

Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Date: April 5 2012

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Georgia Public Health Laboratory
1749 Clairmont Road Atlanta GA 30033

MINUTES

Attendees: Melissa Tobin D'Angelo, Daniel Tew, Tori Stivers, Kathleen Schmidt, Daniel Esoe, Natalie Adan, Chris Smith, Dr. Michael Doyle, Jason Reagan, Priya Nair, Tonya Gray Hope Dishman, Karen Gulley, Tashana Thomas, Mandy Seaman, Sidney Sheppard, Kathryn Nagy, Mark Woodard, Renne Dewach, Janice Buchanon, Denise Samples, Elizabeth Irvin, Mark Miklos, Dr. Park, Terri McConnell, Wilbur Huggins, Janet Buffer

1. Welcome

Priya Nair, Program Consultant with the Department of Public Health and the organizer of the Task Force meeting gave a warm welcome to all the attendees. She stated the purpose of the meeting and thanked everyone for their voluntary participation. She thanked the staff at Georgia Public Health Lab for setting up the venue for the meeting. There was an open round of introductions among the attendees. In total there were about 30 attendees.

2. Supplement to 2009 Food Code

Chris Smith Regional Food specialist with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) discussed the highlights of the supplement to the 2009 Food code which was released in September 2011. It is intended to keep the 2009 Food Code up-to-date. He briefly discussed on topics that included: Certified food safety manager (CFSM) requirements, key drop deliveries, employee health, Time as a public health control and bare hand contact with ready- to- eat foods. Members can access the Supplement to 2009 Food Code by clicking the link below:

www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode.

He informed everyone the meeting of the Conference for Food Protection is from April 13-18 2012.

3. Voluntary Net

Dr. Michael Doyle, Regents Professor of Food Microbiology and Director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia presented on Voluntary Net which is a food industry initiative to provide PFGE information to PulseNet regarding foodborne pathogen isolates recovered from food ingredients and products. Environmental samples will not be included. In addition, companies that provide samples to Voluntary Net will be anonymous. Dr. Doyle was being photographed by a photographer from University of Georgia while he was presenting at the meeting.

4. Food Safety Partnership Panel: A Take on Standard 7
Karen Gulley, Environmental Health Manager with Cobb & Douglas District played a video with regards to the Environmental health food and community partnership panel This panel was established in accordance with activities related to Program Standard 7 of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The video showed food service program related scenarios enacted by environmental health staff in an effort to educate public on food safety issues. Overall the video was informative, interesting and entertaining to everyone at the meeting.
5. Legislative update from Georgia Department of Agriculture
Natalie Adan, Food processing Manager with the Georgia Department of Agriculture gave a brief legislative update on the following: Bill 300 with regards to exemption for sugars, Bill 832 with regards to fees for Vidalia onions growers and Senate Bill 367.
6. FDA Sponsored Food Safety Task Force grant
Daniel Esoe with Georgia Department of Agriculture on behalf of Tressa Madden with Division of Federal State Relations at US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) presented on the FDA sponsored Food Safety Task Force grant. The funding of the grant is \$10,000 and funds can be used for a wider array of food safety activities. He gave an overview of the Food Protection Task Force website that would be awarded to each grant recipient. For more information on the grant, members may contact Travis Goodman at travis.goodman@fda.hhs.gov.
7. Epidemiological update
Hope Dishman State Outbreak Coordinator with Department of Public Health informed everyone of the following:
 - o Salmonella heidelberg foodborne outbreak that occurred in a prison of 2600 inmates in Coffee county.
 - o Salmonella outbreak associated with whole smoked turkeys that occurred during the Thanksgiving weekend last year.
 - o Norovirus outbreak associated with a buffet place that occurred in Walton county
 - o And about an ongoing multi-state Salmonella outbreak associated with sushi.
8. Announcements and comments
Meeting for the Georgia Association for Food Protection has been scheduled in September 2012. GEHA association conference is from July 11, 2012. Priya informed everyone that final draft of the proposed Charter of the Task force has been reviewed by the Charter planning committee and it will be submitted to all the members for their input before the next upcoming meeting.
9. Planning for the next meeting
Next upcoming meeting will be planned in December 2012. Date and time of the upcoming meeting is yet to be finalized. Anyone interested to present some topics for discussion or if any member wants to provide a venue for the upcoming meeting may contact me at prnair@dhr.state.ga.us.
For more information on the Georgia Food Safety Task Force please click below <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/envservices/FSTaskForce.asp>