

Minutes of the Nevada Food Safety Task Force

July 11, 2007 – 9:30 am to 12:20 pm

Location: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
3800 South Virginia Street
Reno, Nevada 89502

Attendees

Name	Organization
Cindy Ulch	Nevada State Health Division
Chad Westom	Nevada State Health Division
Stan Marshall	Nevada State Health Division
Robert Hoffman	Nevada State Health Division Laboratory
John Roberts	Sierra Food Service Sanitation
Robbin Rose	Washoe County District Health Department
Tony Macaluso	Washoe County District Health Department
Sandra Brown	USDA, APHIS, PPQ, SITC
Teresa Hayes	Carson City Health Department
Glen Harelson	FDA
Jim Pierce	Sierra Horizons - NvEHA
John Marcello	FDA
Carol Fisher	Atlantis
Doug Simpson	Atlantis
Bob Morin	Gold Dust West Casino
John R. Smith	Stratosphere Las Vegas
Steven J. Goode	Southern Nevada Health District
Linda Newton	Southern Nevada Health District
Katherine Jacobi	Nevada Restaurant Association
Dave McClure	Darden Restaurants
Antonio Pastini	Food Safety Network
Bryan Wagner	Washoe County District Health Department
Robert Sobsey	Washoe County District Health Department
Bert Koenig	Papa John's Restaurants
Glen Hatcher	Pacific Cheese - Reno

Call To order

Robert Sobsey called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Robert thanked the staff of the Atlantis for such a nice room and for the breakfast items that were available.

Introduction of Attendees

Attendees introduced themselves and identified their individual agencies and employers.

Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting of March 21, 2007 in Las Vegas with Corrections

John Marcello wished to clarify that while the minutes from the last meeting indicate that there is not funding for the ALERT program, there actually is funding but wished to state that any applications for such funds need approved and planned for through Janet McDonald. There needs to be an initiative in place before applying for the funding. Janet then works with applicants on their individual initiatives.

The minutes were approved with this correction to be noted.

Vote to request that Governor Gibbons designate September 17-23, 2007 as Nevada Clean Hands Week in support of National Clean Hands Week.

Robbin Rose moved and Tony Pastini seconded this motion and the group voted in support of the motion. John Marcello suggested that this might be a good opportunity to additionally promote the Task Force through Governor Gibbon's office. Cindy Ulch suggested that copies of the hand washing poster be shown to the Governor's office as well as part of this designation.

Nevada Food Safety Task Force Logo Design - Approval and Changes

Robert asked what the consensus of the group was at the last meeting with respect to choosing a logo design. The three selections were then passed around the room so the various participants could look at them. The group's unanimous choice was the logo with the state of Nevada and the 3 interested groups within it. Robert will check on getting this choice into use for the future.

Discussion of Handwashing Committee and Group Vote on Choice of Chairperson

Bryan Wagner stated that he felt strongly that an industry representative should be chosen as the chairperson and further nominated Katherine Jacobi of the Nevada Restaurant Association for this honor. Linda Newton seconded Bryan's nomination and Katherine accepted. John Marcello and John Roberts also agreed to serve on this committee.

Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act (NCIAA) Robbin Rose

Robbin Rose presented a very informative presentation on how Washoe County District Health Department is handling their responsibility under the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act (NCIAA).

Discussion of Agency/Industry Training and Action Plans. ALERT Program, Nevada Restaurant Association Awareness Campaign - Katherine Jacobi.

Katherine reports that the Nevada Restaurant Association has placed a link to the FDA's ALERT webpage on their webpage. The ALERT sign has also appeared in their newsletter which reaches some 2200 subscribers. Robert Sobsey mentioned that in the last biennial newsletter that the Washoe County District Health Department, (Food Protection Program), published the ALERT sign and the hand washing poster were both included. Distribution of that newsletter to industry was stressed by Bryan Wagner.

