

# NEVADA FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE

MARCH 22, 2006 MEETING MINUTES  
BELLAGIO RESORT HOTEL CASINO – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## *Attendance:*

Robert Morin (Gold Dust West), Bryan Wagner (WCDHD), John R. Smith (Stratosphere), Robert Sobsey (WCDHD), David McNinch (WCDHD), Robbin Rose (WCDHD), Bryan Wagner (WCDHD), Don Barker (Boyd Gaming), Barbara Collazo (MC/TI), Louis St. Andrew (Circus Circus), Rocky Bevevino, Jimmy Vigilante (MGM/Mirage), Stefano Caligiuri (Luxor), Marty Boddie (Excalibur), Chad Westom (NSHD), Teresa Hayes (CCHD), Connie Lucido (CCHD), Tim Jones (MGM/Mirage), Anna Vickrey (NV State Dairy), Linda Newton (Southern NV Health Dist.), Keith Norman (Suncoast), Kathy Stewart (Nevada Dept. Education), Ash Haddad (Treasure Island), Ann Anders (Bellagio), Carol Kanz (Luxor), Jeff Braun (Mirage), Austin Bradley (Mirage), Joseph Iser (FDA), John Marcello (FDA), Tony Macaluso (WCDHD)

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Robert called meeting to order:

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved from the March 22, 2006 meeting with the following amendments: Robert Sobsey gave clarification that the previous March 21, 2006, Regulatory meeting was not part of the NFSTF regular group meeting. This was a separate meeting with FDA and other agencies to establish partnership agreement to coordinate food, drug, and device protection efforts.

Election of Officers: Those currently serving as lead, industry, academia and regulatory chairs were reelected to the same positions.

The voting members present approved of allowing all individuals present at the meeting to vote during the meeting.

Bryan Wagner requested that Section 3c of NFSTF Bylaws be amended to allow all members to vote. Robbin Rose suggested this matter be sent to a committee for further consideration. A Bylaws Committee was formed to consider changes to Section 3c. This Bylaws committee will also consider changes to Section 6b and 7c of the Bylaws. A Clarification of Section 7c of the Bylaws was approved. The word “Chairperson” was changed to “Lead-Chairperson”.

Bryan Wagner brought to the NFSTF attention HR 4167: National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005. Because of the potential impact to local, state and consumer protection programs, John Marcello suggested NFSTF might want to form a committee to further discuss this issue.

John Marcello lead a discussion of the Epidemiology flow chats and Carson City Health Department and Nevada State Health Division are working to have theirs completed by next NFSTF meeting.

Chad Westom of Nevada State Health Division discussed the following items, which was met with spirited debate. Item # 1, temperature, the group felt 135 degrees was an appropriate hot

holding temperature. Item #2, John Marcello strongly felt that it was warranted to use the FDA Model Food Code guidelines for exclusion of ill food handlers from work. This appeared to be a consensus within the group. Item # 3, Number of Bathroom facilities, the consensus appeared to leave this the same. Item #4, Food Inspection report, Annex 7, listed as Form 3-A Food Establishment Inspection Report was also discussed.

Jimmy Vigilante, lead a discussion of food safety and sanitation from various Clark County properties. Several chef's, food and beverage managers, safety staff from various Las Vegas properties contributed to this discussion.

Anna Vickrey led a discussion on the equitable distribution of acquired Joseph Salvato books and CDC study materials.

Robert Sobsey gave an overview of a teleconference between other participating task force groups throughout the country. Emphasis was placed on NFSTF involvement with Standard 5 of the FDA's recommended national retail food regulatory program standards and establishing greater uniformity and communication. Also, NFSTF web site was discussed and the sharing of information from other such task force sites.

Linda Newton gave a presentation on the actions taken by the Southern Nevada Health District on lead in candy from Mexico. The Southern Nevada Health District has taken the nationwide lead in removing, through a cease and desist order, Mexican candy that has historically tested high for lead. The Southern Nevada Health District is also testing for lead in suspect candy. In addition, the Southern Nevada Health District is in negotiations with some of the candy manufacturers concerning lowering the amounts of lead contained in their candy products. Linda Newton stated the reason why the Southern Nevada Health District has taken these actions is because young children are especially susceptible to lead poisoning. Linda Newton noted that lead has been shown to cause loss in cognitive function in young children even at very low blood lead levels.

Robbin Rose asked John Marcello why the FDA has not taken action to remove these Mexican candies from the stores. John Marcello stated that, as a result of the American Public Health Association Resolution on Lead in Candy, the FDA had placed the issue of lead in candy on a higher priority level for review. As a result, the FDA has recently issued proposed guidance levels, which greatly reduce the amount of lead allowed in candy.

The NFSTF voted for a show of support of the actions taken by the Southern Nevada Health District.

Tony Macaluso suggested a committee be formed to develop guidelines as to what constitutes a Member of the Nevada Food Safety Task Force. Several people offered to be on this as well as the Bylaws revision committee.

The next scheduled Nevada Food Safety Task Force meeting will be a videoconference June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The location and specific details of this meeting are pending.