



CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION, INC.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 1-2, 2020 via WebEx

CONFERENCE CHAIR UPDATES

2020 Biennial Meeting

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dave McSwane and Karen Pena for their successes in negotiating the rescheduling of the 2020 Biennial Meeting to April 12-16, 2021 at the Grand Hyatt in Denver and the 2022 Biennial Meeting to April 21-28, 2023 at the Westin Galleria in Houston with no penalties.

Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative

Member Associations' representatives:

- AFDO (Steve Mandernach, Natalie Adan, Steve Moris)
- CDC (Laura Brown)
- CFP (David McSwane, Brenda Bacon, David Lawrence)
- NACCHO (Amy Chang, Jennifer Li, Chelsea Gridley-Smith)
- NEHA (David Dyjack, Rance Baker, Laura Wildey)
- FDA
 - CFSAN (Glenda Lewis, Mary Cartagena, Girvin Liggans)
 - ORA/OSCP (Laurie Farmer, Elizabeth O'Malley, Chris Smith, Kim Destromp)
 - ORA/OP (Alan Tart, Tim Weigner)
 - ORA/OTED (John Stoll)
- Collaborative Facilitator (John Marcello – FDA/ORR/OSCP)

The Collaborative's objectives include:

- Develop a national Food Code adoption strategy, including the Food Code Adoption Tool Kit;
- Improve the approach, competency, and food safety culture in the regulatory community;
- Increase enrollment, engagement, and conformance in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Program Standards);
- Improve foodborne outbreak investigation methods;
- Increase number of establishments that have well-developed and implemented Food Safety Management Systems; and
- Develop a strategy to enhance communication and better tell our story.

The Collaborative succeeds when it provides consistent and coordinated communication that advances educational outreach, training activities, and best practices aimed at reducing the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors. Collaborative develops tools and promotes initiatives that result in, but are not limited to:

- Increased adoption of the current Food Code (most recent two editions);
- Implementation of intervention strategies and Food Code Public Health Interventions by regulatory and industry that impact behavioral change related to the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors;
- Broader application of risk-based inspection methods;
- Increased enrollment, engagement, and conformance in the Program Standards;
- Increase training on foodborne outbreak investigations, including environmental assessments (root cause analysis) and sampling, and increase participation in NEARS;
- Increase the number of establishments that have a well-developed and implemented employee health program; and
- Improved communications about the successes and value of retail food protection programs.

Work groups established to date:

- Communications Work Group
- Food Code Adoption Tool Kit Work Group
- Organizational Structure Work Group

Finalized documents:

- Collaborative Ground Rules (January 29, 2020)
- Collaborative Communication Tool (February 20, 2020)
- Template for conducting interviews to obtain testimonials from Directors/Managers of SLTT retail food protection programs that have successfully adopted the FDA Food Code (June 5, 2020)

Work in progress:

- Food Code Adoption Survey (distributed by email on July 16, 2020)
- Communication strategy for the Collaborative Associations

Funding Opportunity RFA-FD-20-028: Retail Food Safety Association Collaboration

Collaborative Associations (AFDO, CFP, NACCHO, and NEHA) submitted applications on or before May 13, 2020. NACCHO and CFP submitted a joint application with a research strategy to address these objectives listed in the funding opportunity announcement:

- Identify, assess, and promote implementation of effective intervention strategies. Intervention strategies are defined as a comprehensive set of activities, initiatives, or specific tools implemented on the part of industry and/or regulators that are designed to bring about immediate and/or long-term control of foodborne illness risk factors. Intervention strategies that have undergone field testing to prove effectiveness in changing long-term behavior of food employees are ideal for marketing to SLTT/industry partners.
- Build upon the FDA's VNRFRPS technical assistance strategy to provide a "multiplier effect" to promote participation and implementation of the VNRFRPS by SLTTs.

At the time of this report, the FDA has not announced selection of grant proposals for funding. The Executive Director, Conference Chair, and Conference Vice-Chair are working on the position descriptions and recruitment advertisements needed to fill grant project positions identified in the grant project work plan and budget.