Date: February 2, 2015
Description: 2015 TCC Meeting
Attendance: Laura Streichert, Howard Burkom, Lauren Johnson, Amy Ising, Caleb Wiedeman, Daniel Nakada, Dave Atrubin, Fernanda Dorea, Ian Painter, Jeffry Urban, Stacy Hoferka, Teresa Hamby, Wayne Loschen

Notes:

Laura Streichert: Bring ISDS TCC up to date with the contract that has been signed between ISDS and DTRA

- TCC
  - Laura: TCC address the problem space that Bio surveillance is developed by technology developers and not PH users
  - Mismatch between technical and BS needs
  - Key functions of surveillance and syndromic surveillance – this is a perfect area for ways to think about how we bring everything together
  - Methods for following up
    - IT issues and not the algorithms are what gain priority
  - There is a strong intersection between all the different parts of data
    - We need to get the right information in the right peoples hands at the right time
  - TCC:
    - Public health agency has a need
    - Submit case and data set to the TCC
    - Committee looks at this and the case will go off to different groups
      - With volunteer efforts, it hard to get this going and ISDS recognizes that it needs more focused attention
      - DTRA contract addresses these problems with the added opportunity to add this to the BSVE

- SOW
  - Advance analytic capabilities
  - Core: 5 consultancies which will span over 2 years
    - These will reflect the use cases which have been submitted to the TCC
    - Cases will be chosen by the advisory group
  - Contract is mainly all travel money in order to bring people together in boston to discuss these problems
    - People will come from academic and BSVE in order to bring solutions together into an app which would have wide reach and development in the biosurveillance community
  - BSVE:
    - Driven by user needs
    - Connects a global network
    - Community-driven and planned commercialization
Questions:

Howard Burkum: What is the BioSurveillance Ecosystem?
Answer: there have not been specifics but this is a user driven project.

Howard: DTRA is aware that they want to have their project be Public Health Driven and have good Value.
Answer: yes! Want this to address problems that state and local are experiencing

Laura Streichert

• Advisory Group
  - For this project, an advisory group will govern and make final decisions on what consultancies will be done and will develop the rubric for what will be chosen and how this will be used
  - Case template that has already been developed is great – just add title
  - 10 – 15 people
    • ISDS Staff
    • DTRA staff
    • DTRA and armed forces surveillance center staff
    • People from TCC
    • Others based on interest and reccomendations to make sure that we have equal representation
  - People on the advisory group are not necessarily the same people who are in the consultancy groups
    • This will be based on expertise and interest
  - Responsibilities:
    • Monthly calls
    • In person meeting at the ISDS Conference
    • Help to develop consultancies

Open to the group for discussion about responses:
• Open for Self or Other nominations for the Advisory board as well
• Qualifications for the Advisory Board?:

• Nanda: Doesn’t know if being on the veterinary slide would make one more or less qualified to help. Veterinary surveillance don’t have the funds to hire technology so technology is developed by the people who need them. Animal health can then help because they have experience with issues that are being developed on the user side.

• Ian: Having user developer experience would be very useful. Would also want to see people who are practitioners to have worked with the TCC. Someone who has also been on the solution development side as well.

• Wayne: If someone submits a use case and multiple research teams are interested in working on it, what would happen?
  - Answer: Advisory group would be able to bring in interested parties together. Would decide which of the use case ideas would go forth as a consultancies and greater interest by practitioners would bump up a case to the top of the list.

