

Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Date: August October 14, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Chick fil-A, Inc.

5200 Buffington Road

Atlanta, Georgia 30349

Minutes

Attendees:

Barbara Wood, Barney Harmon, Bob Payne, Dr. Cody, Dan Reddit, Dana Maxwell, Giles Roberts, Glen Echols, Hal King, Janice Buchanan, Jo Ann Pittman, Joi Hatch, Jennifer Scott Ward, Kenneth Cash, Kevin Jones, Kim Livsey, Laurie Farmer, Leola Scott, Lurlene Dixon, Mac Branch, Melinda Scarborough, Melissa Tobin D' Angelo, Priti Kolhe, Priya Nair, Roger Mazingo, Russell Zablan, Tonya Gray, Tori Stivers, Van Harris, Veny Gapud.

1. Welcome:

Dr. Hal King, with Food Safety & Brand Development at Chick-fil-A was the host of the meeting. He gave a warm welcome to all attendees and was pleased to have the meeting at the Chick-fil-A corporate office. Hal thanked all the regulatory members and talked about his passion for food safety. He is hoping to have more of this type of open communication and partnership with all government and industry food safety representatives in Georgia.

2. Introductions:

Van Harris, with the Georgia Department of Agriculture - Consumer Protection Division, stated the theme for the meeting was **Partnership and Collaboration**. He briefly introduced the guest speakers Bob Payne and Leola Scott. In addition, there were four new members to the task force. Everybody introduced themselves and their affiliation.

3. Partnership and Collaboration:

Allgood Pest Solutions IPM as a Food Safety Team Member

Bob Payne, Food Safety Director for Allgood Pest Solutions, talked about how he started his career in food safety with a background in pest control. In addition, he discussed the

connection between Food Safety and Integrated Pest Management. According to him, applying pesticides is an overreaction and food service operators must focus on food safety and basic sanitation to resolve their pest control problems in the long term.

Fulton County Working with Environmental Partners

Leola Scott, Environmental Compliance Coordinator with Fulton County gave a presentation on the Fats, Oil and Grease (F.O.G) program and its objectives. Environmental partners for the program include County Environmental Health Department, Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources. She discussed the need for collaboration and partnership with other Environmental partners who were involved in assisting the program through real life scenarios.

4. 2010 Food Safety Conference – Abstract:

Dr. Missy Cody announced the details of the upcoming Food Safety Conference which will be held in Atlanta from March 23 – 26, 2010. She informed everyone that the conference is co-sponsored by FSIS, CDC, NSF and other government agencies. In addition, GFSDTF will be presenting a poster and abstract which has been recently accepted. Highlights of the conference will include nine workshops, exhibits and networking opportunities for all food safety professionals. She stressed the importance of all members attending the event. For more information, members can contact her at mcody@gsu.edu. Conference information can also be found electronically on the Internet using any of the search engines.

5. DHR and Public Health Merger into DCH:

Giles Roberts, Director of the Food Program in the Environmental Health Section with the State of Georgia, discussed the transition of the **Department of Human Resources** into the **Department of Community Health**. On July 1, 2009, the official transition took place. He stated that business with regards to public health has been the same with no major changes. The new name will be featured on future correspondence.

6. 3rd Annual Food Safety & Defense Workshop:

Dan Reddit, Regional Food Specialist at the FDA, gave a brief overview on the recent Food Safety and Defense Workshop held in Atlanta on September 16, 2009. He stated that about sixty attendees participated in the workshop.

The main intent of the workshop was to educate and train small food service and food sales operators in controlling the five commonly CDC designated risk factors causing foodborne illness. Some of the highlights included presentations on topics including legal aspects of foodborne illness, food safety & defense and hands on learning demonstrations in four workstations addressing risk factors to foodborne illness. FDA representatives, Jo Ann Pittman and Kim Livsey discussed feedback received from the pre and post evaluations at the workshop. They also assisted as trainers at the workshop.

7. Epidemiological Update:

Mellissa Tobin D' Angelo, Medical Epidemiologist with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health informed everyone that there had been one foodborne outbreak with *Campylobacter* associated with potato salad in the Rome District. There is an ongoing case of *Vibrio* which is unusual concerning an immunocompromised person eating oysters. Serotype confirmation is pending. Melissa is also involved in a committee for providing guidance for **Shiga Toxin – *Escherichia coli*** testing which is to be published in the MMWR.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5812.pdf>

8. Other Issues and Comments:

Laurie Farmer, Director with State Cooperative Programs with the FDA, stated that Christopher Smith will be the Regional Food Safety Specialist replacing Kim Livsey's old position. She discussed the Food Safety Enhancement Act and its translation of FDA's authorities with the concept of the integrated food safety system. There is a new publication named Employee Health and Personal Hygiene Handbook available from FDA for employees in the retail food industry. Members can obtain a hard copy by contacting Laurie or Jo Ann. The Cooperative Retail Food Regional Seminar is to be held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, November 2-5, 2009. Members are asked to contact Dan Reddit for more information on the upcoming event. Russell Zablan with FDA discussed the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards and the Reportable Food Registry. Jo Ann Pittman distributed the education pamphlet on the Reportable Food Registry. The date for the next task force meeting will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned.