

**MN FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENCE TASK FORCE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2017**

Ruth Petran called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

Members present included: Courtney Bidney, Chris Gindorff, Brent Kobielush, Caldoun Abuhakel, Lorrene (Lolly) Occhino, Annalisa Hultberg, Jamie Pfuhl (via teleconference) and Ruth Petran.

Visitors present included: Tony Becker, Allison Behling, Sally Crowley, Heidi DeBeck, Duane Hudson, Rima Kapadia, Heidi Kassenborg, Shaun Kennedy, Doug Lueders, Erin Mann, Lillian Otieno, Carrie Rigdon, Katherine Simon, Lisa Wetzel, Bob Zelenka, Purnendu C. Vasavada (via teleconference), Jane Jewett (via teleconference) Thanh Andrews (via teleconference).

**1. Announcements**

Katherine Simon (MDA):

- Continuing to work through the legislative process; positive session so far.
- The Food and Feed Safety Division has a new Produce Safety Program. Valerie Gamble is the Program Manager and we both recently attended a consortium meeting for grant recipients. In the process of setting up the program and currently have 2 vacancies: a Data Analyst and a Produce Safety Outreach position; postings are open until 3/29. The program office is in Northfield, MN.

**2. Dates and Links**

- Food Safety and Defense Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at Pomeroy Center, Room 213. Address: 1964 Fitch Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108, from 1:30 -4:30 pm
- [Draft Questions for FSDTF Key Stakeholder Interviews: Background and Informational Interview Questions](#) Prepared by Heidi Kassenborg - Training subcommittee, open for comment. Do not edit for version control

- [U.S. FDA Draft Guidance for Industry: Control of \*Listeria monocytogenes\* in Ready-to-Eat Foods](#); comment period open through July 17, 2017
- [U.S. FDA Draft Guidance for Industry: Compliance with and Recommendations for Implementation of the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption for Sprout Operations](#); comment period open through July 24, 2017
- [U.S. FDA: Third-Party Audits and FSMA](#)
- [U.S. FDA: FDA Considering Simplifying Agricultural Water Standards](#)
- [MDA Food Business Licensing and Food Safety Wizard](#)
- [Food Protection Task Force Virtual Conference](#)  
February 1, 2017 FPTF Virtual Conference recorded webinar

### 3. Attachments

- Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Overview
- Food Adulteration Incidents Registry and World Factbook of Food

### 4. The Minutes from January 10, 2017 meeting were approved.

### 5. Member and Visitor Updates:

**Courtney Bidney (General Mills):** Having 1st PC inspection at a facility right now. We've hit the date for implementing a supply chain program. Doing a deeper dive on intentional contamination rule. Also restructuring: separating pre-compliance from out-of-compliance and into separate units.

**Ruth Petran (Ecolab):** Ready for foreign compliance verification. Doing a deep dive into new revised draft guidance for controlling *Listeria* in ready-to-eat foods. Attended the GFSI Global Food Safety Conference in Houston and discussed the increased need for transparency -- especially around traceability

-- and the technology to assist with that (WGS, data management, and data collection).

**Rima Kapadia (Supervalu):** First Task Force meeting.

**Chris Gindorff (Lund's & Byerly's):** Looking at data collection source assistance. Concluding partnership with Purdue looking at the presence of *Salmonella* and *Listeria* in produce departments. The project has been helpful with development of SOPs and basic understanding; will continue studies for another 6 months. Also working with the Lincoln University of Missouri to get assistance with nanotechnology for rapid pathogen detection.

**Brent Kobielush (Cargill):** Received notices of 6 FSMA-related inspections, including 2 Preventive Controls inspections. Discussed with the group whether the PC inspections appear to be more focused outside US. Not sure if that is the case, but other GMA companies have had them.

**Lolly Occhino (AURI):** First Task Force meeting. AURI's previous representative, Karissa Nath, left to pursue other opportunities. I am a Food Scientist and do a lot of work with food companies and entrepreneurs.

**Heidi Kassenborg (Kassenborg Consulting LLC):** Just returned from a trip to Egypt. There is strong interest in Preventive Controls training over there. I've been doing a lot of traveling and PC training.

**Heidi DeBeck (FDA MIN-DO):** FDA has released its draft guidance for control of *Listeria monocytogenes* and the public can submit comments to the Technical Assistance Network (TAN). Also have released a draft guidance for growing, harvesting, packing and holding for sprout operations. You can also find third-party audits information on our website. FDA is also considering simplifying agricultural water quality standards - nothing has been revised yet, this is just a notice that FDA will be considering revising them.

