

*Nevada Food Safety Task Force
Meeting Minutes*

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe

December 6, 2006
Incline Village, NV

Members in Attendance (new/corrected emails indicated)

Anna Vickery
Bryan Wagner
Carol Fisher cfisher@atlantiscasino.com
Chad Westom
Cindy Ulch
Don Barker
Doug Simpson
Joe Eidem jeidem@renown.org
John Marcello
Joseph Iser
Linda Newton
Lisa Wright sue.vergne@jackinthebox.com replacement
Robert Morin
Robert Sobsey
Sandra Brown
Sean Gephart sgephart@agri.state.nv.us
Stan Omaye
Steven Goode
Tony Macaluso

1. Robert Sobsey, Lead Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:45 am. Members in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes of the meeting held on August 24th were unanimously approved.
2. John Marcello, FDA Retail Food Specialist, led a discussion regarding FDA's Food Defense ALERT Awareness Initiative. John distributed ALERT program materials – brochure and card – to everyone in attendance. The Agency is requesting support and guidance with the dissemination of this information to reach as many food facilities as possible. The FDA relies on the local agencies to assist in training operators in how to minimize and/or identify terrorism-related threats, how to respond, and whom to call to report suspicious activity. Recent intelligence suggests that terrorists are taking a close look at the food supply because tampering with food could result in widespread fear and major economic disruption. The recent theft of agricultural products (almonds and walnuts) from the central valley of California suggests that our food defense systems are not in place.

CFSAN's number 1 priority is to get the ALERT Food Defense information out to everyone possible. Discussion ensued on how best to do this at the local level:

- Place on State and local websites
- Distribute with inspections
- Distribute with permits
- Use in local newsletters
- Use local and State Restaurant Association
- Use local business associations especially with non-English speaking membership

ALERT cards and brochures are available in numerous languages. John encouraged FSTF members to have similar discussions in their own offices to gather ideas and come back to the next meeting with ALERT Program distribution and training action plans, ideas, estimates of how many copies of materials will be needed, and in what languages so that the correct amount can be made available.

3. John Marcello, FDA, also revisited topic of comparing complaint logs for standardized information-collection and matrix development. A proposed matrix has been distributed to the jurisdictions for review and input prior to developing the final format. Dr. Joseph Iser, FDA, discussed merits of trace back capability as seen with the recent Salinas Valley incident and how this relates to a standardized complaint log setup.
4. Robert Sobsey introduced the hand washing posters that are available in multiple sizes and were produced using FSTF funds. The group complimented Robert on the design and thanked him for his work on this project. The posters will be produced in Spanish. It is currently available electronically, in color, and can be printed on a standard 8.5 X 11 sheet of paper. 70,000 copies have been printed. The poster has been designed to be generic enough to be used in schools, child care facilities, etc. A suggestion was made that the State could distribute one to every licensed facility when permits are renewed. Robert announced that the poster has been registered with the United States Copyright Office, Nevada FSTF as the author.
5. The design of a NV FSTF logo was discussed and several ideas were shared with the group. Erica Ryan will be asked to incorporate some of the task force member's thoughts regarding the designs. Robert Sobsey will electronically distribute forthcoming examples for final decision. The logo will be used on the website, on paper documents, and on such materials as the hand washing posters in future printings.
6. Dr. Joseph Iser, FDA, will be retiring in January and will assume role of Director of Public Health for Nevada County, CA. His replacement has been selected and will be identified soon. This person will attend NV FSTF meetings in future and will continue with the projects Dr. Iser has been involved with. The members extended their appreciation to Dr. Iser for his service and wished him well with his next endeavor.

7. The Membership Application under development was discussed by Linda Newton, SNHD. Anna Vickrey volunteered to finalize the document once the logo has been approved and will use her name and agency as the contact for the Nevada FSTF.
8. A number of members met informally before the last meeting to brainstorm ways of promoting hand washing. An outcome of this process was the new hand washing poster as shown by Robert Sobsey. Bryan Wagner suggested that this subcommittee should be formalized and should meet ½ to 1 hour before each FSTF meeting. The members agreed to formalize the subcommittee and voted to approve this.

John Marcello suggested that the NV FSAC may be interested in reviewing and/or sharing best practices through a new website set up by CFSAN. He will provide us with the website's address.

9. Bryan Wagner also generated some discussion about the possibility of a sick leave policy being developed by the Nevada FSTF. Much discussion ensued and the result was that this idea should be tabled for now. Industry support would be hard to obtain. It was thought that focusing on hand washing would be the more prudent way to proceed in the attempt to reduce the number of person to person transmissions of foodborne illnesses.
10. Bryan Wagner discussed the Bylaws update process. The only comment he received from the group to his emailed request for review came from Jimmy Vigilante. The group supported this change. John Marcello also suggested that the term "food defense" be used to replace the term "food security" where appropriate. Bryan agreed to incorporate these changes, redistribute the Bylaws, then solicit a vote at the next meeting.
11. Anna Vickery asked Robert Sobsey to continue on as Lead Chair until a replacement is identified at the next meeting or until he is reelected to the post at the next meeting. Robert agreed and also will add election of officers to the agenda for the next meeting. Member applications will contain check boxes for those willing to serve in various roles. All members will be asked to complete an application prior to the next meeting and should consider how they would like to serve the group.
12. John Marcello asked for feedback and input into a new project in the FSA to develop an Employee Health Handbook.
13. Bob Morin, Gold Dust West Casino, announced that the plan to institute a single national uniform food agency is dead for this congressional session and is unlikely to go anywhere in the next session with the change in the makeup of the House and Senate.
14. Steven Goode asked that the next meeting contain an agenda item to allow for an update regarding the NV Clean Air Act. A lawsuit has been filed in Las Vegas that will likely put implementation of the law on hold. The lawsuit states that no smoking in a food establishment gives unfair advantage to large casinos. The law has opened lots of legal questions including who is supposed to enforce the new law. Robert suggested that the

Nevada FSTF may be the vehicle to develop some guidelines and we should include this on the next agenda as well.

15. Cindy Ulch expressed concern that the NV Environmental Health Association has been in hibernation mode yet with the REHS certification requirements, the annual EHA meeting has been the primary vehicle for earning required CEU's. Cindy is hoping to revitalize the organization and is looking to the NV FSTF for ideas and support.
16. The date of the next Nevada FSTF meeting will be March 21, 2007 at a place to be determined in the Las Vegas area.

The Nevada FSTF meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 1:30 pm.