

## Laboratory and Surveillance Utah Healthcare Infection Prevention Governance Committee

Date: 04/06/2023

### Attendees:

Alessandro Rossi, Bert Lopansri, Camille Atkinson, Elena Snelton, Giulia De Vettori, Jeanmarie Mayer, Josh Mongillo, Kristin Dascomb, Linda Rider, Mark F. Natali Baker, Becky Ess, Rhonda Hensley, Sarah Rigby, Tara Ford, Trina Keane  
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### Agenda Topics:

#### Introductions

1:00–1:05 Subcommittee Chair: Dr. Alessandro Rossi (Giulia De Vettori)

#### MDRO Control and Education Mission, Vision, and Goals

1:05–1:15 Review the mission and vision statement (Giulia De Vettori)

#### Action Steps/Plan

1:15–1:25 Action Steps/Plan 1–4 (Dr. Rossi)

#### Subcommittee Outcomes

1:25–1:30 Outcomes 1-4 (Dr. Rossi)

#### Situational Awareness

1:30–1:50 Current state of Lab/Surveillance (Dr. Rossi)

#### Convene

### Discussion:

#### Introductions

- Becky introduced Giulia De Vettori DHHS, who will be taking over these meetings.
- Becky also introduced Dr. Alessandro Rossi, who is heading this subcommittee. He is the CLIA director of UPHL and the Infectious Disease chief scientist. He is unfortunately out of town today.

#### MDRO Control and Education Mission, Vision, and Goals

- Mission: Improve the technical and epidemiological expertise of all labs in the state of Utah
  - Giulia requested feedback. Dr. Mayer asked if all labs in the state need to have their expertise improved and instead should know when to contact UPHL for assistance? However, Rhonda likes how the mission is currently, but suggested altering “expertise” to knowledge.
- We need to create our own vision. Giulia shared the vision drafted by the antimicrobial stewardship committee. Together, the group suggested and drafted the following:
  - *The State of Utah will lead national diagnostic efforts in identifying resistant organisms and pathogens of epidemiologic concern. The UHIP Laboratory/Surveillance Subcommittee will provide best practices for labs in the state of Utah.*
  - Discussion about whether the purpose of this meeting is to set standards. Mark suggested that ‘best practices’ is the more accurate aim.

- Emerging pathogens were suggested at one point, but Mark pointed out that labs don't set out to identify emerging pathogens. The ARLN aspect of the lab is to test resistance and identify novel transmission. Dr. Dascomb mentioned *C. auris*, not as an emerging pathogen but as a pathogen of concern.
- Goal: Expand the technical and epidemiological expertise of all labs in the state of Utah through education and communication to improve the understanding of isolate submission and testing. Improve logistics, coordination, and communication of all labs and stakeholders.
  - Giulia again asked for input. This received positive feedback from the subcommittee.

### **Action Steps/Plan**

- Becky shared the action steps that were drafted with Dr. Rossi and Josh Mongillo. These are the things that we want this committee to do:
  1. Increase knowledge for best collection and testing practices
  2. Article reviews for updated/novel testing procedures
  3. Collaborate on validation processes
    - a. Sharing samples
    - b. Sharing data
    - c. Sharing SOPs/processes
  4. Changes to the Communicable Disease Rule
    - a. Change enterobactercia to Enterobacterales
- Becky asked the group for feedback or other input?
  - Dr. Mayer asked what best collection and testing applies to — for screening or targeted organisms? Becky said that the focus is on increasing the knowledge base.
    - This is similar to a question asked a while ago about whether *C. auris* testing matters having a CHG backburst or within 24 hours. This was discussed in a call yesterday, saying that we don't have data on this. However, when data is available, we need to ensure that the knowledge base is out there and understood.
  - Dr. Mayer asked how broad this needs to be? Becky asked if we want this to be based toward screening or clinical?
    - Mark said that since this is a subcommittee of UHIP, which is focused on infection prevention, our focus should be on screening typical or emerging infections. Bert suggested specifically the detection of emerging and established antibiotic resistant organisms.
  - Dr. Mayer also suggested changing article reviews to literature reviews.

### **Subcommittee Outcomes**

1. Increase adherence to the CD rule and submission of appropriate specimens.
2. Well represented participation of Utah labs.
  - Please encourage anyone who might have an interest in participating to join this meeting. We welcome anyone who can bring ideas to the table.
3. Education on best testing practices for different MDROs/emerging infections.
4. Written materials to disseminate
- Becky asked for any thoughts on these outcomes?
  - Giulia suggested changing MDROs/emerging infections to “organisms of epidemiologic concern”

- Dr. Mayer suggested including efforts to increase the awareness and use of sequencing and other specialized ARLN/UPHL testing. Mark agrees that this is important
  - Confirmation that ARLN has a distinct section within UPHL and Kelley generally runs the ARLN tests (on the machine Kelley usually uses).

### **Situational Awareness**

- We are doing wastewater testing for MDROs and other organisms. This is a newer process which we have been doing since October of last year.
  - With this process still being new, we still need to learn how to validate and utilize the data.
  - As we learn more about wastewater data, we will provide more information. It could help inform other parts of healthcare systems by knowing what is in the community.
- Dr. Mayer asked how wastewater is useful when considering biofilms? Becky said that while we do expect organisms to stay in biofilms, you can see the levels of the organism change.
  - An example of this is the recent *C. auris* cases.
- How each organism appears in the wastewater will be different, which will be interesting to learn about.
- Right now, the focus is on making sure we can grow all the organisms of concern. George at the lab is leading out on this. A lot of the data is qualitative and we are working on quantitative data.
  - Dr. Mayer asked if they are using culture and molecular PCR testing? Becky is unsure and would need to ask George

### **Open Discussion**

- Moving forward, Dr. Mayer asked how we are going to make this meeting effective. She wonders how successful we can be with a single meeting every two months.
  - We might consider increasing meeting frequency or gathering information prior to the meeting. Giulia will conference with Dr. Rossi on this matter.

### **Convene**

Every eight weeks

- Next meeting on 06/01/2023

Minutes will be posted to the HAI website and will be sent out on Monday

- <https://epi.health.utah.gov/uhip-governance-minutes/>

### **Next Meeting Discussion/Questions**

- No suggested discussion topics at this time.

Next Meeting: June 1, 2023