

**Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force  
July 2018 – June 2019  
Terms of Reference**

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**1. Introduction**

The Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force has been established in statute to broaden views on foodborne outbreaks, food defense, and other food related hazards in order to improve the effectiveness of food safety control efforts in Minnesota. Additionally, the task force is established to advise the commissioner and the legislature on food safety and related issues, and to share information with stakeholders within and outside the Task Force.

**2. Statutory Overview (MN Statute 28A.21)**

2.1 The Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force consists of:

2.2 the commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee;

2.3 the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

2.4 a representative of the United States Food and Drug Administration;

2.5 a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture;

2.6 a representative of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute;

2.7 one member of the Minnesota Grocers Association;

2.8 one member from the University of Minnesota knowledgeable in food and food safety issues; and

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- 2.9 nine members appointed by the governor who are interested in food and food safety, of whom:
  - 2.9.1 two persons are health or food professionals;
  - 2.9.2 one person represents a statewide general farm organization;
  - 2.9.3 one person represents a local food inspection agency;
  - 2.9.4 one person represents a food-oriented consumer group;
  - 2.9.5 one person represents a Minnesota-based manufacturer of microbial detection equipment and remediation products; and
  - 2.9.6 three additional at-large members representing interest in food and food safety.

### **3. Vision**

A safe and secure food supply for Minnesota.

### **4. Mission**

Continuously improve the safety and defense of the food supply by providing a forum for public and private professionals to present emerging research, discuss current issues, sponsor critical training, and advise on food safety and defense systems to enable a risk-based approach to protect public health.

### **5. Duties**

- 5.1 As stated in MN Statute 28A.21 Subd.(5), the task force shall:
- 5.2 identify possible nominees to the Task Force who can make significant contributions to the work of the organization;
- 5.3 coordinate educational efforts regarding food safety and defense and serve as a source of information and referral for the public, news media, and others concerned with food safety and defense;
- 5.4 provide advice and coordination to state agencies as requested by the agencies;
- 5.5 make recommendations to Congress, the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and policy, the legislature, and others about appropriate action to improve food safety and defense in the state; and
- 5.6 share strategies related to food safety surveillance and investigation of foodborne illnesses and deliberate attacks on the food supply.

### **6. Governance**

- 6.1 The Task Force meets bi-monthly or 6 times a year, as determined by the chair (MN Statute 28A.21 Subd.(3)(b)).
  - 6.1.1 All Task Force meetings are open to the public.
  - 6.1.2 Those attending meetings can join sub-committees, present at meetings, and share information.
- 6.2 Appointed members will elect a Task Force chair every four years (MN Statute 28A.21 Subd.(3)(c)).
  - 6.2.1 The chair will be a member of the food industry or academia.

- 6.3 Appointed members will elect a vice-chair to serve in absence of the chair. The vice-chair will represent the Task Force for a period of four years at which time, if the appointed members choose, the vice-chair can become chair.
  - 6.3.1 The vice-chair will be a member of the food industry or academia.
- 6.4 General attendees are not allowed to vote on Chair or Vice-Chair positions.
- 6.5 Appointed task force members serve four-year terms without compensation; (MN Statute 28A.21 Subd.(2) (b)).
- 6.6 Appointed members are expected to:
  - 6.6.1 attend all Task Force and committee meetings and functions;
  - 6.6.2 promote the Task Force with senior management in our respective organizations;
  - 6.6.3 stay informed about the organization's mission, services, policies and programs;
  - 6.6.4 keep up-to-date on developments in the organization's field;
  - 6.6.5 assist the Task Force in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization's annual budget;
  - 6.6.6 provide presentations by new representatives of the Task Force on their respective roles and responsibilities as they relate to food safety and surveillance;
  - 6.6.7 review agenda and supporting materials prior to Task Force and committee meetings; and
  - 6.6.8 serve on subcommittees and offer to take on special assignments.

## **7. Subcommittees**

- 7.1. Subcommittees will be generated as needed based on the mission statement for the task force. All work activities will be directed by the Food Safety and Defense Task Force.
- 7.2. The following is a list of proposed subcommittees:
  - 7.2.1. Training and Education
  - 7.2.2. Emerging Issues
  - 7.2.3. Outreach/Marketing/Communication
  - 7.2.4. Legislative Advocacy Committee
  - 7.2.5. Food Innovation Team
- 7.3. The Subcommittee will elect a chair or co-chairs to guide the subcommittee's work.
  - 7.3.1. The chair or co-chairs will represent the sub-committee for a period of two years.
- 7.4. The chair(s) will work with MDA staff to coordinate, schedule, and recruit members.
- 7.5. Subcommittee chairs will report on actions, activities and actionable items at each bi-monthly Task Force meeting and provide a written recap to be shared in the meeting notes.
  - 7.5.1. Subcommittee updates maybe be circulated by e-mail in the minutes as opposed to giving updates during the bimonthly meeting.
- 7.6. MDA staff will provide coordination for the subcommittees.

## **8. Administration**

- 8.1. The commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture shall provide support staff, office space, and administrative services for the task force. (MN Statute 28A.21 Subd.(4))
- 8.2. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the task force. (MS Statute 28A.21 Subd.(3)(a))
- 8.3. The Task Force will complete its work after one calendar year and may be re-constituted, with re-negotiated Terms of Reference.
- 8.4. Decisions will be reached based upon a consensus of the members.
- 8.5. Agendas, minutes and relevant documents for each meeting will be distributed electronically prior to the meeting date
- 8.6. Minutes of the meeting will be taken outlining Task Force discussion, decisions and recommendations.
  - 8.6.1. Draft minutes will be distributed 14 days after the meeting for review, comments and follow-up on action items.
- 8.7. The Governor's Office will reserve the right to sunset this Task Force at a time of their choosing.
- 8.8. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed and amended as needed by the Task Force's appointed members, but not less than once annually.

## **Appendix I**

### Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force Management Plan FY 2018 – 2019

#### Task Force 2018 – 2019 tentative meeting schedule

- a. July 17, 2018
- b. September 18, 2018
- c. November 20, 2018
- d. January 15, 2019
- e. March 19, 2019
- f. May 21, 2019

#### Active Subcommittees

- a. Training and Education
- b. Emerging Issues
- c. Outreach/Marketing/Communication
- d. Proposed: Legislative Advocacy
- e. Food Innovation Team

## **Appendix II. Food Innovation Team**

The guiding procedural document for the Food Innovation Team will be MNTF.SOP.10.01, "Minnesota Food Safety & Defense Task Force – Food Innovation Team." This standard operating procedure (SOP) provides the following and can be found on the FSDTF website:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Background
4. Definitions
5. Acronyms
6. Responsibility
7. Procedures
8. Related Documents
9. Equipment/Materials Needed
10. Safety
11. Circulation
12. Approval/Document History