Update on Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies

Judy Morgan, Chair, TNRC

Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair, NGAB Working Group
Overview

- TNI began developing the process to recognize NGABs in 2013 with the formation of the NGAB working group chaired by Alfredo Sotomayor.
- In 2014, the TNI Board appointed the TNI Non-governmental Accreditation Body Recognition Committee (TNRC) to approve NGABs according to the evaluation SOP.
- These two groups have been working jointly and are very close to full implementation of the program.
NGAB Working Group

Members

- Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair
  - Steve Arms
  - Kristin Brown
  - Marlene Moore
  - Cheryl Morton
  - Jim Todaro
  - David Speis
  - Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton, Staff Support
TNI Non-Governmental Accreditation Body Recognition Committee (TNRC)

- Judy Morgan, Chair
  - Daniel Lashbrook
  - Marlene Moore
  - Kim Watson
  - Yumi Creason

- Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton, Staff Support
Activities to Date

- Developed Evaluation SOP for NGABs using the NELAP and NEFAP evaluation SOPs as a model
- Appointed a Lead Evaluator (LE)
- Posted SOP and application form on TNI website under TNI Board tab
- Held evaluator training (live and webcast)
- Established budget and fees for program
- Designed logo for NGABs and laboratories
Activities to Date

- Began accepting applications mid-August
  - Received three applications
- Formed evaluation teams
  - Lead evaluator
    - Ilona Taunton
  - Team members
    - Kristin Brown
    - Carl Kircher
- Scheduled evaluations for February and March
Timeline

**ACTIVITY**
- Accept applications
- Conduct on-site evaluations
- Conduct onsite observations
- Recommendations to TNRC
- NGAB Recognitions

**DATE**
- Aug-Sept. 2015
- February-March 2016
- Summer 2016
- Summer meeting 2016*

* Final recognition of NGABs will depend on when on-site observations can be scheduled.
NELAP States Accepting NGAB Accreditations

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<th>State NELAP AB</th>
<th>Can accept NGAB accreditation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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Twenty non-NELAP states interviewed for “Future of Accreditation” project.

Three states uncertain if they could accept an NGAB accreditation. One state said they would defer to EPA for an opinion.

Six states could not accept NGAB accreditation.

Eleven states said they could accept an NGAB accreditation. Several of these states noted that they already accept A2LA, AIHA, and NSF.
Location of TNRC in TNI

Background:

- Some state accreditation bodies (AB) cannot allow an NGAB to be a member of the NELAP AC
- NGAB working group recommended that TNRC report directly to the Board
  - Provided direct oversight by TNI Board for a new program
  - Minimized conflict for some members of the NELAP AC
Location of TNRC in TNI

Background:

- Complaint alleged that NGAB recognition constituted a core program
- Investigation team disagreed, but recommended appropriate organizational placement of TNRC
- TNI Board directed NGAB working group to prepare a concept paper outlining options for placement of NGAB recognition activities within TNI’s organizational structure
TNRC and NGAB working group met jointly and determined four possible options for organizational alignment of the TNRC for NGAB recognition.
Location of TNRC in TNI

Options:

- Leave the TNRC in its current location reporting to the TNI Board of Directors
- Place the TNRC under the LASEC, but separate from the NELAP AC
Report to the Board

Advantages:
- Close supervision by the Board for a developing effort
- Complete separation from NELAP avoiding any conflict with the AC

Disadvantages:
- Does not mimic other recognition efforts
- Additional admin resources required
- May lead to inconsistent approaches for recognition
Advantages:
- Keeps this effort within the NELAP umbrella
- Minimizes administrative support
- Ensures consistent recognition efforts

Disadvantages:
- At least one member of the NELAP AC is opposed to this
Recommendation

- Place the NGAB recognition activities under the LASEC, but separate from the NELAP AC

- Leave TNRC in its current location reporting to the TNI Board until after the first group of NGABs is recognized and then move to the new structure.
Next Steps

- Conduct evaluations and onsite observations
- Make recommendations for recognition
- Grant recognitions for first class of NGABs
- Make recommendation for organizational placement of TNRC
- Establish/facilitate communication between TNRC, NELAP AC and NEFAP
- Create web page for NGABs
Questions?

Suggestions?