Update of Regulatory Committee - Glen Harelson - State Program Liaison - FDA

Glen stated that a regulatory meeting was held yesterday with all Nevada jurisdictions present. Topics of discussion included the new food code, illegal local food vendors, state partnerships, a proposed FDA contract with the State Health Division to conduct food inspections and the ongoing FDA reorganization. He mentioned that the concept of a single food agency concept is being discussed again due to the recent pet food recall and problem. This was a big topic during the Clinton administration but there is not currently support in the Bush administration for the concept. However, some members of Congress are once again discussing this idea. There is nothing imminent in the works but there is a feeling that with 17 agencies in charge of food safety as the system is presently organized, there is perhaps room for some discussion as to how some of the confusion could be reduced

Alcohol Awareness Training - Tony Pastini

Tony told the group that the new law effective 7/31/07 requires that any employee in any food service establishment that sells or serves alcohol has to complete an approved course on alcohol awareness. Serv Safe on the National Restaurant Association website has an alcohol awareness course as well as a train the trainer course. The Nevada Restaurant Association has a program in place. Servers or sellers who have not completed the course and who continue to be engaged in the distribution of alcohol can be heavily fined. Those fine revenues go into a fund for the victims of alcohol related violent crimes as well as to the State Department of Taxation where they can be used to pay for the course for those who demonstrate that they cannot pay for it. Tony says it is a very good course and the Nevada Highway Patrol is going to send all their officers to it as well

Update on NFSTF Academic Activities - Tony Pastini

In Stanley Omaye's absence Tony provided an update on this committee. He stated that he and Stan are working on a fresh fruit and vegetable safety program for schools and child care centers. A flyer is being developed to educate the caregivers of this segment of the population on food safety as it relates to produce safety.

Nevada State Health Laboratory Testing Capability - Robert Hoffman

In Stephanie Van Hooser's absence Robert Hoffman provided a handout on the current tests that the State Lab can run. He also discussed some recent outbreaks the lab did testing for to include a chili cook-off food borne illness outbreak and a Brucellosis incidence from consuming fresh deer meat and raw goat milk.

Standard #5 of the FDA Voluntary Retail Program Standards - Statewide Foodborne Illness Surveillance Program

John Marcello explained that this undertaking was going to be focused on from here on out with the regulatory jurisdictions only. John continued that the task force involvement to this point had been helpful, but that from this point on the remaining tasks under the Standard are regulatory in scope and that the regulatory agencies alone will have to internally fine tune the individual components required for them to meet the Standard. The group consensus given John's explanation is that this is indeed something that the Task Force can now be less involved in. The committee chairs then voted and agreed to move this epi surveillance issue more to the 4 regulatory jurisdictions and further offered any NFSTF assistance. Robert will give the epi charts to Robbin Rose. John asks that the Task Force update the directory that was developed for food borne illness incident contacts and develop a table of contents for it as well. John stated and all agreed that too much time and energy have been placed into this important directory to allow it to fall into an outdated neglected state. John will email Arizona's table of contents to use as an example of how to organize one for use in the NFSTF directory. Robert will send the directory out to all members so that their respective portions can be updated and will include a date by which members are to submit their changes.

Field Trip in Conjunction with Next Task Force Meeting in Las Vegas

It was suggested that it might be useful and informative for NFSTF participants to have a field trip to a dairy farm in the Las Vegas area in conjunction with the next meeting. Anna Vickery has agreed to coordinate this. The group expressed interest and depending on the date of the next meeting, Robert will work with Anna Vickery to see what can be arranged.

NFSTF Grant Funds Available After July 1, 2007 - Expenditure Proposals

Robert Sobsey stated that it was time to start planning on how to spend the FDA grant fund dollars. He made several suggestions on how those funds might be spent to best benefit the public and promote the Task Force mission. Suggestions from Robert included refrigerator thermometers, bookmarks, or printing the current hand washing poster in Spanish. Cindy Ulch asked about key chains, Teresa Hayes suggested developing a little film clip on handwashing, Tony Macaluso was interested in sponsoring some training into the state. Katherine Jacobi stated that she thought it was important to identify the key audience for whatever promo items were decided upon. After some good substantive discussion it was decided that Robert would identify some associated

costs for three proposals and send them out in a ballot form for members of the Task Force to vote upon.

Public Comment

John Marcello reminded us and suggested that we need to discuss our budgetary items a bit earlier next fiscal year. He suggests that we discuss the grant expenditures for FY 08 at the start of FY07. Jim Pierce representing NvEHA stated that there was an interest by NvEHA to include a meeting of the NFSTF in conjunction with their annual educational conference in Las Vegas.

Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting in Las Vegas was set for October 10, 2007. The location is to be determined at a later date. Discussion of the field trip concept will be coordinated at that time as well.