

Nevada Food Safety Task Force Meeting - Draft
February 25, 2009
Nevada State Education Board Room
9890 S Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89183

Minutes

Attendees

Teresa Hayes	Carson City Health & Human Svcs
Alex Stokes Jr	Wynn Resorts
Bryan Wagner	WCDHD
Norm Marrah	Nevada State Health Division
Stefano Caligiui	Luxor Hotel
Stan Omaye	UNR
Marcella Gelman	Vons & Texas Division Safeway
Sandra Brown	USDA, APHIS, PPQ, SITC
Christine Sylvis	SNHD
Kathy Stewart	Nevada Department of Education
Dave McClure	Darden Restaurants
Mary Wilson	UNCE
Susan LaBuy	SNHD
Mike Shafer	Nevada Dairy Commission
Erica Ryan	Nevada State Health Division

Agenda item 1. 9:15 AM - Meeting called to order by Erica Ryan. From the attendees, Erica determined that we had a quorum.

Agenda item 2. Participants introduced themselves and provided information regarding the organizations they represent (see list of attendees above).

Agenda item 3. Erica requested participants to sign up on the “sign up” sheet and provide contact information (telephone number, email, agency representation). Erica asked for volunteers to assist in linking the food safety task force’s web site membership with a spreadsheet, so that information could be easily obtained (see www.nvfstf.org).

Agenda item 4. Erica called for attendees to approve past minutes. Minutes were approved.

Agenda item 5. Erica noted that because John Marcello was absent, his report regarding FDA’s new food defense initiative will be postponed to another time.

Agenda item 6. Erica noted that we have funds available and such funds may be used to promote NFSTF through various items. Erica provided examples of promotion item, such as; fly swatter, sanitizer bucket, wiping cloth, chlorine sanitizer packet, chlorine and

quaternary ammonia test papers, stem thermometer, cold holding thermometer, cold storage magnet, and pot holders. Erica noted that we need to have a statement regarding when such items are given, i.e., items provided by NFSTF to help promote food safety.

Agenda item 7. Mike Shafer (Nevada Dairy Commission) provided a financial report for Anna Vickery, NFSTF Treasurer. Mike and Erica noted that grant proposal is due soon. Once the proposal has been approved, we will have 3 months to have a work plan available. Any seminars/conferences that would be of interest to the membership would be welcome. Money can also be used for travel.

Agenda item 8. Erica called for annual elections at our next meeting. Nominations are welcome. Erica indicated that we will need to seek nomination for a Lead-Chair. Stefano Caligiuri and Teresa Hayes agreed to continue in their respective positions of Industry-Chair, and Regulatory-Chair. Alternative Regulatory-Chair for academic, Kathy Stewart will continue. Alternative Regulatory-Chair will be vacant. Secretary Stan Omaye will continue and Anna Vickery will continue as treasurer. Announcement to membership for nominations will be sent by Erica.

Agenda item 9. Communication Notification List

Erica will contact Tony Macaluso for an update. His assignment was to have a contact list for epidemiology alert. Cindy Ulch and Stan Omaye are working on extending this information to industry and academic people (alerts for FBI).

Agenda item 10. Strategic Planning Update.

Unfinished or current NFSTF projects: Handouts (attached) were provided which documented three objectives determined by NFSTF membership from a list containing 10 program elements:

1. Code revision – Revision is in process, using the FDA code as the base, Theresa Hayes, contact person. Expect process to be 3-4 months. Eventually this will be available for industry input. Southern Nevada is in the process of developing their code.

Alex Stokes Jr noted that there is a need to have a living document (open blog) where changes (such as going green) can be documented and viewed as time goes on. Thus, industry can post interpretations and comments. Perhaps the NFSTF web site can have a link where people can provide comments (linked to state and local web sites which can be provided for public response).

2. Training, FBI – There is a need for standardization between local and state regulatory agencies so consistency in use or interpretation of the code. Alex Stokes Jr noted that there are organizations around the country that can serve as models for interactive feedback on issues of concern regarding FBI.

3. Communication network - We have a matrix form of questions to ask first responders for addressing issues about FBI and is a separate activity overseen by John Marcello and

regulatory people. Eventually there will be a request to industry/academic input, particular industry who maintain database regarding FBI and client complaints. It is noted that industry people are the first line with regards to FBI, which should be integrated to the regulatory matrix. There is a need to have regulatory agency representation from epidemiology and the state lab, to help provide their perspective. Once a draft is provided, this may come back to the Task Force for input.

Other Ideas

Web site should include items (maybe a blog) regarding food inspections and science based reasons for citations.

Bryan noted that hand washing committee with Catherine Jacobi, taking the lead, is still active.

Erica suggested that we have more tours for the Task Force. Perhaps, there is another opportunity for fresh product tour or a tour of ethnic foods. Sandra Brown introduced to task force her position duties which include, looking at unusual items, including pest, toxic items that are brought into the country. She may do a presentation for the Task Force.

Recommendations for Task Force:

- Continue with food code
- Continue with hand washing committee
- Enforcement and interpretation of code
- Offer of tours and guest speakers

Agenda item 11. Bryan Wagner requested consideration for whether the Task Force should review and suggest amendments for NRS Chapter 446 (gives the regulatory agencies authority to adopt enforcement language for specifics). Specific concerns might be; risk based statutory language, definition of potential hazardous food, whether should encompass both retail food and food manufacturing operations. Recommend that this be looked at and perhaps brought back as an agenda item to determine what we need to look at for potential change. Bryan will do some preliminary investigation to the need.

Agenda item 12. UNR initiative for food safety. Stan Omaye discussed the potential for developing an initiative for food safety in Nevada which would provide financial resources that can be directed to assist in projects that the Task Force has defined as needs. This would include research, teaching, and outreach activities. Stefano Caligiui noted that the food industry has been contacted from the state senator's office on a similar interest. A draft the proposal will be posted on NFSTF website.

Agenda item 13. New Business. Erica noted that the "Future Food Congress" will be meeting in Las Vegas, March 29-31. Website: <http://virtusinternational.com/food>. They have requested that a member of NFSTF attend and that their registration fee will be

waved. Bryan Wagner has previously agreed to attend. Those who are interested please contact Erica.

Agenda item 14. Public Comments - None

Agenda item 15. Set time and date for next meeting. May 20th @ 9AM. Likely will be via compressed video between Las Vegas and Carson City offices of the Nevada State Education Board Room. Alternate sites would be Dairy Commission Offices, North and South.

Item 16 – Meeting adjourn at 12:01.

S. T. Omaye, secretary