

Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Date: August 25, 2010

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Georgia Public Health Laboratory

1749 Clairmont Road Atlanta GA 30033

MINUTES

Attendees:

Dan Reddit, Giles Roberts Janice Buchanan, Jennifer Scott Ward, Cameron Wiggins Hope Dishman , Kimberly Livsey, Laurie Farmer, Melinda Scarborough, Melissa Tobin D' Angelo, Priti Kolhe, Priya Nair, Roger Mazingo, Tonya Gray, Tori Stivers , Chris Smith, Oscar Garrison, Tripp Eldridge John Gridley, Barney Harmon, Joanne M Pittman, Tom Beacorn, Wusan Chen, Don Ackerman, Ed Smith

1. Welcome

Priya Nair, with DCH gave a warm welcome to all the attendees and thanked all of them for their participation. She also informed everyone Van Harris, former chairperson of the Task Force had retired last year and she will be filing in for Van Harris. She acknowledged Van Harris for his commitment to Task Force and hopes to continue with the same passion that he had for the Georgia Food Safety Defense Task Force.

2. Introductions

Everybody introduced themselves with affiliations. In addition, there were two new members to the group.

3. Legislative Update

Oscar Garrison, Assistant Commissioner with Georgia Department of Agriculture gave a brief update on Senate Bill 80 and how it has effectively enabled Georgia Department Agriculture's authorities to work together in cooperation with other food safety regulatory personnel and how this translated into the concept of the integrated food safety system. He also briefly discussed about HB1055 (Fee Bill).

3. Gulf Oil Spill

Kimberly Livsey, Emergency Response Coordinator with the FDA presented a detailed overview of the public health response done to manage the oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Overall the presentation was very informative and interesting.

4. Program Standards Update

Chris Smith, Regional Food Specialist with the FDA gave a brief introduction about himself including his background and his past work experience in food safety. He talked about his current experience in working with county environmental Health Offices, State and that he is getting familiar with Georgia. He also gave an update on the FDA Program Standards and was quite pleased with Cobb, Gwinnett and Douglas with their efforts in achieving the required levels of standardization. He stated that there are currently about 28 programs and in total 40 jurisdictions are enrolled in Georgia.

5. Other issues or comments

Christopher Smith Regional Food Safety Specialist with the FDA made an announcement regarding the 4th Annual Food Safety and Defense Workshop. The workshop will be held on September 28, 2010 from 9:00am-3:00pm at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast. He requested all the members to pass the word regarding this training event for food service operators. Oscar Garrison commented about the IFT Annual meeting in Chicago, which he stated the meeting was very productive.

7. Epidemiological Update

Hope Dishman, State Outbreak Coordinator, who is one of the new member informed everyone about a foodborne outbreak of E.coli and Campylobacter in Habersham County in Georgia that involved prison inmates.

Note: Date, time and location of the next meeting date and time to be announced.