

USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON NAHLN

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The Committee met on October 02, 2011 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York, from 12:07 p.m. There were 16 members and 25 guests present.

Legislative Activities

Brad Mollet and Jonathon Orloff – Capitol Partners

Capitol Partners, a Washington, DC lobbying firm hired by AAVLD, gave a presentation outlining activities conducted to secure funding for the NAHLN. They were successful in spearheading a floor amendment to re-instate \$4.4 million to the FADI line item within the U.S. House Agriculture Committee Budget. The goal now is to pursue a strategy to secure \$30 million annually to support the NAHLN infrastructure and enhancement. One option discussed was the possibility of requesting support from the Secretary of Agriculture and pursuing inclusion in the 2012 Farm Bill.

Action items:

1. Capitol Partners will develop a timeline for moving the process forward
2. AAVLD will conduct a survey of NAHLN labs to determine operating costs and state contributions (excluding any federal funding) in support of the \$30 million funding request. The goal is to provide a funding breakdown to Capitol Partners by November 1.

NAHLN Structure Proposal

Gary Anderson

Dr. Anderson presented "A Vision for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network Structure". This document is a proposal from the NAHLN Coordinating Council outlining the future structure of the NAHLN. The overall plan was well-received by the members of the Joint NAHLN Committee. Most of the discussion revolved around potential funding considerations. Dr. Barb Powers presented a draft \$30 million budget delineating the funding necessary to meet the requirements for each laboratory level suggested in the proposed network structure. The draft budget will be reviewed by the AAVLD Executive Committee and then distributed to the Joint NAHLN Committee and NAHLN Coordinating Council and then to Capitol Partners, by November 1, to use as background information in lobbying efforts.

Committee Business

A Resolution on NAHLN Funding from the Committee on Animal Emergency Management was presented to the Committee for consideration. After significant modification, Dr. Tom McKenna moved for adoption of the attached resolution. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lanny Pace. The motion passed by voice vote.