

Nevada Food and Safety Task Force [NFSTF]
Meeting: February 4th, 2005
Reno Hilton

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance:

Anna Vickrey, Dave Evans, Robert Sobsey, Aruna Surendera Babu, John Roberts, Bryan Wagner, Jim Pierce, Joe Eidem, John Marcello, Linda Newton, Tony Macaluso, Cindy Ulch.

Approval of By-Laws:

By Law Revisions-Anna went over the changes which are related to chair persons. Motion made to approve. Approve unanimously. Anna will clean up by laws-and get them out to everyone.

Review of Goals:

Anna-
Need to get minutes together for documentation; funding is not yet available for travel; Since Daren Winkelman does not attend we need a new regulatory chair.

FDA Course-Some courses are being planned. FDA will contact Anna about details.
Website funding-I will bill when funding is available probably in July.
Anna had a conference call with other taskforces. Main issues are communication between agencies, outbreaks and labs.

We have attendance issues, need to get it up. John Marcello said there were probably too many issues need to focus on one issue. Such as FBI surveillance and coordination response would also tie into food security.

Other things task forces are doing:

Website: can place additional info such as on-line training, docs, guidance docs, food handling tips etc.
Food svc recognition program
Food code standardization> John Marcello, FDA

Robert Sobsey suggested the email list should be culled.
Anna had already tried but no one has asked to be removed.

Election of New Lead Chair:

Robert Sobsey was nominated. Robert wasn't convinced he could do the job well. He cited time constraints. Anna explained other members would be willing to help with minutes.

By laws could be rewritten for past chair to help the current chair.

We just need to keep trying and by focusing on a specific topic or project might generate more interest. John Marcello said something substantive needs to happen.

Robert said he really didn't have time. Cindy asked Dave Evans whether he could, but declined due to workload. But then said he would serve. Dave Evans was elected the new Chair of the Task Force.

Members felt the Agenda should be sent out 6 weeks before a meeting.

Anna said we could have a standardized agenda.

Regulatory Chair - Anna will contact Darin Winkelman to find out whether he is still interested.

Agency Updates:

Robert Sobsey - WCHD-Lead in candy

Washoe County is part of a task force working on this health hazard.

Handout. The candy is very popular in the Hispanic population.

Washoe County is working with the FDA and APHS regarding a resolution to resolve this.

Salt based Lucas brands are a particular problem. They are trying to get some national standards based on the resolution.

There will be a slow response by the Feds in setting national standard.

John M. will bring a suitable FDR person to discuss this, a Public affairs specialist.

Daniel Maxson would be the Clark County contact.

Local paper-Reno Gaz Jr. will publish article on this.

Jim Pierce: website is being maintained, he is also working with the REHS Board and NEHA which is to have a July conference.

Aruna for Stan Omaye

Questionnaire ready for posting. They are almost ready to put survey on-line. They need to notify people by fax and mail.

Need fax number to receive surveys

2 different questionnaires - regulatory and industry.

Survey duration = 30 days with reminder before deadline.

Joe Eidem - Washoe Medical - Half of his staff are certified by John Roberts

John Roberts - Now self employed, trying to diversify by doing some consulting, He feels glove use and hand washing are major issues. In relation to Noroviruses.

He discussed an Arizona case a year ago involving Gatorade where hot weather compromised patient's health and the illness lead to his death. The problem caused by contaminated drinking water and handling at golf courses and schools. These are common practices.

Dave Evans: Training for Carlisle Food Svc Products

Food safety and the role of regulators, training done at Incline Village in mid January 2005

CDC now lists norovirus. as number one on list of FBI. Viral agents are best controlled by hand washing and gloves

Washoe County can test in 24 hours. Does tests in batches.

Their lab tech might be a speaker. Cannot test for Noroviruses in food or environmental samples. Can do tests on water

FDA-John Marcello-their Federal budget cuts were 20 percent this year and added 20 percent next year. Staff positions not filled.

Task Force funding is still there but not guaranteed.

Other funds may be available for an initiative.

He said the Task Force could devise a partnership proposal-one page

John can help with presentations-such as for NEHA.

Regulatory standards or something related to it.

FBI surveillance.

Suggests an action plan and timeline to focus on a topic

Multnomah County has some FBI surveillance software that they must share.

Task Force Funds-We need to get FDA committed to funding the Task Force.

Clark County-Linda Newton

Standardization is continuing, redoing their food code

Mgmt has first draft, they will decide on when hearings done; public input needed; then to Clark County Health Board for approval.

Food Mgr Certification is included in the proposed regs.

WCHD- Tony Macaluso

2 new employees

Standardization-they are working on it; also new fee schedule being developed.

Health Division - Cindy Ulch

This is her first meeting of Task Force.

Ely position is now filled, by Chuck Stall

New Bureau Chief and Env Hlth Supervisor are almost in place.

Winnemucca office position is vacant

New employee-Erica Ryan in Las Vegas, will work in Pahrump.

Doing program standards - self assessment.

Anna will share grant proposal info with Cindy

Cindy Ulch

State may adopt food code by reference after public and industry input.

Hlth Div-BHPS has new managers and supervisor

Cindy explained "by reference", NRS to adopt it in the language.

There is nothing definite right now.

Robert Sobsey mentioned issue of different regulations as an issue so adopting the Food code could help with this. Discussion: Labeling and standardize approach, this would require all agencies to get together to work it out.

Dairy Commission: Anna

No Legislative issues.

Slice N Dice Cheese facility planned in Reno. Food processor.

Cream cheese facility planned for Lyon County

Working with Dept of Ag-regarding dairy animals.

Partnership money requested, \$ 100 K for BSE

Had Regional IMS in Reno last Fall (Nov)

FDA not allowed in facilities with smoking and gambling and this causing a problem in finding a place for meetings.

Some milk issues regarding predatory pricing.

Break at 11:25 am

Cindy Ulch said Valerie Weiner-St Legislator called the Health Division. She is concerned about school food inspections and wants data. She saw a TV program about poor conditions of school cafeterias.

Joe Eidem said he could host meetings @ Remedies

Bellagio will host meetings as well.

The Task Force needs to focus on goals/issues such as:

- Testing/Sampling Norwalk
- Strategic standards
- FDA Labeling standards
- FBI surveillance (John Marcello. will send out software by Feb 14th)
- Incident response system.
- Resources/availability
- Forensic epidemiology
- Health Division Emergency Operations

Managing Food Safety, FDA Course in Las Vegas, May 20th at Luxor. Task Force could meet afterwards.

Public Comments or Questions:

None present.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm