The EPA Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN)

FY'09

Field and Analytical Services

Teaming Advisory Committee Meeting
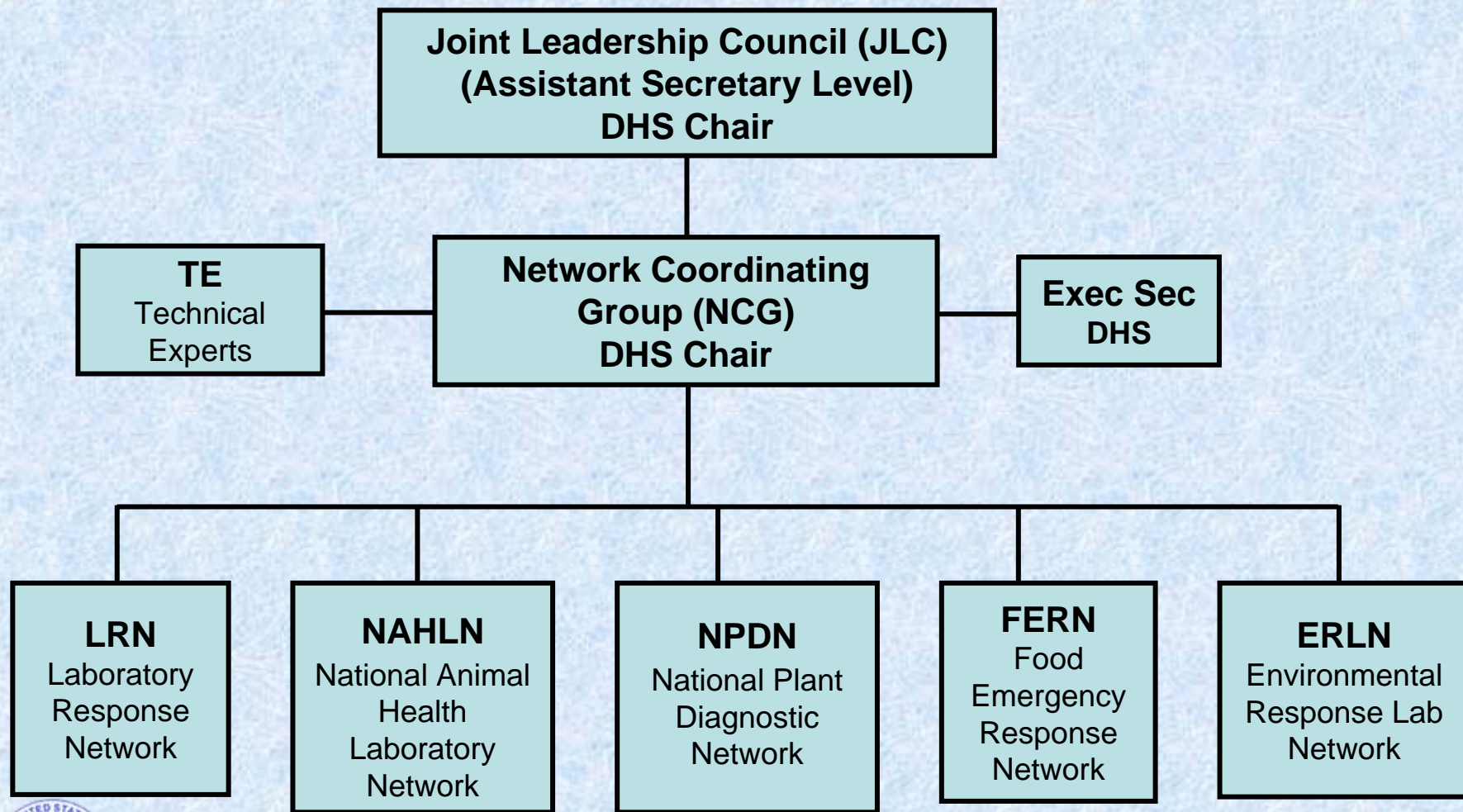
Terry Smith, Office Emergency Management (OEM)

What is the ERLN?

◆   **A comprehensive all-hazards /all-environmental media laboratory network to address preparedness, response, remediation, and recovery resulting from acts of terrorism or other emergencies**

◆   **Genesis: HSPDs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 22**

◆   **Focus is TIC, CWA, Rad, and Bio***

ICLN Organizational Structure

Joint Leadership Council (JLC)
(Assistant Secretary Level)
DHS Chair

TE
Technical
Experts

Network Coordinating
Group (NCG)
DHS Chair

Exec Sec
DHS

LRN
Laboratory
Response
Network

NAHLN
National Animal
Health
Laboratory
Network

NPDN
National Plant
Diagnostic
Network

FERN
Food
Emergency
Response
Network

ERLN
Environmental
Response Lab
Network

How Does the ERLN Work?

◆ **Managed through Homeland Security Laboratory Response Center (HSLRC), OEM, OSWER**

◆ **Designed to address analytical needs of responders during the initial response through recovery phases of an event**

◆ **Vision is for a day-to-day support network that can seamlessly support events at any level for covered contaminants from member laboratories of known quality**

◆ **Includes coordination of all other infrastructure demands of ICLN RFA designations (NHSRC, ORIA, OW, NEIC)**

EPA's Environmental Laboratory Response Program Status

- ◆ **The Environmental Laboratory Response Program**
  - ▪ **Phased approach**
  - ▪ **All 10 Regional labs are now formal members of ERLN**
    - • **Limited analytical capabilities for toxic chemicals**
    - • **Coordination with public and private labs within region**
    - • **Coordination with environmental units established under Incident Command System**
  - ▪ **Specialized Chemical Warfare laboratories (joint EPA/DHS)**
    - • **EPA Region 1,3,6,9,10, States of Virginia and Florida**

EPA's Environmental Laboratory Response Program Status

♦ **Phase 2 – mid 2009**

   ▪ **Solicitation of public labs and commercial labs**

   ▪ **Incorporation of ORIA Rad labs and OW utility labs**

   ▪ **Incorporation of CLP labs**

   ▪ **Incorporation of PHILIS mobile labs**

♦ **All must meet ERLN Membership Requirements**

ERLN Membership Criteria

◆ **Basic elements require:**

- Quality System (DW Certification, ISO 17025 or NELAP equivalent, CLP)

- Agreement to use ERLN methods

- Reporting requirements (EDD)

- Participate in proficiency testing program

- Submit to audits as appropriate

- Meet lab specific health and safety requirements

- Participate in Laboratory Compendium