Date of Committee Report: July 12, 2007

Submitted By: Frank Ferko and Michéle Samarya-Timm

Committee Charge(s):

Cataloging existing foodborne illness investigation training programs, optimizing the training and materials used, and developing recommendations to improve sustainability and rapidly broaden dissemination of the programs.

Committee Members: (please see attached)

For each committee member, please include:
Name
Agency or Company
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Fax
E-mail

State Regulatory

Local Regulatory

Federal

Academia

Industry

Consumer

Progress Report/Committee Activities:

Over the past several months, our members continued to seek out other organizations pursuing projects and goals that parallel our committee’s charge, and to explore possible collaborations to prevent duplication of efforts. Other entities such as CIFOR and CSTE, CDC, and industry associations are in
the process of researching and have similar charges as this committee. This committee will be looking
toward exploring ways to collaborate with these groups to eliminate duplication of efforts.

Current model national/organizational foodborne outbreak training and response programs/guidelines
include the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak and Response (CIFOR), the National Environmental
Health Association’s (NEHA) Epi-Ready Program, and International Association of Food Protection’s
IAFP) Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness. However, this committee has found that various
states and large metropolitan areas, as well as industry and academia are using local/regionally based
programs for training and response. Examples of such include Michigan’s F.I.R.S.T – Foodborne
Investigation Response Strategies, and ORA-U’s Epidemiology training. The committee discussed
various ways of scoping out and gathering this information from across the U.S., and looked to have each
committee member reach out to several states to gather information on state-specific foodborne response
protocols and training programs.

During a committee conference call on July 11, National Restaurant Association offered research
assistance from a summer intern, who could be assigned to assist in the gathering of information from the
states. The committee enthusiastically accepted this offer, and will look to provide guidance and
assistance to this intern’s efforts. In addition, committee members will continue to compile and forward
listings of known training and response programs.

During the next scheduled conference call August 22, 2007 members will update the committee on the
status of their outreach, and discuss the best ways to catalogue the information gathered and insert into a
general searchable grid to allow users to ascertain appropriate resources by topic or discipline. While
electronic format is preferred in the interest of space and sharing, the co-chairs will act as a gathering
point for hard copies of materials at this time.

New and existing Committee members are included in a separate attachment.

The next conference call for this group is scheduled for August 22, 2007.

**Requested Actions:** There are no requested actions at this time.