

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

December 1, 2010

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness Room #200

99 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr, Atlanta GA 30303

### **MINUTES**

#### Attendees:

Allison Jennings, Barney Harmon, Brian Smith, Chris Rustin, Dan Redditt, Dana J. Shell Edward Smith, Francis Annor, Giles Roberts, Dr. Hal King ,Hope Dishman , Ingrid Zambrana, Jennifer Kirby, Joann Pittman, Karen Bremer, Kimisha Griffin, Kevin Jones Dr. Larry Beuchat, Malcolm Saunders, Mick Miklos, Melinda Scarborough, Melissa Tobin D'Angelo, Michael Farrow, Michael Squibb, Natalie Adan, Oscar Garrison, Priti Kohle, Priya Nair, Susan Ebersbach, Tiffany Harmon, Tonya Gray, Tori Stivers, Wusan Chen

#### 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 of them for their participation. She gave a special thanks to Kevin Jones, Michael Squibb and staff with Fulton County for hosting the meeting. She stated that the theme of today's meeting was on foodborne illness and stated that foodborne illness is inevitable however it is preventable. She explained the purpose of the meeting and expressed her delight to having everyone at the meeting.

#### 2. Introductions

Everybody introduced themselves with affiliations. There were about 6 new members of the group. Overall, there were about 33 attendees.

#### 3. Pecan as a Potential Source of Salmonella and Other Foodborne Pathogens - Dr. Larry Beuchat, Distinguished Research Professor, Center for Food Safety with University of Georgia

Priya briefly introduced Dr. Larry Beuchat to the group. He discussed about the research regarding Pecans, as to whether they could be a potential source of Salmonella. He presented information on how Pecans were manufactured and discussed various modes of contamination for Salmonella in steps associated with manufacturing pecans. An electronic copy of his presentation is available with Priya for reference. If anyone is interested, please contact her to get a copy.

#### 4. Food Safety Defense Workshop Update – Dan Redditt, Regional Food Specialist FDA

Dan Redditt gave an update on the highlights of the recent Food Safety Defense Workshop that was held on September 28 2010 in Atlanta. There were about 70 attendees that included owners, managers and employees from the retail food establishments. 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 oral culture, legal aspects of foodborne illness, food safety & defense and hands on learning demonstrations in four workstations addressing risk factors to foodborne illness. Members of our task force – Alan Tart, Dan Redditt, Kimberly Livsey and Jo-Ann Pittman participated as trainers for the workshop. In addition, Oscar Garrison, member of our task force participated as a speaker on Food Defense. Dan Redditt, acknowledged the joint efforts of our task force members which have been very instrumental in making the Food Safety Defense workshop a big success.

#### 5. IIFIT Workshop – Dr. Hal King, Food and Product Safety, Chick-fil-A.

Priya briefly introduced Dr. King to all the members. Dr. King on behalf of NEHA (National Environmental Health Association) presented the information on the IIFIT (Industry Foodborne Illness Investigation Training) workshop. This workshop is based on the same concept as with the Epi-Ready training however it is more geared towards training industry food safety personnel in foodborne outbreak investigations. He discussed the background, goals, format of presentation, type of audience, timeline and future interests of the IIFIT workshop. He encouraged everyone in the group to spread the word about IIFIT training as this would foster sponsorship and promotion of the workshop. If anyone is interested to sponsor or get more information, they should contact Elizabeth Landeen, Project Specialist with NEHA for the IIFIT workshop. She can be reached at (860)357 2097 or Email: [elandeen@neha.org](mailto:elandeen@neha.org). Members can also view the NEHA website at [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org) for additional information.

#### 6. Legislative update

Oscar Garrison, Assistant Commissioner with Georgia Department of Agriculture gave a brief update on Food Safety Modernization Act, S 510. He also mentioned that the raw milk bill has been introduced in the Georgia House.

#### 7. Epidemiological update

Hope Dishman, State Outbreak Coordinator, informed everyone about a foodborne outbreak of Salmonella that occurred in Wayne County in August 2010. The outbreak was associated with a barbeque restaurant. The outbreak strain of salmonella was Salmonella infantis ,a typing that is rare. There were about 24 laboratory-confirmed and 73 probable cases. Findings from the Environmental Health assessments revealed ill food workers as the most likely source of contamination.

#### 8. Announcements and comments

Dan Redditt with FDA announced that there will be a webcast from FDA regarding the Food Protection Taskforce on December 2 2010 from 2:00pm-3:30pm. This webcast is hosted by the Division of Federal-State Relations (DFSR). He mentioned that he will be mailing the webcast information to Priya so she can distribute it through email to all members.

Priya asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes from last meeting held in August of 2010. There were none as acknowledged by the group.

In regards to the working directory for members of the task force, Oscar Garrison made a suggestion to include the mobile contact information of all the members in the directory and stated that this strictly to be meant for internal use among all the members.

Priya proposed to have an online link of the directory (external) on the Department of Community Health website under the Food Service program in Environmental Health Section. She informed everyone that the mobile contact information of all members will not be included in this external directory as suggested.

Karen Bremer with the Georgia Restaurant Association introduced herself and informed everyone of what her role was at the Georgia Restaurant Association. She also expressed delight in coming to the meeting and interacting with all members.

#### 9. Planning for the next meeting

Next meeting is to be planned in April 2011. Date, time and location 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.