

Nevada Food Safety Task Force Meeting
January 16, 2008
Coral Reef Room, Atlantis Hotel Casino & Spa, Reno, Nevada

Minutes

Attendees

Frank O’Sullivan	Frank O’Sullivan Consulting
Stefano Caligiuri	Luxor Hotel
Tracy Young	Bilingual Health Communicators
John Roberts	Sierra Foodservice Sanitation
Katherine Stewart	Nevada Department of Education
Joan Munkton	Washoe County School District
Robbin Rose	WCDHD
Stephanie Van Hooser	Nevada State Health Laboratory
Robert Hoffman	Nevada State Health Laboratory
Sean Gephart	Nevada Department of Agriculture
Teresa Hayes	CC Health & Human SVCS
John Marcello	FDA
Glen Harelson	FDA
Stan Omaye	UNR
Bryan Wagner	WCDHD
David McNinch	WCDHD
Bob Morin	Gold Dust West Casinos
Stan Marshall	NV State Health Division
Peter Allen	Environmental Services Ltd
Barbara Scott	SOM, UNR
Cynthia Ulch	Nevada State Division of Health
Jim Pierce	Nevada Environmental Health Association
Anna Vickrey	Nevada State Dairy Commission
Sandy Brown	USDA

Call to order

9:40 AM – Meeting called to order by Anna Vickery

Anna reminded the participants to complete the application form to NFSTF, once a year. This procedure will help in keeping our roster up-to-date.

Anna noted that regulatory group will meet following the Task force meeting.

Agency updates

Attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and indicate the organization they represent (see list of attendees above).

No updates from Agencies

Review, amend and approve past minutes (October 10, 2007)

Request to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2008 meeting in Las Vegas. Minutes were approved by the membership.

Elections

Anna made the requests for nomination of individuals to serve as:

- Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson
- Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Regulatory
- Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Academia
- Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Industry

Various groups had a 15 minute meeting to solicit officers. The following members were elected:

Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Regulatory: Teresa Hayes and Robbin Rose
Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Academia: John Roberts and Kathy Steward
Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for Industry: Stefano Caligiuri and Bob Morin

NFSTF Chairperson and Alternative Chairperson: Erica Ryan and Anna Vickery
NFSTF Secretary: Stan Omaye

Distribution of hand washing key chains to interested parties

Anna distributed to the members the official NFSTF key chain, which illustrates the hand washing logo. Key chains have been sent to various regulatory offices in the state.

Frank O'Sullivan distributed to the members some examples of hand washing posters, written in several different languages. These may be used as models for Nevada's hand washing posters.

John Marcello noted that the Oregon Health Department found that "hand washing" has become the #1 defense strategy against FBI. Also the research from Oregon has found that best means of communication for regulatory would be print communication culture but for industry it would be oral communication culture. Thus, they have developed strategies based on these two different cultures. It may be useful for the hand washing committee to contact these people.

Financial update

Anna Vickrey, Treasurer

Money is available, particularly for travel (approximately 6K) particular for local and state agencies that are having funding problems.

John Marcello noted that there will be a request for partnership funding from FDA, likely in Jan/Feb. Funding is to cover cost of less than \$3000. We need to be ready to respond to request for funds from the FDA.

Anna noted that 150 pocket thermometers were purchased for distribution.

Stefano asked the question whether FDA had any restriction regarding asking industry for funds to support project sponsored by Task Force. John Marcello will check with FDA.

Update from Glen Hareson, State Program Liaison, FDA.

Nationally, FDA is pushing for close relations with local/state agencies. They would like to have FDA and state annual meeting. They hope to set up a Spring/Summer Meeting which perhaps might be linked to the NFSTF meeting.

Another issue is emergency response for FBE and networking with various laboratories. Object is to insure we can meet needs for FBI lab work. Objective of annual meeting would be better communication between all involved in regulatory aspects.

Anna said that we need to update our emergency contact information more frequently.

John Marcello indicated that key stakeholder must have access to the Emergency Contact List (Also expressed the need to timely update). Perhaps Emergency Contact list should be available on our website.

Stephanie Van Hooser and Robert Hoffman informed the Task Force that they have started to meet every quarter with the State Epi people, to improve communications. They noted that having the FDA Epi people would be useful. Stan Marshall suggested that Environmental Health (EH) also should participate. Also the Task Force will ask the State Epi people to be involved with NFSTF via Dr. Azzam who is the contact person from the state.

Nutrition in Nevada Schools: Barriers of NAC 446

Joan Munckton provided an overview to the Task Force regarding the barriers in providing fruits and vegetables to school children, such as; lack of space (the major issue) and small inadequate kitchens:

Many schools have no space so food is packaged and sent from central kitchen

Problems of using two sinks where 3 are required

No space to pare fruits and vegetables

Inadequate resources and lack of personnel

Working with the local health department, Nutrition Services has been creative and made things work. Prepared fruits and vegetables are expensive.

New schools must have 3 compartments sink (with clear specifications)

Nutrition Services are self funded via federal agencies. Large kitchen are not cost effective for schools and are often targets for cuts when money is short. Agencies are partnering with Food Services to make sure they get what they need to serve fruits and vegetables safe.

Conclude that local and state agencies will continue to work with education and food service programs to reach their goals of improving nutrition in the schools. Suggestions included; assisting in the development of SOPs, better enforcement of regulations to aid in increasing fruits and vegetables, having utensils used for paring, washed at a central kitchen, and recommending resources for food safety education.

Additional comments

Robbin Rose made a recommendation that Robert Sobsey be recognized for his service to the Task Force. Members agreed.

John Marcello noted that the second phase of FDA's food Defense will be soon available [Alert]. Also, we should check out www.foodprotect.org for the current issues to be considered. April 12-15 will be the next meeting for this group. There are 116 issues on the list. What every priorities that comes out of this conference will be reflected in the FDA food code. The food code and produce safety will be emphasizing time/temperature control. Aug 12-14 is the regional meeting. NFSTF may want to send a representative to speak for our interest.

Cindy Ulch indicated that Nevada has gone from 60 to 230 registered environmental health specialists. This is a mandatory registration.

Next meeting date

April 29 and 30, Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas. There will be an afternoon tour of Produce processing facility (arranged by Stefano Caligiuri).

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

S. T. Omaye, Secretary