

**Lab Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Region IV IPP Advisory Board Meeting
May 7, 2010**

Participants:

- Fleetwood Hines, AL DPH
- Sarah Terry, FL DOH
- May Park, GA DPH
- Chaney Walters, MSDH
- William Baker, KY DPH
- Myra Brinson, NC DHHS
- Brenda Hastie, SC DHEC
- Jim Gibson, TN DOH (Chair)
- Cassandra Malone, Cicatelli Associates Inc.
- Gina Martin, Cicatelli Associates Inc.

Notes:

- a. Logic model –
 - A. Evaluation and Monitoring Item 6. The Laboratory Subcommittee is addressing the issue of repeat testing to save cost and report results faster. Each lab has adopted limiting or eliminating the automatic repeat of an initially positive result.
 - B. Activities, Interventions, Strategies 6. The issue of medical legal testing was discussed. The revised guidelines will change the gold-standard to approve NAAT testing as satisfactory for legal cases.
- b. State Updates –
 - A. See the attached charts for updated State data.
 - B. Trichomonas – the following issues will determine if States are interested in Trichomonas testing: cost of reagents, clinical sequelae, significant outcomes from testing and treatment.
 - C. Medicaid reimbursement – Several State Labs are getting Medicaid reimbursement for CT/GC testing: Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi.
- c. Participation of private laboratories in the Regional Program – The labs discussed the APHL Policy Statement on Private laboratories participating in the Regional Projects. All 8 laboratory members agreed that private laboratories should not be full members of a regional project and be the sole representative for a State. We support the APHL Policy Statement.
- d. Rectal and Oral Verification Studies – Several states have completed the CLIA required verification study to be able to test oral and rectal specimens with the Gen-Probe Aptima test. Florida (Jacksonville and Miami), Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee (Nashville Lab) have completed the study. Florida actively offers the test and reports results.
- e. HIV Testing – Current HIV testing methods and test issues were discussed. There was also a discussion about the movement to a 4th generation HIV test that will test for both HIV Ab and HIV Ag.

- f. State Lab Funding and the Economy – The effect of the down turn in the economy was discussed. All State labs have been affected.

Georgia – experiencing some furlough days each month

Florida – possible pay cuts, vacant positions are frozen

Alabama – possible furlough days, vacant positions are frozen

South Carolina – Furloughs last year, vacant positions frozen

Tennessee – No major budget cuts, vacant positions are frozen

North Carolina – hiring freeze, 10 hour furlough last year

Mississippi – only filling key positions

Kentucky – no major changes, budget cuts and possible furloughs anticipated

- g. Syphilis testing- The controversy of the RPR test versus the EIA as the primary screening tool for Syphilis was discussed. All agreed that one major issue for the labs is the higher cost per test for an EIA over the RPR. Unless additional funding is found, this will limit public health from making a change. Florida has used the EIA as a secondary test for initial positives. Alabama has performed a study of the EIA versus VDRL. They found several discrepancies between the methods. An STD Advisory is to make a recommendation soon. An advantage of the EIA is that it is read by a machine so it is less subjective and it can be automated. An EIA can be cost effective if labor costs are cut.
- h. Region IV Website – The committee discussed suggestions for changes to the Region IV website. The following suggestions were made:
- a. Decide what contact information should be added for each state
 - b. Add a link to the National Chlamydia Laboratory Committee
 - c. Add resources for Gen-Probe training material, brochures, package inserts