

**Meeting Summary - Partnership for Food Protection Workgroup and PetNet
Project Meeting
Kansas City, Missouri
May 28-29, 2009**

One hundred and twenty two (122) Federal, state and local officials met in Kansas City, Missouri on May 28-29, 2009 for the first face-to-face meeting of the Partnership for Food Protection workgroups and the Pet Event Tracking Network (PetNet) project.

The meeting began with a joint session of all the meeting participants. David Elder, the Director of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Regional Operations, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) discussed FDA's vision to enhance the infrastructure necessary for creating a more integrated national food safety system. Mr. Elder also provided an update on the Rapid Response Teams pilot project with the states, summarized a new food safety bill introduced by the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House of Representatives (summary available at: http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090526/fsea_summary.pdf), and highlighted a May 26, 2009 article in the New England Journal of Medicine by the new FDA Commissioner, Dr. Margaret Hamburg and Principle Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, titled "The FDA as a Public Health Agency."

Dr. Art Liang, Associate Director for Foodborne Disease, National Center for Zoonotic Vector-borne & Enteric Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provided an update on Outbreak Net.

Pete Salsbury, Acting Special Assistant, FDA's Division of Federal-State Relations, ORA, discussed logistics for the meeting including the following Ground Rules to be used at all workgroup meetings and conference calls:

- All meetings have an assigned leader, a time keeper (so that meetings start & end on time), and a note taker to capture what happened during the meeting and shares with group.
- All ideas are valid.
- OK to disagree (different points of view encouraged).
- One conversation at a time.
- No personal attacks.
- Encourage all to contribute.
- Work to reach consensus; but OK to use majority vote or consent decision-making.
- Work to build/maintain constructive relationships.
- Create a parking lot for issues to discuss later.

Following the joint session, members of the workgroups and PetNet project moved to their identified meeting rooms to begin discussions on their charges and action items. The overall objectives of this meeting included:

- Launch the WGs and begin to gel as groups to make constructive contributions to food protection across federal, state and local levels.
- Have all members of the Working Groups understand FDA's goal of having finished products by August 2010 (the proposed time frame for the next national meeting) the process we'll use to get there, and their roles and responsibilities in this endeavor.
- Work Group members would select Work Group Co-Chairs and at least one or two charges to pursue and begin developing a project plan and timeline for accomplishing it.
- Create a culture of partnership and accountability between the federal, state and local partners on the Work Group.

All WGs selected chairs and/or co-chairs, reviewed their charges, discussed the action items they were interested in working on and started prioritizing and proposing possible next steps. The meeting concluded with a joint session of all the meeting participants where each WG made brief presentations on what was discussed and their proposed plans. **Please note that the action items in the presentations had not been reviewed and should be considered preliminary from the Workgroups. No decisions or commitments have been made by the Coordinating Committee or FDA and CDC to do all of the suggested/recommended action items.** The following is taken from those presentations (except where noted).

Response Workgroup Proposed Action Items

Recall Effectiveness

- Develop and implement a secure web-based recall effectiveness tracking system and pilot in six states using Food Shield
- Pilot the use of third parties to conduct recall effectiveness checks

Details to FDA Emergency Operations Center

- Develop a pilot program for state and local partners who are willing to be detailed for 2-3 weeks to the FDA Emergency Operations Center to improve Federal, state and local collaboration

Incident Command System

- Inventory existing public health ICS models and best practices (OK, NC, MN, MI, FL)

Standardized Foodborne Outbreak Tools

- Develop guidance document for sprout environmental investigations and identify key components to be utilized as a template in environmental investigations (broader effort will be referred to CIFOR)

Product Tracing

- Describe the potential application and utility of product tracing to inform epidemiology investigations

Training Workgroup Proposed Action Items

Establish competencies and certification for all disciplines

- Short-term deliverable: Perform a job analysis for inspectors involved in food protection (prevention, intervention, and response) to identify current competency assessments and credentials; develop a set of core competencies; and develop a framework for credentialing that could be taken back to association and agencies to share.
- Long-term deliverable: Expand job analysis to include other disciplines, experienced staff and stakeholders involved in food protection.

Establish a national training center

- Short-term deliverable: Assess and review training currently available for all disciplines involved in food protection (prevention, intervention, and response) and identify any gaps. Use this information to assess whether Kellogg Foundation proposal fits the needs and goals identified by the work group.
- Long-term deliverable: Put together a comprehensive course catalog.

Workgroup supports the International Training center

- Pursue a formal relationship (representation) with the Advisory Council of the International Training Center through the Co-Chairs of the Training Workgroup

Risk-based Workplanning Workgroup (Revised 6/11/09)

The Workgroup proposed a pilot project that will provide information needed to develop a collaborative work plan model including local, state and federal food safety agencies that identifies effective risk intervention strategies and recommendations for continuous improvement in the food/feed safety inspection systems.

Pilot Project

- Use FDA Peanut Assignment as the starting platform to identify establishments both up & downstream (retail, food-service, transportation, processing, farm & feed streams); determine inspectional/sampling priorities; determine how pilot data will be collected, analyzed and shared internally and externally (eLEXNET, FASCAT and Foodshield); identify field and lab training needs and facilitate any needed training
- Evaluate pilot and generate recommendations for work plan model & future food safety surveillance system activities.

Interactive Information Technology Workgroup Action Items

Use FOOD SHIELD for workgroup

- Communication

- Assess/explore other uses
- Evaluate 6-state pilot/recall

Create Shared Sampling database

- What info is currently collected; systems being used
- Identify what information you (federal, state and local agencies) want to share
- Identify mechanisms to share this information

Do a Gap/needs/market assessment - what other agencies have/need building of a shared sampling database

PetNet Project

The PetNet Team’s overall vision for PetNet is a system that includes data collection, data analysis, outbreak investigation, and a reporting component. The team discussed utilizing existing entities for PetNet. The possible entities to utilize for each of the specific programmatic areas are identified below;

Data Collection - Possible Existing Entities to Utilize

- ASPCA Poison Control Center
- FDA’s MedWatch Plus Portal (currently the Pet Food Early Warning Surveillance System – PFEWSS)
- Ag/Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT)

Data Analysis - Possible Entities to Utilize

- Individual States
- ASPCA Poison Control Center
- Universities – establishing university “hubs” (possibly 3) throughout the country

Outbreak Investigation - Possible Entities to Utilize

- States under their authority (with FDA support)
- University Hubs
- CDC
- USDA APHIS

Diagnostic Laboratories - Possible Entities to Utilize

- FERN-like system
- Veterinary Emergency Response Network (VERN labs)

Reporting to States/FDA - Would want simultaneous reporting to states and FDA

- Mechanism to make happen is not identified
- Information Sharing is CRITICAL!

Next Steps

- Coordinating Committee will review the recommendations from the Workgroups
- Steering Committee (FDA and CDC) will review any recommendations and comments from the Coordinating Committee and provide feedback to the WGs, if necessary
- Workgroups will begin monthly conference calls and 1-2 face-to-face meetings will be scheduled during the next 12 months to work on approved projects
- Next “50-state” National meeting will be in August 2010 to report on project accomplishments and next steps to help develop an integrated food safety system.

Draft: PSalsbury: 6/30/09

Reviewed/edits: LHandley, AVanWie, JMurphy

Revised/Final: PSalsbury: 7/8/09