

Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Date: April 20 2011

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Location: Georgia Department of Agriculture
Room #201 19 Martin Luther King Junior Dr SW
Atlanta GA 30334**

Minutes

Attendees: Joan Pittman , Jennifer Scott Ward, Melissa Tobin D Angelo, Ingrid Zambrana, Natalie Adan, Chris Smith , Kim Livsey, Melinda Scarborough, Tonya Gray , Giles Roberts Priya Nair, Wu San Chen, Roger Mazingo, Mark Norton, Karen Bremer, Tashana Thomas, Hope Dishman, Billy Skaggs, Karen Gulley , Jason Reagan, Michael Squibb Edward Smith, Kathleen Schmidt, Jennifer Kirby, Mandy P Seaman, Dana Shell, Stephanie Ali, Reuben Beverley, Mike Farrow Beth Bland Oelson, Derek Price ,Sydne Moody, Daniel Tew, Sidney Shepherd, Janice Buchanan ,Jennifer Owens

1. Welcome

Priya Nair, EHS-Net Food Coordinator with DCH(Department of Community Health) gave a warm welcome to all the attendees and thanked all for their voluntary participation. She gave a special thanks to Georgia Department of Agriculture for hosting the meeting. She informed everyone of the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Billy Skaggs, Chief Executive Officer at the Georgia Department of Agriculture greeted and expressed his delight to see all the attendees to the meeting. Everybody briefly introduced themselves. There were about 33 attendees with 3 new members among them.

2. Farmers, Food Safety and Education: GFVGA Bridges the Gap

Beth Bland, Director of Education with Georgia Fruit Vegetable Growers Association (GFVGA) presented a quick overview of the Georgia Fruit Vegetable Growers Association. She informed everyone about the mission, pesticide registration program for growers, the Georgia GAP program, partnership and its involvement with other produce associations and food safety programs, and member services. In addition to the above, she discussed the highlights of the most recent South Regional Conference held from January 6-9 2011 in Savannah Georgia. She handed some brochures and resource materials for attendees if they wanted more information.

3. Food Safety Modernization Act- Derek Price , FDA

Derek Price, Compliance officer with FDA presented a brief overview of the Food Safety Modernization Act. He discussed the need, public health imperative, process of implementation, challenges faced during implementation, and major priorities of the legislation.

4. FSIS Foodborne Illness Investigations
Wu San Chen, Public Health and Epidemiology Liaison with Foodborne Disease Investigations Branch at USDA presented a summary of activities of USDA's involvement in foodborne illness investigations.
5. Legislative update
Sydney Moody, Policy Advisor with Georgia Department of Agriculture gave a brief legislative update on the following bills:
 - HB 125 related to the creation of the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority was passed and come into force on July 1, 2011.
 - HB 12 related to raw milk did not receive any hearing.
 - HB 241 related to food adulteration of food, so as to prohibit labeling seafood as fresh under certain circumstances is in the House.She informed everyone about a study conducted by Georgia Department of Agriculture on the impact of immigration on Georgia's agriculture industry. And that the department would have to send the report with recommendations to governor by January 1, 2012.
6. Epidemiological update
Hope Dishman State Outbreak Coordinator with DCH informed everyone that Norovirus was the most common agent in recent foodborne outbreaks involving facilities including hotels, workshops associated with multiple foods. There were four cases of Salmonella typhimurium associated with small aquatic frogs. Currently there is an adult botulism case in East Metro Atlanta and investigation is in progress.
7. Announcements and Comments
Priya talked about the webcast related to Food Protection Task Force held on December 2, 2010 and discussed about the proposal to have a charter established for the Georgia Food Safety Defense Task Force. She informed everyone that she will mail the members electronically some resources for developing a charter and requested everyone to have their input on wanting this charter before the next meeting. She told everyone that if everybody is in favor of having a charter for the task force then a planning workgroup committee can be set-up having four to five members representing all food safety stakeholders to develop this charter.
Ingrid Zambrana with the Division of Domestic Field Investigations (DDFI) at FDA informed everyone about a recent vacancy posting for a foodborne emergency response coordinator and discussed about the position. She then asked Priya to forward the posting electronically to all the members.

8. Planning for the next meeting

Next meeting is to be planned in August 2011. Date, time and location yet have to be decided. Priya proposed to mail the members the tentative dates for the next meeting and she plans to choose the date that is most feasible by majority of the group. If anyone is interested to speak or present for the upcoming meeting in August, then please contact Priya.