• Wayne: Could another team work on the case without having to fly to boston?
  - Answer: of course, as they become more developed ISDS can start to launch them and bring them to bosotn so that they can be worked on as a consultancy
- **Amy:** one of the requirements could be: “Would this benefit from an in person meeting more than another case might”
  - we should think about what would really benefit from this type of thing
- **Wayne:** could any of this money be used as prizes in order to find developers or other people to solve these problems?
  - **Answer:** this is not currently in the budget but if it is felt that this may make a really strong incentive, then we may want to visit the budget. Harder to get money to specific departments in public health
  - **Amy:** DTRA understand that this is a work in progress and they would love to have tools added to the BSVE and they want to find a good way to work with local and state practitioners as well as develop tools. If we find that we need to have challenges with prizes after working on this. We can add in prizes as a line item if this is found to be true
    - We might find that we really need datasets and it is hard to find datasets that follow the data use agreements so that might be something to think about as well
  - **Laura:** we need to remember to not start with technology that exists
- **Howard:** Eligibility to be on the advisory board: ISDS is suited for this award because there is a wide span of membership and we should have lots of representation on the advisory board as well. We need people with the analytical expertise as well as people who can solve the problem. The advisory board will need to take the use case and go to: “given the data sets that are available what are the potential solutions that are useful for the health departments”
  - **Laura:** to be able to sit down for two days to hammer things out will make a big difference.
- **Teresa:** We need to bring a lot of perspectives to the table to understand the issues. Bureaucracy is something that is a large issue at the state level. We will need to know how to understand and overcome this in order to help the state and local levels.
- **Howard:** Would Teresa’s department allow her to attend a consultancy?
  - **Teresa:** has no reason to see why not. There are various staff who have done this before and it is generally not frowned upon. If NJ is the worst case there is a good chance that it should be ok nationwide.
  - **Laura:** we will need to know what is needed and required at local levels
- **Daniel Neill:** How can I best play a role to move this forward if I like to: solve problems and come up with solutions? Can there be conflicts of interest with someone who is involved in the TCC or have worked on cases and solutions before?
  - **Howard:** People on the advisory committee are thinking about framing the problems in a practical way. Unfortunately, Howard cannot be on the advisory board since it may be a conflict of interest. Doesn’t see any problem with someone like Daniel sitting on the advisory group. It depends on what people’s individual institutions think
  - **Laura:** Need to remember that being on the advisory group and being a member of consultancy groups are different. People might fit into each of these sections differently.
  - **Howard:** Is it nieve to think that you can wear both hats?
  - **Daniel:** University may not have an issue but I might have an issue personally and will need to make sure that I objectively abstain from certain votes and other things as well.
- **Ian:** if there is no money going to the solution developers then there would not be a conflict of interest.
- **Howard:** this does not work for everyone. Not all groups will accept this rationalization.
- **Laura:** the idea is that most of the solutions being developed would be open access and we need to figure out the best way to do things and then bring it back to the public health community.
- **Wayne:** Comes back to Intellectual Property issues. Downside is that if the product already exists, and a member of the advisory board works with this group then that would be a strong conflict of interest. Need to be careful of this.
- **Laura:** Is good to know what is already out there and not come up with new solutions if one already exists.

- **Howard:** Do we want to get a selection process going?
  - **Laura:** yes! That is the most important thing at this time. We want to move forward with thinking about who the group should be.
    - State/local/veterinary
    - Technical
    - Solution developers
    - Start with self nominations so that we know who is interested

- **Howard:** Use case on special events based surveillance. Needed to talk about the dimensions of the different problems and this is too large. Want to talk about what are the doable pieces of a case and have solutions that have direct utility even if it doesn’t solve the entire problem. This would require many different types of people.
  - **Laura:** this depends on what you are developing.

- **Dave Atrubin:** Howard is right that there are many aspects to a special event and it is often hard to articulate the problem well enough. The advisory board does not travel for all the consultancies?
  - **Laura:** No, only for the ones that they are involved in. They will also be funded to go to ISDS 2015 to discuss cases for the coming year in 2016.

- **Howard:** how is the leeway for chaning the budget to provide incentives?
  - **Laura:** This will need to be discussed with DTRA because the contract is very specific and may not be able to be changed too easily.

- **Eric Lau:** Not sure if international people would have a roll in this type of group and would like to see if international members would have a role in this type of thing.
  - **Howard:** DTRA is interested in international problems and it could be interested if one of the consultancies could be from outside of the USA consultancy.
  - **Laura:** as far as having a meeting outside of the US, that may not be possible. But having a problem from outside of the us with a good use case could definitely be possible.

**Next steps:**

- **Laura:** I will be presenting at a technical interchange meeting at the end of Feb and would like to be able to present the Advisory board as well as the first case at this time.

- Notes will be posted online and a follow-up email will be sent out with a link in order for people to self nominate for the Advisory Board.