

Food Safety Task Force 1-14-04

DRAFT
Minutes
GFSTF

Roll:

Cheryl Brown, DHR
Dan Redditt, FDA
Malcolm Frazier, FDA
Robert Geller, GA Poison, DPH
Yao-wen Huang, University of GA
Melissa Tobin-D'Angelo, DHR
JoAnn Pittman, FDA
Janice Buchanon, Dekalb County BOH
Barbara Wood, FDA
Gayle Lancette, FDA
Reuben Beverly, GA Dept Agriculture
Annette Hopgood, GA Dept Education
Virginia O'Leary, Georgia State University
Paul Williams, GEMA
Blandon Moseley, GA Dept Agriculture
Akhtov M. Nasir, USDA, FSIS
Mark McGrath, GA DOE
Bill Byrd, GA Dept Agriculture
Chet Morris, FDA
Mike Smith, DHR
Cameron Smoak, GDA
Lee Myers
Van Harris

- 1) Dr. Meyers—Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
 - a) Reviewed prion diseases, including diagnosis, testing, and mode of transmission
 - b) Discussed unknowns such as role of genetic susceptibility and infectious dose
 - c) Gave a summary of events, in the U.K., Canada, and now the U.S., including the follow up that has been done so far on the tracing of the animals imported with the documented Washington case.
 - d) Discussed new federal policies concerning downer cattle, air injections, national animal identification, plans to increase surveillance, FDA review of feed ban, bans related to pet food production
 - e) Previous guidelines being discussed became official regulations, the week of January 11th
 - f) Discussed how to encourage producers to submit animals to the laboratory for testing and disposal, and the possibility of sampling at the time of slaughter
 - g) Dr. Meyers will be giving her BSE presentation to the Senate/House Agriculture committee

- 2) Chet Morris--BSE
 - a) Discussed USDA and FDA support of tracebacks

- b) Information given to state dairy officials who have called with concerns, as well as other industry members and the public
 - c) He will follow up on the amount of product being recalled and the estimated cost of incineration
- 3) Chet Morris—G8
- a) Barbara is the FDA leader, Chet is in charge of retail food safety. Plans will be analogous to the Olympics and NATO summit plans.
 - b) Training course for local environmental health in Savannah Feb 9-11
 - c) Exercise in April or May
 - i) Dr. Myers mentioned the State Agroterrorism Committee which involves GEMA members and should be involved with the G8 planning (GEMA region 5)
 - ii) Also need to involve CDC team in planning
 - d) Draft USDA plan given, not to be distributed beyond this group
 - e) Dr. Geller discussed the network of poison centers that also includes Florida, and the importance of communication and collaboration
 - i) Dr. Meyers mentioned a web-based communication package to deal with agricultural issues
 - ii) Dr. Geller mentioned the importance of medical response planning for patient care if people do become ill for whatever reason.
- 4) Bill Byrd, who is the web person for the GA Dept. of Agriculture, introduced the GA Food Safety Task Force website, and the various brochures in a number of languages that were available. www.agr.state.ga.us and use the food safety link.
- 5) Janice Buchanon discussed a new project she and Van Harris received funding for in **Dekalb County**
- a) To inform regulators about “atypical” types of facilities
 - b) Importance of understanding different cultures and demographics when evaluating a facility
 - c) 13 different types of cuisine, including Chinese, Mexican, African, Vietnamese, Korean, Soul Food, South American, etc.
 - d) Will provide cultural information, translated menus with photographs, typical facility layouts and information about preparation practices
 - e) Eventual production of CD and information downloadable from website.
- 6) **Dr. O’Leary from Georgia State University** discussed the mobile food safety van that will provide food safety information to consumers.
- a) Tied to the “fight bac” campaign
 - b) **Dr. Cody is arranging the Atlanta dates. She needs volunteers and input about possible locations.**
 - c) Media connections are also needed
- 7) Dr. Tobin-D’Angelo—Outbreaks

- a) School gastrointestinal illness attributed to "punch" in the cafeteria in October. No etiology was identified.
 - b) Possible Norovirus (not documented) cluster in persons who ate together at the same Mexican restaurant in November.
- 8) Various announcements
- a) March is national nutrition month
 - b) There is a school nutrition emergency readiness plan that includes a biosecurity checklist.
 - c) Association of Food and Drug Officials are trying to do a national meeting the last week in April, involving government, academia, and industry
 - d) Melinda is updating the directory
 - e) Grant writer position is needed.
- 9) **Next meeting is at the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture on March 18, 2004.**