

## **Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force**

**Date: August 4, 2011**

**Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Location: Food and Drug Administration SE Region  
60, 8th Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309**

### **Minutes**

Attendees: Melissa Tobin D Angelo, Chris Smith , Tonya Gray , Giles Roberts, Priya Nair, Karen Bremer, Hope Dishman, Karen Gulley , Jason Reagan, Michael Squibb Jennifer Kirby, Mandy P Seaman, Dana Shell, Brett Weed, Laurie Farmer, Stacey Bosch, Adamma Mba-Jonas, Oscar Garrison, Janice Buchanan ,Robert Wentworth Yaowen Huang ,Becky Meyer, Kathleen Schmidt, Russell Zablan ,Peggy Gates, Daniel Escoe ,Wilbur Huggins, Barney Harmon, LaTonya Mitchell Holmes, Dana Maxwell, Kenneth Cash, Larry Hortert, Tiffany Harris, Jo Ann Pittman, James Reed, Stephanie Hon, Paul Williams,John Gridley

1. Welcome

Priya Nair, Environmental Assessment Coordinator with Department of Public Health gave a warm welcome to all the attendees. She gave a special thanks to Laurie Farmer, Director State Cooperative Programs with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the South East Regional office for setting up the venue for the meeting. Priya informed everyone of the purpose of the meeting. There were about 38 attendees, including 10 new attendees among them. She acknowledged the presence of the new attendees to the meeting.

2. Health and Human Response to Fukushima Nuclear Disaster - Laurie Farmer FDA

Laurie Farmer discussed the Fukushima nuclear disaster situation in Japan that occurred on March 11, 2011. In addition, she talked about both the Japanese and domestic US response to the disaster. In addition, she discussed FDA's response on imported food products from Japan with regards to food safety issues concerning radiation from nuclear disaster.

3. Investigation Update: Outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli O104 (STEC O104:H4) Infections Associated with Travel to Germany – Adamma Mba-Jonas, EIS officer, CDC

Adamma Mba-Jonas, EIS office r with CDC discussed the timeline of the global Ecoli O104:H4 outbreak that originated in Germany on May 2011. In addition, she gave an overview of the investigation in response to the outbreak and discussed CDC's involvement with the outbreak.

4. **Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards - Standard 5 Food-related Illness and Outbreak Response- Brett Weed FDA**  
Brett Weed, State Liaison with FDA from Raleigh in North Carolina presented a brief overview of Standard 5 of the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards associated with response to food emergencies. He discussed the concept, requirements and practical application of these standards in a foodborne outbreak that occurred in school setting in North Carolina.
5. **Epidemiological update**  
Hope Dishman, State Outbreak Coordinator with Department of Public Health discussed about the following outbreaks:
  - Salmonella Heidelberg multistate outbreak associated with ground turkey that began on March 2011.
  - Salmonella Agona multistate outbreak related to whole fresh imported papayas. She acknowledged the involvement of Georgia Department of Agriculture with this outbreak.
  - Salmonella Saintpaul outbreak associated with raw produce in Georgia
  - Salmonella Barranquilla outbreak associated with a food service establishment in Georgia
  - Norovirus outbreak associated with lemonade in Cobb County in Georgia
6. **Announcements and Comments**  
Priya Nair discussed on the meeting that was held on June 30, 2011 with regards to the development of a template of the charter for the task force. And that the work on the development of the template of the charter is in progress. Oscar Garrison, Division Director of Consumer Protection with Georgia Department of Agriculture commented on the importance of establishing contact with food safety agencies in these task force meetings and how this can work as an advantage when it comes to implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act.  
Chris Smith Regional Food Specialist with FDA presented Certificates of Completion for Standard 1 of the FDA Retail Food Program Standards to Jason Reagan for Newton and Rockdale Counties. He also presented a Certificate of Completion for Standard 7 to Karen Gulley, Environmental Health County Manager for the Cobb-Douglas Public Health District. In addition, he announced that the State of Georgia is the 2nd most of any state in US for having a total of 47 enrolled jurisdictions with FDA program standards.
7. **Planning for the next meeting**  
Next meeting is to be planned in December 2011. Date, time and location yet have to be decided. Priya informed everyone that she will not be able to plan the upcoming meeting in December due to family reasons. She informed everyone that if anyone is interested to plan the upcoming meeting in December, they may contact her before September 15, 2011 for any assistance if needed.