**Caldoun Abuhakel (Done Right Food):** Adjusting menus to comply with food requirements.

**Bob Zelenka (MN Grain and Feed Association):** We have 450 grain elevators and 200 stand-alone commercial feed operations in MN. We hosted PCQI training last fall and considering doing another.

**Doug Lueders (MDA):** Participated in the first GMP inspection under in the FDA Minneapolis District under the new rules; there will be 25 in the district

for the next 8-9 months. Also participating in the group that is writing developing feed PC training (train-the-trainer) - training to be ready to go for regulators November 2017, but that may be an ambitious timeframe. There will be PC inspections for feed in the last quarter of FY2018. Regarding PCQI training: 4 MDA feed staff are currently instructors. Assisting with a training in MT in June that will mostly be for regulators but will include 10 slots for industry in MT. Overall, there are challenges for finding reasonably priced training for inspectors and there is a limited number of training opportunities; working with AAFCO and FDA to cover state regulator training.

**Lisa Wetzel (MDA):** Continuing to send Dairy inspectors to PCQI training but have several more to train. Regarding the legislative session, don't have many budget items but have re-write of Chapter 32 to simplify language and that is being received well.

**Duane Hudson (Hennepin County - filling in for Susan Palchick):** Participating in planning and emergency preparedness exercises for the Super Bowl 52 which include foodborne illness outbreak exercises, including intentional contamination. Outreach training is being aimed at farmers markets and temporary special events - expect 150 events leading up to the 10 days around the Super Bowl.

**Shaun Kennedy (Food Systems Institute):** Participated in a Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) - US Pharmacopeia joint workshop to demonstrate economically motivated adulteration prevention toolsets to identify where they are complementary. Also engaged in deploying food safety systems for firms who can't afford it.

**Annalisa Hultberg (Univ. of Minnesota Extension):** Hosting GAPs training and on-farm workshops, classroom training, and creating educational materials. We've been asked by farmers about FSMA, if they are covered; most of the growers we interact with are small and not covered. Also promoting farmer-to-school programs, typically through mock audits to identify what if anything needs to be improved. And helping farmers develop food safety plans.

**Lillian Otieno (MDA):** Finalizing on a web licensing project to help those seeking to get a new food license, navigate through and determine what license they may need. Available in 4 languages - English, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish. Task Force: Valerie Gamble and I participated in a food protection virtual conference. Task forces around the country presented on what they were doing. Valerie gave a MN update on strategic planning and FSMA related

training (PCQI), sponsored by the task force and the call-in option trial for our meetings. Many task forces have similar focus: training and collaboration with external partners. IA would like to propose re-doing the PCQI training for focus on small businesses. Also, a presentation on new enhanced tools in FoodSHIELD platform that task forces can use individually or for collaboration with other task forces. I will be coordinating the FSDTF as Valeria Gamble has moved to another role. Please reach out to me with any administrative questions.

**Jane Jewett (MISA):** Finished 6 local food fact sheets that are rolling out at today's MN Farmers Market Conference in Monticello. They are written for the buyers of products (what is approved source) and for producers (legal ways to sell their products). There is a need for more people who can write process authority letters; there is a bottleneck. Also working with Grow North - food entrepreneurial center in Carlson School of Management, supported by food foundations to provide support for small to medium food entrepreneurs; compiling list of resources for that project.

**Jamie Pfuhl (Minnesota Grocers Association):** Identifying opportunities to pass information to our members, including webinars.

**P.C. Vasavada (FSPCA):** Conducting training, including recently in Malaysia. Also participating on the NCIMS Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) HACCP implementation committee; this is an effort to harmonize preventive controls with the PMO and appendix N. Technical Assistance Network (TAN) for FSMA is working well: regulatory interpretation goes to the FDA TAN; non-regulatory goes to FSPCA.

## **6. Discussion: Task Force Sponsorship of Future PCQI Training**

- a. 5 deliverables in our Task Force grant:
  - Maintenance of web site
  - Training for Preventive Controls for Human Food
  - Training for Preventive Controls for Animal Food
  - Reaching out to other Task Forces
  - Regular Meetings
- b. Training courses sponsored in the past:
  - 2 human courses in 2016 and we have a holdover/wait list from last training in August 2016

