialogic call

Members confirmed that the test call last spring over Dialogic, Louisville Metro's emergency warning system, worked as planned. UofL arranged for the automated telephone call about the March 15 public forum at Shelby Campus to go to 5,800 homes and 1,500 businesses within a one-mile radius of the biosafety lab. Dialogic is one of several emergency notification systems UofL will use in the event of an accident at the lab.

Construction update

Mr. Sullivan mentioned that a new stoplight is now being installed at Hurstbourne Parkway and Tamarisk Way. UofL's work to improve the road infrastructure on Shelby Campus, including creating a new Shelbyville Road campus entrance to line up with Whittington Parkway, has not yet begun.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported that construction on the biosafety lab is running behind about six to eight weeks later than set out in the original timeline. For that reason, she said, the building should be half finished in late February or March 2008, rather than in January 2008 as originally thought. Also, the building is now expected to open in November or December 2008 rather than in October 2008.

Next public forum

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked the group whether it would make sense to have the next public forum about the biosafety lab in March when the building is halfway completed. Members agreed that would be a good time.

Ms. Hildreth reminded everyone that UofL can no longer use Dialogic to notify people about upcoming forums since it agreed to use the system only once for a non-emergency. However, Ms. Fitzpatrick said she will promote the next forum through the news media, send out an e-mail, post it on the biosafety lab website, advertise it on the marquee sign at the entrance to Shelby Campus and set the date far enough ahead of time so neighborhood associations can promote it in their newsletters.

Lab equipment

Ms. Hildreth reported that UofL plans to acquire some highly advanced equipment such as a micro CT/PET scanner and dual photon emission microscope for the biosafety lab. UofL officials say this could make the lab a national center of excellence for small animal imaging. Each regional biosafety lab is working to establish a slightly different research niche to avoid duplication of effort, she explained.

Hiring of director

The search for a lab director is still underway. An ad for the position has been running in the prestigious national magazine Science. A search committee appointed to evaluate candidates will meet for the first time on Nov. 5. Once the director is hired, he or she will begin recruiting researchers to work in the facility.

Hildreth said specific operating procedures for handling the biological agents studied in the facility cannot be fully developed after the researchers are hired, since it is only then that the precise agents will be known. She added that UofL officials are continuing to meet with officials from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and from regional biosafety labs across the country to share information.

Lab security

Members asked several questions about lab security. Ms. Hildreth and Fitzpatrick explained that UofL will provide around-the-clock security for the lab but is not likely to make many details of the security measures public (e.g. placement of cameras, description of alarm systems) since that could make the measures less effective.

Congressional hearing

Ms. Hildreth mentioned the congressional hearing on U.S. biosafety labs that took place on Oct. 4 and the resulting news coverage. She said UofL officials are closely following the issues raised in the hearing.

One issue raised in the hearing was the failure of some labs to report accidents in a timely manner (although none of the accidents threatened anyone outside the labs). Ms. Hildreth and Ms. Fitzpatrick said UofL already had adopted a policy not to withhold or delay disclosure of any accidents at the Center for Predictive Medicine.

Some at the hearing also called for the creation of a single federal agency to regulate biosafety labs nationwide. Ms. Hildreth said the General Accounting Office is scheduled to issue a report on this issue in March and UofL will review the document.

Next meeting

Ms. Hildreth said she will touch base with members again in January after the holiday season to determine when to schedule the next meeting of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.