



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Established 2003

Meeting Notes

January 11, 2012

Mitigation Conference Room

Disaster Recovery Operations Center

1830-B Tillery Place, Raleigh, NC 27609

9:30 a.m.

I. **Opening remarks** (*Cris Harrelson*)

Cris welcomed the membership to the first meeting of 2012. The upcoming year promises to be an exciting one with several events already on the horizon-the exercise of the Food Emergency response Plan, the 2nd Annual Conference, and the Democratic National Convention.

Cris introduced two new members of the Executive Committee:

- Fletcher Arritt of NCSU's Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutritional Sciences Department will replace Trevor Phister as the representative of academia.
- Warren Moore, manager of the Human Services Program of NCEM will replace Tim Johnson as the representative of NC Crime Control and Public Safety.

II. **Agenda:**

A. **Foodborne Illness Outbreak(s) Update** (*David Sweat, DHHS*)

- A catered event in Orange County that resulted in a foodborne illness outbreak over the holidays
- An outbreak at Mike's Farm in Onslow Co. over the holidays resulted in 50-100 ill people with symptoms/incubation/duration consistent with norovirus
- Currently investigating a potential Salmonella outbreak in Iredell County possibly associated with a local barbecue restaurant

B. **DNC Planning Update** (*Dan Ragan, NCDA&CS/Donna Wanucha, FDA*)

- Executive Committee members met with Kim Livsey and Donna Wanucha of USFDA at their December 7, 2011 meeting to discuss planning for the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte; FDA has historically assisted states and local regulatory agencies with large-scale events (e.g. Olympics, political conventions, super bowl.); for the DNC, FDA retail food specialists work with EH programs to oversee food preparation processes at the event and the path of the food prior to the event; FDA will release food safety and defense assignments for involved agencies in the coming months
 - Projected time frame: Initial assignment: March-April 2012; Second assignment: June-July 2012

- Assignments will include identifying various food items of concerns, sample collection of food items, analysis, and looking one step forward and one step back;
- food items specific to NC: barbecue (pulled pork), peanuts and related products, and cole slaw
- the assignments will also include inspections of selected food vendors within 30 mile radius (second assignment); NC counties impacted (and participating in assignments) include Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly; SC counties include Chester, Lancaster, and York (SC)
- FDA will provide sample collection training in February/March for all counties involved
- LHDs: will conduct inspection, take a sample of targeted item, and then trace back one step, ship sample to designated lab (CFSAN will purchase sampling supplies and shipping costs), talk to firms and establishments about food defense (ALERT, See Something, Say Something campaign)
- Discussion ensued regarding the food safety concerns of pork barbecue; 17 out of 19 positive salmonella samples taken nationally for testing were from NC; contamination occurs after cooking via added ingredients or mishandling; discussion also on the reciprocity of food safety rules between NC & SC
- Annette Dunlap reminded the members that the Recall Enhancement Committee as scheduled a seminar entitled "Preventing a Recall" for January 31, 2012 in Union County; the seminar presents an opportunity to speak to area producers of barbecue

C. NCFSDTF Website Update (*Cris Harrelson*)

- The Task Force now has an active website (www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.org) where committee information, upcoming events, and meeting agendas and minutes will be posted

D. Upcoming FERP Exercise Series (*Sharron Stewart, Emergency Programs, NCDA&CS*)

- Sharron informed the group that the Food Emergency Response Plan will be updated and revised in the upcoming months; grant funds provided by DHS will allow the use of a professional facilitator; three feedback sessions will be provided in February (announcement attached) and a training session will be provided at the Task Force conference on May 2, 2012; all TF members are highly encouraged to attend one of the sessions in February and the training session in May

III. Business:

A. Committee reports:

- **Executive Committee** (*David Sweat*)
The Executive Committee met on December 7 to address planning for the DNC (see above update for details)
- **Dairy Security Committee** (*Kay Sigman*)

Several committee members attended a multi-state dairy meeting in Richmond, VA designed to coordinate FMD dairy response plans.

- **Recall Enhancement Committee** (*Annette Dunlap/Harry Wilson*)
“Protecting your Business, Preventing a Recall” seminar will be held on January 31, 2012 in Union County (thanks to Fletch for sending notice in listserv); target is production facilities; registration form can be accessed at http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/agribiz/Registration_Info.pdf,
- **Crop/Produce (including NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force)** (*Fletcher Arritt*)
Waiting for new regulations to be released from federal government (expected later this month); according to recent meetings of National Produce Safety Alliance meetings, there may be some varying standards between products; also, trainings for farmer market managers and vendors are now being given
- **Conference Planning Committee** (*Cris Harrelson*)
The 2nd annual Task Force conference will be held on May 2-3, 2012 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center, RTP. The theme is “Food Protection Evolution: Adapting to Changing Times.” The conference program is currently being finalized. The registration fee is \$50. The conference announcement and registration information will be released in the next few weeks.

Some suggestions for topics were made by the membership. Alan Leff of Primo Water Corporation suggested speakers from the third-party auditing community, such as Steritech and NSF (National Sanitation Foundation). Sharron Stewart suggested a topic that addressed critical infrastructure identification.

- **Outreach and Communication Committee** – (*Ben Chapman*)
The TF website is fully functional and ready for information to be posted. All requests to post information should be directed to Ben Chapman at benjamin_chapman@ncsu.edu.

Brett Weed of FDA mentioned that the South Carolina Food Safety & Defense Task Force expressed an interest in connecting with the NC Taskforce; the group agreed that we will invite them to the TF conference in May and to our next meeting in March.
- **Education and Exercise Committee** (*Annette Dunlap*)
The FERP training/Exercise series will starting next month; thanks to Jessica Dyer and David Sweat for upcoming educational topics

B. Other reports:

- **Academic Reports**
No Report

- **Industry Reports**
No report
- **Other Agency Reports**
David Sweat: Major funding (25%) cut from CDC that will affect the Division of Public Health (epidemiology and laboratory capacity); trying to reallocate resources and restructure priorities
- Jim Melvin: FSMA implementation requires development of GMP food certification program; NCDA&CS will be participating in developing the certification process; certification program will promote uniformity between programs; thanks to Fletch Arritt for assisting with recent product assessment; product was deemed unsafe by Fletch and thus was key in decision-making by NCDA&CS;
- discussion on a recent recall by Wal-Mart of powdered baby formula; cooperation among the TF membership during the event was a positive experience;
- Royden Saah: A recent event involving a C. bot response and a testing request from Womack Army hospital elicited a swift and effective response due to cooperation of TF members
- Jim Page: a box of criminal investigation handbooks available for membership; February 28, 2012: biosecurity workshop at BTC; 3/27-3/28: joint epidemiology and criminology workshop

IV. **Next Meeting:** March 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Food Lion Corp HQ, 2110 Executive Drive, Salisbury, NC 28147

V. **Presentation: “Laboratory Contributions to Food Safety & Defense”**
Jessica Dyer, Constable Laboratory, NCDA&CS
Full presentation is available on the NC Food Safety and Defense Task Force website (www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.org)

VI. **Adjournment**