

Georgia Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Date: April 22, 2009

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Community Center

1071 Piedmont Ave NE

Atlanta, GA 30309

Minutes

Attendees:

Holly Hollingsworth, Dana Cole, Russell Zablan, Priti Kolhe, Reuben B Beverly, Tori Stivers , Barbara Wood ,Kevin Jones, Barney Harmon, Mary Woleske ,Oscar Garrison ,Andrew Jaine, Kathy Kuzava ,Joan Pittman ,Mary Park, Mac Branch, Faith Critzer, Barbara Wood ,Jennifer Scott Ward, Melissa Tobin D Angelo, Ingrid Zambrana, Natalie Adan, Boniface Ugwuezi, Paul Williams, Robert Wentworth, Cameron Wiggins, Cham Dallas Kim Livsey ,Melinda Scarborough, Tonya Gray, Nelle Couret, Priya Nair, Van Harris Yao-wen Huang

1. GFSDTF Progress Report 2008

2. Piedmont Park - Green Market

Holly Hollingsworth, Mgr Green Market presented a brief overview of the activities of the Green Market. She informed about current programs and healthy initiatives for the public.

3. UGA/USDA Tabletop Food Emergency Exercise Summary

Cameron Wiggins, Food Emergency Response Program Coordinator with UGA presented a summary of the Table Top Exercise (TTX) which was held on April 8 2009 at UGA, Tate Center.

He discussed the following:-

- Purpose
- Draft Food Emergency Response Plan
- Elements of the TTX
- TTX participants and their specific comments
- Feedback of the TTX participants
- Next Steps for the plan

Overall, the TTX was productive according to majority of the participants. Functional Exercise to be held on August 12 2009. Location of the exercise is TBD.

5. AFDOSS Summary

Joan Pittman with the FDA presented a brief recap on the AFDOSS Spring Conference held on April 5-8 2009 in Franklin, Tennessee.

She informed of the following:-

- More than 60 participants from 11 states and Puerto Rico
- Topics included Best Practices in Retail Food and Food Processing for Data, Reporting, Dash-Boarding, Third Party Data Integration and Trending Analysis.
- FDA southwest and south east regional updates

- Topics included Active Foodborne illness surveillance, CDC's role in Food Safety and USDA update on food safety.
- Educational field trip to Historical Ellington Agricultural Center and Food Laboratory in Franklin, TN.
- The Eugene H.Holeman award given to Mr. Guy F Delius, Director of Kentucky Department of Public Health.
- CFSAN has established two consumer related publication request sites and the Employee First Web Ready Radio on their website.
- FDA sent a message to States on April 1 2009 to officially request by mail and fax number and types of computers and a statement on how the hardware will be used to support the food protection program. Contact person: Mr. Pete Salsbury, Phone :(301) 827 9510.

6. Grant Opportunities:

Food Safety Task Force Grant – Pet Food Project

Tori Stivers, with UGA announced the deadline for the electronic submission of project ideas by May 11 2009. Also Van Harris informed everyone about the purpose and rationale for the Pet Food Project. For more information about the project funding please contact Julie Hester, Mgr, Plant Food and Grant Division with GDA. Members who wish to volunteer for the project should contact Van Harris.

7. EHS-Net Georgia Food Code Impact Study Summary

Priya Nair, EHS-Net Food Coordinator presented a brief overview of the two proposed Georgia Food Code Impact Studies. Currently the studies are in the process of obtaining IRB approvals from Georgia and CDC.

8. Legislative Update!

Assistant Commissioner Oscar Garrison discussed Senate Bill 80. The food safety bill is innovative and the first of its kind to give the regulating agency the authority to hold food processing plants to a new level of accountability for the products they produce. The bill allows the Georgia Department of Agriculture to develop Rules and Regulations requiring regular testing of finished products and written food safety plans to prevent food injurious to health from entering commerce. It will require food processing plants to make test results available to the Georgia Department of Agriculture and report any confirmed positive test results within 24 hours to the Department. Additionally, the bill gives the Commissioner or his duly authorized agent access to the food processing plants during all hours of operation and all other reasonable hours and access to all records of pathogen destruction. He also discussed the new GDA processing team of five specialists which will be managed by Agriculture Manager Ms. Natalie Adan. Mr. Garrison expressed his appreciation for partner (Academia, FDA, USDA, DHR, Trade Groups & Associations and Industry) working cooperatively to resolve food safety issues.

9. Epidemiological Update!

Mellissa Tobin D Angelo, Medical Epidemiologist Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health informed that currently there are no foodborne outbreaks ongoing in Georgia. Currently there is no human food borne illnesses associated with pistachios.

Peanuts / Peanut Butter & Paste: FDA gave an update on the peanut and Pistachio Recall.

10. Other Issues and Comments

11. Planning for Next Meeting

Date for the next meeting to be TBD.