

Regional Toxicology Liaison - Quarterly Reflection and Progress Report

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Quarter reported: April – June 2022

The Regional Toxicology Liaisons (RTLs) have been very busy keeping up with the meetings and conferences within their Regions. The response from partners such as the Law Enforcement Liaisons (LEL), Judicial Outreach Liaisons (JOLs), Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRPs), and Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) has been very favorable. A list of laboratories and contacts in each Region has been established and the RTLs have met with most, if not all, of the laboratories in their Regions.

The RTLs have had requests to join various working groups and task forces. With each invitation, the RTL requests to include a representative from the state laboratory. The feedback from the laboratories has been very positive as they are often overlooked for participation. Joining together the laboratories and respective partners is still occurring and will continue as the project progresses.

Feedback from the laboratories have all indicated a strong need for courtroom and testimony training. The RTLs will be preparing a curriculum that can be modified by each laboratory to meet their needs. Funding sources will be sought to support the creation and dissemination of the curriculum which will include train the trainer sessions. The RTLs will begin this project at the end of 2022/early 2023.

In June, each RTL held the first of what will eventually be quarterly meetings for each region. The initial meetings were a “meet and greet” style with opening remarks by the NHTSA RAs. The RTLs requested each laboratory respond to a brief survey prior to the meetings to understand current needs, any supply shortages, and topics for further discussion. Future meetings will have a specific topic focus followed by a discussion.

Please see the Appendix for a full list of activities related to the project

Project challenges:

The RTLs continue to receive requests for assistance from Regions that are not included in this project. As time and resource permits, the RTLs are responding to the requests.

Appendix

RTL Activities, Q2, 2022

Region 5:

March 22 – Prosecuting the Drugged Driver (Michigan TSRP)
April 6 – NEAT Meeting (Presenter)
April 6 – Region 5 Law Enforcement Liaison Meeting
April 7 – ASB Toxicology CB Meeting
April 11 – Ohio Quarterly EDSWG Meeting: RTL Overview (Presenter)
April 21 – Regional Operations and Program Delivery (ROPD) Office Call
April 25-27 – Indiana Highway Traffic Safety Conference (Presenter)
-Included laboratory visit with IN state lab
April 26 – National Safety Council (NSC) Impairment Advisory Board Meeting
April 28 – Illinois TSRP Meeting
April 29 – Illinois Impaired Driving Taskforce Meeting
April 29 – Wisconsin Place of Last Drink Meeting
May 5 – ASB Toxicology CB Meeting
May 10 – NSC Cannabis Section Call
May 11 – SOFT Postmortem Committee Meeting
May 13 – R5 Impaired Driving Working Group
May 13 – Protecting New Yorkers from Drugged Driving (A9554/S8913)
May 20 – Current Trends in Toxicology Symposium (Presenter)
June 3 – ASB Toxicology CB Meeting
June 10 – IL-Midwest Impaired Driving Conference Speaker Meeting
June 10 – SOFT Drugs and Driving Committee Meeting
June 14 – NSC Cannabis Section Call
June 21 – R5 RTL Quarterly Meeting and JOL/TSRP Updates

Region 7

April 6 – LEL Informational Conference Call
April 7 – Meeting with State of Iowa labs and partners (virtual)
April 11-15 – Iowa Impaired Driving Assessment
April 12 – 13 – Arkansas Impaired Driving Prevention Taskforce (Presenter)
April 18 – Meeting with State of Nebraska labs and partners (virtual)
April 21 – Regional Operations and Program Delivery Monthly meeting (virtual)
April 25-29 – Region 7 Partners Meeting
-Included three laboratory visits in Kansas
May 4 – Meeting with Kansas Department of Transportation (virtual)
May 6 – Meeting with State of New York interested parties
-this was a request for input regarding legislation in NY
May 20 – Impaired Driving Subcommittee meeting (Missouri)

May 24 – All State Conference Monthly Meeting
June 22 – R7 RTL Quarterly Meeting
June 28 - All State Conference Monthly Meeting

Region 9

April 6-7 - Region 9 Partners meeting
May 4 – CNMI Discussion regarding oral fluid
May 5 – NHTSA/AAA OTS meeting, another meeting with OTS on this date
May 11 – CA Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting
May 12 – R9 Sentinel Surveillance meeting
May 13 – NY Toxicology Information Presentation to NY legislators (Presenter)
May 18 – Laboratory visit – SF
May 23 – Laboratory visit – Santa Clara
June 7 – Laboratory visit – Contra Costa
June 9 – Laboratory visit – Sacramento Co
June 13 – Laboratory visit – Solano Co
June 20 – Meeting with CHP Chief Helena Williams and Senior District Attorney General Harindar Kapur regarding NY Task Force inquiry for assistance
June 23 – R9 RTL Quarterly Meeting
June 26-29 – AZ Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Conference
 - Presented the RTL project to R8, R9, and R10 at the Western DRE State Coordinators Meeting.
 - Included laboratory visits with Mesa, Phoenix PD, and Arizona DPS (July 1)
 - Included laboratory visits with Mesa, Tucson PD, Phoenix PD and Arizona DPS (July 1)
June 30 – Meeting with Christine Moore to discuss the previous CA Surveillance Study

Meet every Wed with NHTSA R9