

The National Academies of
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INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
Board on Health Sciences Policy

**Standing Committee on
Health Threats and Workforce Resilience**

AGENDA

December 11, 2015

**National Academies Building - Room 125
2101 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20418**

Meeting Goal: Provide committee feedback and input to the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs (DHS/OHA) BioWatch strategic planning process and planned capability advancements across threat detection, situational assessment, and preparedness. Specific advancements to discuss include technology enhancements, decision support tool, laboratory operation enhancements, and federal/state/local preparedness.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

8:30 a.m. LISA GORDON HAGERTY, *Chair*
President
LEG Incorporated

KATHRYN BRINSFIELD
Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

SESSION I: SETTING THE STAGE: BIOWATCH CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANS

Session Objective:

- Discuss the format for the meeting structure including a brief overview of current BioWatch plans and the planned roadmap for future capability enhancements

8:45 a.m. Overview: The BioWatch Program

MICHAEL WALTER
BioWatch Program Director
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

SESSION II: BIOWATCH STRATEGIC PLANNING

Session Objectives:

- Discuss the current strategic planning process and methods the BioWatch program is undertaking to assess both their current status and future direction.
- Leverage committee expertise to gain feedback and input on strengths opportunities and threats for the program over the next 5 years.

9:00 a.m. Overview: BioWatch Strategic Plan

AMY SCHEUER
BioWatch Director of Operations
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

AMY GAREIS
BioWatch Business Integration Lead (Support Contractor)
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

9:20 a.m. Discussion with Standing Committee

10:00 a.m. BREAK

SESSION III: BIOWATCH LABORATORY UPGRADES

Session Objectives:

- Review proposed multiplex PCR initiative and related testing activities.
- Discuss planning for the multi-center study, and explore its implications for future decisions regarding laboratory standards, multiplex expansion, and incorporation of orthogonal approaches such as sequencing.

10:15 a.m. Overview of Laboratory Capacity Upgrades: Multiplexing Initiatives

MARK SCHECKELHOFF
BioWatch Director of Laboratory Operations
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

10:45 a.m. Discussion with Committee

SESSION IV: BIOWATCH IT ENHANCEMENTS

Session Objectives:

- Discuss the types of information that BioWatch stakeholders at the state/local and federal levels, in their varied roles, need in order to make better decisions
- Present information on various IT initiatives currently underway

11:00 a.m. Overview of Projected IT Upgrades

LT MICHELLE HOHENSEE
BioWatch Jurisdictional Coordinator Program Lead
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

MATTHEW DAVENPORT
Program Manager
Science & Technology Directorate
Department of Homeland Security

11:30 a.m. Discussion with Standing Committee

12:00 p.m. WORKING LUNCH

SESSION V: RELEVANT EXTERNAL REPORTS OF INTEREST

Session Objectives:

- Consider the findings and recommendations resulting from recently released reports related to the BioWatch program.
 - 2015 Blue Ribbon Study Panel Report on Biodefense
 - 2015 GAO Report on BioWatch
- Review tested evaluations examining BioWatch technology performance
- Discuss planned technology enhancements and collaboration with S&T
- Discuss and recommend actions to the program based on external reports and current strategic planning and assessment efforts.

12:45 p.m. Overview: Relevant Reports Discussing the BioWatch Program

Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense

GERALD PARKER, *Panel Ex Officio Member*
Vice President for Public Health Preparedness and Response
Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing
Texas A&M University Health Science Center

GAO Report on BioWatch

JOHN FISCHER
Director, Chemical and Biological Defense Division
Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency
Science & Technology Directorate
Department of Homeland Security

The Blue Ribbon Study Panel and GAO Reports- Perspective from a BioWatch Jurisdiction

MARK BUTTNER
Associate Director, Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, UNLV Branch
School of Community Health Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

1:30 p.m. Discussion with Standing Committee

1:45 p.m. Response Overview: Tested Evaluations Examining BioWatch Technology.
Collaboration with S&T on Technology Enhancements

MICHAEL WALTER
BioWatch Program Director
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

JOHN FISCHER
Director, Chemical and Biological Defense Division
Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency
Science & Technology Directorate
Department of Homeland Security

MARK BUTTNER
Associate Director, Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, UNLV Branch
School of Community Health Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m. Discussion with Standing Committee

SESSION VI: NEXT STEPS

Session Objective:

- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the BioWatch program highlighted throughout the meeting.
 - Explore what changes could be made to improve the current status and what action items/recommendations, if any, from external reports should be considered to advance the BioWatch program.

3:45 p.m. Discussion with the Standing Committee

4:45 p.m. Final Remarks

LISA GORDON HAGERTY, *Chair*
President
LEG Incorporated

KATHRYN BRINSFIELD
Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs
Office of Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN