

Update on NACCHO-CFP Research Project (RFA-FD-22-008)

CFP Research Project Team:

- Project Team Co-Leaders: Kala Wekenborg-Tomka and David Lawrence
- Project Support Staff: David McSwane, Angie Wheeler, and Brenda Bacon
- Financial Support Staff: Clifford Nutt
- Clerical Support Staff: Vicki Everly

The NACCHO-CFP research strategy is funded by a cooperative agreement between FDA and NACCHO. This three-year cooperative agreement will build upon the foundational elements created under the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative (RFA-FD20-028). The projects described in the research strategy are a combination of new and continuation projects that support the Collaborative's overarching goal of reducing foodborne illness. The first year of the current grant cycle began on August 1, 2022 and will end on July 31, 2023.

The CFP research project team serves in either a lead or support role on activities to address the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative's six long term objectives. CFP reports and documents completion of activities to NACCHO within invoicing periods. The second of four invoicing periods for this year ended on March 31, 2023 with completion of work to date as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1 - Develop a national Food Code adoption strategy (includes integrating FC Adoption Tool Kit into the strategy)

- *CFP is leading work under Objective 1 with NACCHO in a support role.*
- Brenda leads the Food Code Adoption Tool Kit Workgroup and is a participant in meetings of the National Food Code Adoption Strategy Workgroup.

OBJECTIVE 2 - Improve the regulatory approach, competency, and food safety culture in the regulatory community: (A) Increase retail food regulatory programs applications of risk-based inspection methods and (B) Increase retail food regulatory programs implementation of intervention strategies

- *CFP has both lead and support roles for work under Objective 2.*
- Kala and Angie conducted research to identify for review currently available training programs that contain content on risk-based inspection methods and identify themes and sub-themes in the courses. Email sent to CFP regulatory members, NACCHO members, NEHA, and AFDO to solicit this information.
- Based on the course content provided by the 8 responding jurisdictions, Kala and Angie drafted a summary report with high level information on the type of training offered and materials used. They are currently in the process of reviewing all of the training materials received, and the next steps are to draft a final report identifying themes and subthemes within the course content.
- Kala and Angie attended the AFDO Root Cause Analysis (RCA) course and will prepare a document to recommend content from the RCA course for incorporation into the FD218 Risk Based Inspection Methods course.
- CFP will participate in a training needs assessment for Retail Program Standard 9 regarding effective intervention strategies using adult learning principles with NACCHO leading and conducting the survey. The CFP project team reviewed the interview tool that NACCHO created to gather

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information from jurisdictions about completion of risk factor studies and implementation of intervention strategies.

- The CFP project team participates in meetings of the Retail Food Safety Advisory Group (RFSAG) and planning meetings with the RFSAG Co-Chairs, Veronica Bryant and Chirag Bhatt.

OBJECTIVE 3 - Increase enrollment and active participation and application of the Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards

- *CFP has a support role for Objective 3.*
- CFP identified Indiana, Minnesota, and Missouri as potential Retail Program Standards Networks. Since NACCHO is leading this objective, the decision was to support the formation of an Illinois network. CFP is participating in the Illinois network calls. So far 1 call has been held, the network just kicked off – they are planning a food code conference for September in Peoria, IL. CFP will participate in this conference.

OBJECTIVE 4 - Improve outbreak investigation methods - Develop and implement training, outreach, educational materials and opportunities, and other innovative approaches to assist SLTT regulatory jurisdictions with reducing the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors in food establishments and responding more effectively to foodborne illness outbreaks

- *AFDO and NACCHO co-lead work on Objective 4. CFP has a support role.*

OBJECTIVE 5 - Increase the number of establishments that have well developed and implemented Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS)s (Includes well developed employee health program).

- *CFP is leading work under Objective 5 with NACCHO in a support role.*
- David L. and Brenda scheduled and facilitated planning meetings with the CFP Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Committee Co-Chairs, Christine Sylvis and Mandy Sedlak, to advance the work of the committee with Collaborative support and resources.
- David L. and Brenda participated as guests in the monthly meetings of the FSMS Committee and participated in a review of the draft Issues and content documents submitted by FSMS for the 2023 CFP Biennial Meeting.
- David L. and Brenda scheduled and facilitated planning meetings with the CFP Digital Food Safety Systems (DFSS) Committee Co-Chairs, Eric Moore and Ben Chapman, to advance the work of the committee with Collaborative support and resources.
- David L. and Brenda participated as guests in the monthly and special meetings of the DFSS Committee and participated in a review of the draft Issues and content documents submitted by DFSS for the 2023 CFP Biennial Meeting.
- David L. and Brenda attended meetings of the CFP Program Standards Committee, Plan Review subcommittee #2 to work on proposed inclusion of food safety management system information in the Retail Program Standards and to support recreation of the CFP Plan Review Committee.
- David McSwane conducted a literature review of journal articles that contain information about how adult learning principles can be used to influence human behavior. Abstracts were created for each of the articles selected during the literature review. The abstracts contained the title of the article, author (when known), source of the article, and a short summary of the work.

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- David McSwane completed a summary report that provides information about adult learning and how it can be used to promote behavioral change. The report is currently under review by the RFSAG.

OBJECTIVE 6 - Develop a strategy to enhance communication and better tell our story.

- *CFP and NACCHO are in support roles for Objective 6.*
- David McSwane is a member of the Collaborative's Communications Working Group
- CFP uses its communication channels to share information about the Collaborative and the various projects that are undertaken and completed.

Additional Activities:

- David Lawrence is the current lead on the Collaborative's Ground Rules & Organizational Structure Working Group.
- CFP has provided support for NEHA's Food Handler Knowledge Retention Study by soliciting food industry subject matter experts for Project Phase I and to perform the SME Tasks described as follows:
 - **Project Description:** Create, disseminate, and analyze the results of a knowledge retention survey aimed at retail food handlers who have taken an accredited retail food handler course within the last 5 years.
 - **Project Phase I:** Create a survey to be sent to retail food handlers who have taken one of the 24 [Accredited Food Handler Courses](#) within the past 5 years to identify knowledge gaps.
 - **Phase I Need:** Subject matter expertise in the area of retail food safety including those with experience in the following industry segments: convenience stores, grocery stores, delis, bakeries, full-service and quick-service restaurants, caterers, mobile food operations, and other similar segments of the retail food industry.
 - **SME Tasks:** Review and revise demographic questions and a set of survey questions for incorporation into the survey and assist the project team by sharing the finalized survey with as wide an audience of retail food handlers as possible.
 - **Important:** This survey will **NOT** identify **WHICH** food handler course a survey participant has taken, only **IF** they have taken one of the courses on the accredited list. Our purpose is not to measure the effectiveness of individual coursework or delivery methods of specific to those individual courses, but rather to measure, in general, the knowledge a person retains from taking a food handler course and if they do or do not apply it in their work as a food handler.