- Task Force money has been used for the book costs for students, instructor costs, and certificate costs. Task Force money cannot be used on food.
- c. Future training – Preventive Controls for Human Food
- The Task Force discussed whether there is still a need for PC for human food training. MDA has received grant money to train regulatory staff, so the focus of any Task Force-sponsored training should be on industry. Jane Jewett listed entities that may not have heard of earlier training: Sprout growers, local food entrepreneurs connected through Midwest Pantry and local foods trade show.
  - Decisions and next steps:
    1. Proposal to sponsor a Human Food training in the summer
    2. Note to be sent to Task Force mailing list asking for volunteers to be trainers and identify available time slots
    3. Email those on the wait list from last year to see if there is still interest.
    4. Timing: in the summer but avoiding week of July 24 because MDA has been asked to host a lead instructor course during that time
    5. Location: Pomeroy center
    6. Cost: \$150-\$185
- d. Future training – Preventive Controls for Animal Food
- The Task Force discussed the need for sponsoring PC for Animal Food training. It was believed that larger companies have taken care of their training. MN Grain and Feed Association sponsored a training in fall 2016 with 45 companies participating. The smaller companies have until 2018 to comply, so there is likely a lot of interest now for those entities. Companies also may have been waiting for cheaper options since most of the trainings have had an \$800 registration fee.
  - Decisions and next steps:
    1. Proposal to sponsor an Animal Food training in the summer
    2. Note to be sent to Task Force mailing list to identify trainers and trainer availability, as well as trainee interest
    3. Note to be sent to MN Grain and Feed Association member list to gauge interest and provide 3 blocks of times that would be most preferable (with the caveat that this member list may not include many of the smaller companies)

4. Timing: get input from lists mentioned above; would likely want to avoid planting and harvest time
5. Cost: note that the material costs are \$50 for the book and \$30 for the certificate

## **7. Presentations**

- a. Tony Becker, Safety Administrator, MDA - gave a presentation on the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program Overview
- b. Erin Mann, FPDI – gave a presentation on two web tools: (1) Economically Motivated Adulteration and Intentional Adulteration Incident Database and (2) World Factbook of Foods

## **8. Subcommittee Breakout Notes**

Training – (Allison Behling, Chris Gindorff, Rima Kapadia, Lisa Wetzel, Shaun Kennedy, Heidi Kassenborg, Carrie Rigdon, Doug Lueders)

- a. Idea: Task Force to Survey the Associations for training needs
  - i. The subcommittee discussed a survey and decided that a key informant interview of the directors of food/commodity/trade associations would be the best way to identify training needs; asking them, “what do you know your members need help with and the best way to deliver it to them?” This information could then be linked up with the past Task Force training inventory to see if it is already developed. Where there are needs that TF hasn't done before, survey Task Force members for identification of resources. (See Heidi’s Draft questions under “Dates and Links”).
  - ii. We can get a list of food-related associations from MDA Communications Director
  - iii. Key informant interview questions:
    - Primary operational challenges
    - Regulatory issues that they don't understand
    - Do they understand their responsibilities in food safety
    - Preferred delivery method
- b. Inventory of educational materials
  - i. Perhaps start with going through past Task Force minutes and agendas to identify training that has been done as part of Task Force business
- c. Next steps:

- i. Get list of associations - Carrie
- ii. Add/Edit/Finalize list of who we want to survey (circulate to Subcommittee)
- iii. Draft introductory language and what we want to accomplish with interview
- iv. Draft list of questions
- v. Review past Task Force minutes to identify existing training and training gaps

Communications – (Courtney Bidney, Ruth Petran, Annalisa Hultberg, Heidi DeBeck, Lorrene (Lolly) Occhino, Katherine Simon, Lillian Otieno)

#### Top Focuses for Communications Subcommittee

2017:

1. Benchmarking with other task forces
  - a. Outreach to a “strong” task force – to inquire about their infrastructure and learn best practices that we may elect to adopt
    - i. How to choose a strong task force – Lillian/Katherine to reach out to FDA Office of Partnership for ideas and advice
    - ii. Topics to address –
      1. Who’s on the Task Force?
      2. How is the Task Force run?
      3. How do you communicate?
      4. How is outreach done and to whom?
      5. What is your training strategy?
  - b. Outreach to a local Task Force – to identify partnership opportunities and possible areas for collaboration
    - i. How to choose a who to work with – Probably Iowa. Lillian/Katherine to offer advice.
2. For this information, identify positive changes to our Task Force to help us improve

2018:

3. Implement these changes
4. Develop catchy infographic on what our Task Force is.

Next meeting to be held May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 1:30-4:30 PM, at the Pomeroy Center,  
Room 213. Address: 1964 Fitch Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108

**2017 Task Force Meeting Schedule**

July 25, 2017

September 19, 2017

November 14, 2017