



Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness & Response

National Biodefense Science Board  
Washington, D.C. 20201

March 5, 2014

Nicole Lurie, M.D., M.S.P.H.  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Lurie,

On September 11, 2013, the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) re-convened its Future of the NBSB (FON) Working Group (WG) in order to evaluate the presentations provided to it by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) leadership at the September 11, 2013 NBSB ASPR day. The purpose of this letter is to propose to you, based on those presentations, potential taskings for the NBSB in 2014.

The Future of the NBSB WG met on September 11 2013, in Washington, DC during the Annual NBSB/ASPR Day Meeting. The goal of this WG meeting was to permit open discussion between the FON WG and ASPR leadership in an effort to identify, prioritize and propose potential NBSB tasks to the ASPR. ASPR Office and Division Directors provided NBSB WG members with an overview of their programs and activities, and identified high priority questions/challenges facing their respective offices/divisions. Based on those presentations, the WG has deliberated and drafted a proposed priority list of tasks for your consideration.

The WG discussed topics consistent with the expertise of the NBSB members and those believed to be relevant to the public health of the American people. The WG proposes that you task the NBSB with addressing issues in the following topic areas:

Suggested Short Term Priority Areas:

1. The 2014 National Health Security Strategy (NHSS) and Implementation Plan would be an ideal priority for the NBSB. The board considers the NHSS a major leadership publication of the ASPR. The content of the NHSS is the roadmap for the plans and goals of the ASPR. Major sections could be devoted to Community Health Resilience (CHR) and Community Resilience in general. The Implementation Plan would outline the projects that would need to be executed to bring about CHR. The board would also be a valuable resource as it would be innovative in recommendations about the distribution and marketing of the NHSS.

2. The board is interested in being involved in the development and future implementation of the National Hospital Preparedness Program. Initial discussions have led the board to the conclusion that Dr. Marcozzi is interested in having the expertise of the board to help fill gaps of knowledge and ideas through NBSB recommendations.

Suggested Long Term Priority Areas:

1. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and Medical Countermeasures (MCM) – a second look. The NBSB provided several recommendations to the ASPR concerning MCM's in one of its earliest reports. The board recognizes that BARDA has made some sweeping changes in defining its goals and meeting expectations. Since that report, the board has had the opportunity to study the Strategic National Stockpile and also answer the question of "When is enough enough" from a preparedness and response perspective. The board feels that a second look at BARDA with their accumulated knowledge would be a valuable excursion.
2. The preparedness and response continuum – Federal, State, Territory and Local cooperation. The board fully recognizes that this continuum is critical and would like to offer the ASPR their observations and recommendations.
3. Preparing for an unknown threat.
4. Cyber security and Health Care.

Outlined above are our thoughts on future topics for which we feel the Board could provide advice. We look forward to your feedback on these areas of interest, as well as any topics that you would like for the Board to address. As always, we look forward to the work we will accomplish together in ensuring the public health and preparedness of our nation.

Sincerely,

John Parker, M.D., Major General (Retired)  
Chair, National Biodefense Science Board