



# **ELAP PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO DATE –**

## **STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) PERSPECTIVE**

# Disclaimer



- While I have solicited input from the rest of the SAC, ultimately the remarks are my own.



# ELAP Short Term Actions



- **Develop a communications strategy**
- **Meet with your clients**
- **Re-energize ELTAC**
- **Temporarily accept accreditation/evaluations from a recognized program to lessen your backlog**

# External Communications Strategy



- It is good to see a draft planned communication strategy (7/15) and we applaud ELAP for putting something out for the public to know about.
- We hope it will be put on the ELAP website as soon as possible, even as a DRAFT.
- We would like to see ELAP moving faster on their goals to improve the knowledge base of the program (e.g. involvement with other states, TNI, etc). **So far** most of the **accomplished** external communications are more focused on building awareness that it's a NEW ELAP, and **not on improving the guts of the program.**

# External Communications Strategy- Continued



- The State Assessors forum does a monthly conference call; it would be **beneficial for ELAP staff to participate in that call beginning as soon as possible**; that will help ensure continuous improvement.
- We **like the concept of a newsletter** – suggest that ELAP reach out to SAC/ELTAC for ideas on what to include (see later comments on ELTAC)
- We **assume that ELAP is reflecting on lessons learned** from already completed activities (both internal and external) and modifying activities accordingly.

# Internal Communications Strategy



- Again, it is good to see a plan in writing.
- We **worry about the “serial training”** implied with the auditor roundtable, since ELAP already recognizes that there is a lack of appropriate skills, even amongst veteran auditors.
- This is reflected in a new micro audit checklist that has been used with some labs, that has some significant errors, and had no external review, to the best of our knowledge.

# Meet With Your Clients



- ELAP has had multiple events for certified labs (Meet and Greet and ELTAC byLaws). Some SAC members have attended each of these. **We do not have a good sense of how effective they have been.** The Meet and Greets appear to have been well attended.
- We recommend that when ELAP does these meetings they have an **agenda published in advance** to allow labs to evaluate whether they will benefit from attendance.
- We like the fact that ELAP is meeting with other agencies (data users). **Some kind of report-out** from those meetings would improve communications.

# Re-Energize ELTAC



- We like the general direction and idea of making ELTAC into a more effective forum.
- We still very much question the proposed makeup of the new ELTAC.
  - We feel ELTAC membership should be dominated by accredited labs. ELAP has other mechanisms for getting feedback from data users.
  - Draft membership is too focused on “assigned seats” and should be less prescriptive.
  - It may be challenging to select representatives in a timely manner.



# Re-Energize ELTAC- Continued



- Disbanding the former ELTAC as soon as possible left ELAP **with no official forum for bouncing of ideas/needs.**
- ELAP did 2 surveys of labs (perchlorate and lab size) **and both could have benefited from ELTAC input before the fact** (there was some informal input on perchlorate but just from individuals and not from a collective group).
- In the interim period before a new ELTAC is formed ELAP should **still be using the SAC forum for collective input to be more efficient.**

# Temporarily Accept Accreditations From A Recognized Program



- We know **ELAP has been trying to do this** (it was done for EEA, using Oregon NELAP as the basis).
  - The **devil is still in the details** – what if other programs don't offer accreditation for a specific CA analyte? (We had to expand our OR accreditation).
  - ELAP should have guidelines for how this will work so it is not done on the fly.
- We don't know if this has been consistent or how effectively it has worked to relieve pressures on ELAP.
- We don't know how well ELAP has advertised the option.

# Conclusions From SAC



- **ELAP is making progress on the initial recommendations, but it is still a work in progress.**
- **In the SAC's view, ELAP is still too internally focused in its actions and needs to engage in more outreach for input.**

# Any Questions?



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