

## **FDA Report to the Executive Board of the Conference for Food Protection**

**April 2-3, 2019 – Denver, Colorado**

**Glenda R. Lewis, Director, Retail Food Protection Staff, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA representative to the CFP Executive Board**

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### **Status of the Supplement to the 2017 Food Code and the 2019 Retail Program Standards manual:**

The *Supplement to the 2017 Food Code* and the 2019 version of the Retail Program Standards are still under development and the target for release is in Summer 2019.

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### **Collaborating with our Regulatory Retail Food Professional Associations**

- Retail Food Association Summit meeting date set for June 4-6, 2019 at FDA in Rockville, MD
  - Engagement of the Retail Food Associations (CFP; AFDO; NACCHO; and NEHA) are set for participation
  - Active planning is underway with planning meetings having been held via WebEx with ALL Associations starting Fall 2018 on into 2019.
  - FDA is engaging with representatives of each Association ahead of the Summit meeting to best structure the meeting format and content to gain the input of Association partners.
  - Developing the framework for the Summit has been a collaborative process
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### **Interagency Collaboration with USDA-FSIS**

As part of FDA's on-going cross-agency work with USDA-FSIS and CDC, the agency is a part of an Interagency Retail Lm Work Group. Current work within this group is described below.

**Enhancing Federal Outreach to Control *L. monocytogenes* in Delicatessens: Stakeholder Participation in Focus Groups.** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are seeking volunteers to participate in a 90-minute on-line focus group regarding their information needs on retail practices to support the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in delicatessens, how they currently get or would prefer to get this type of information, and to provide input on FSIS's current outreach materials (e.g., brochure – [Guidance for Controlling \*Listeria monocytogenes\* \(Lm\) in Retail Delicatessens, Guidance for Controlling \*Listeria monocytogenes\* \(Lm\) in Retail Delicatessens, Lm Deli Self-Assessment Tool](#), etc.).

FSIS, FDA and CDC are working together to gather this input from stakeholders as recommended by the National Advisory Committee for Meat and Poultry Inspection to support the development of educational outreach material on the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in retail delis that is clear, understandable, practical, and available to all audiences. The federal partners are working closely with several organizations (i.e., AFDO, ALP, ASTHO, FMI, NACCHO, NASDA, NEHA and NGA) to identify potential participants for these focus groups. Participants needed include state health and agriculture officials and local health officials with responsibilities for retail food safety, and food safety representatives for independent grocers and supermarket chains.

Please let USDA-FSIS know if you or colleagues are interested in participating in these focus groups by April 17, 2019 to [Janell.kause@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janell.kause@fsis.usda.gov).

For more information, please see the following federal register notice:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/20/2018-25265/notice-of-request-for-a-new-information-collection-stakeholder-input-on-federal-outreach-to-control>

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## **Regional Food Protection Seminars**

CFP members and all interested in Food Safety are encouraged to attend the annual Food Protection Seminars held throughout the nation in 2019. Much of the agendas for these seminars address topics that are important to the mission and activities of the Conference for Food Protection.

### **2019 Retail Food Seminars**

#### **Southwest Region**

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Dates: August 19-21, 2019

FDA Point of Contact: Tracynda Davis [Tracynda.Davis@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Tracynda.Davis@fda.hhs.gov)

#### **Central Region**

Location: Washington D.C.

Dates: August 27-29, 2019

FDA Point of Contact: Kenya Moon [Kenya.Moon@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Kenya.Moon@fda.hhs.gov)

#### **Pacific Region**

Location: Mesa, AZ

Dates: September 10-12, 2019

FDA Point of Contact: Mario Seminara [Mario.Seminara@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Mario.Seminara@fda.hhs.gov)

#### **Northeast Region**

Location: Portsmouth, NH

Dates: September 18-20, 2019

FDA Point of Contact: Al Pistorio [Alfred.Pistorio@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Alfred.Pistorio@fda.hhs.gov)

#### **Southeast Region**

Location: Memphis, TN

Dates: October 7-10, 2019

FDA Point of Contact: Dan Redditt [Joseph.Redditt@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Joseph.Redditt@fda.hhs.gov)

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### **Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards**

The National Association of County and City Health officials (NACCHO) and the FDA are in the eighth cohort of a mentorship program for retail food regulatory programs. The Mentorship Program is funded through a Cooperative Agreement between FDA and NACCHO. The goal of the cooperative agreement is to strengthen and promote the role of local health departments in retail food safety regulation. The mentorship program pairs retail food regulatory program practitioners who are experienced in applying the Retail Program Standards with those newly enrolled and/or looking for assistance for continued success. The Mentorship Program has helped participants improve their inspection programs, train more inspection staff, enhance customer service, and implement innovative strategies to reduce risk factors at retail that may cause or contribute to foodborne illness outbreaks. Participants also gain insight on developing and implementing policies and procedures, completing self-assessments, and conducting verification audits. Funding from the program has also helped participants purchase equipment needed for conducting inspections. This year's cohort consists of 23 participants, including six mentors and 17 mentees, from across the nation.

A highlight of the program is a site visit by the mentees to meet and work with their mentors and an end of program year meeting for all participants to report on progress and share experiences. Throughout the program year, resources and tools developed by program participants will be shared with other regulatory programs and a "sharing session" webinar on a retail food topic will be scheduled and made available to all jurisdictions on the NACCHO web site.

For more information on the Mentorship Program, Retail Program Standards and the NACCHO-FDA Cooperative agreement, contact the Project Officer, Pete Salsbury ([Peter.Salsbury@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Peter.Salsbury@fda.hhs.gov)) or visit these websites: [Mentorship Program for the Retail Program Standards](#) or [FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards \(Retail Program Standards\)](#)

### **Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Self Assessment and Verification Audit Workshops**

FDA is holding two workshops in 2019 in Denver, Colorado, April 23-25, 2019 and in Nashville, TN, July 7-9, 2019 in conjunction with NEHA. This workshop is designed to provide participants with an overview of the Retail Program Standards criteria and an in-depth understanding of the self-assessment and verification audit process, worksheets, and forms.

The objectives for the workshops are that participants will be able to:

- Identify the requirements for each of the nine Program Standards
- Explore various approaches to meeting the criteria within the Program Standards
- Use the worksheets and forms to electronically compile and maintain their jurisdiction's self-assessment results
- Use the Program Standards worksheets and forms as a guide to complete a verification audit of a jurisdiction's self-assessment against the criteria contained on the FDA National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

Participants should be program managers or those directly responsible for conducting program self-assessments and preparing for verification audits. Interactive workshop exercises have been developed for each of the Program Standards and are designed to provide participants with hands on experience in preparation for conducting a self-assessment or a verification audit.

To date, total participant numbers are 52 for Denver and 46 for Nashville (state, local, tribal etc.) and the workshops are full.

**2018 Retail Program Standards Grant Program**

FDA and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) announced the successful completion of the application period for the 2019 AFDO-administered Retail Program Standards Grant Program. The program provides funds for the completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with Retail Program Standards.

Each year grant funding is open to State, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs that have enrolled in the Retail Program Standards. Project categories for the 2019 funding year include:

- 170 grants awarded Small Projects up to \$3,000, for jurisdictions to complete: a self-assessment of all nine Standards, small projects related to meeting one or more Standards, a verification audit or audits, or custom projects that increase a jurisdiction's conformance with the standards;
- 32 grants awarded Moderate Projects, \$10,000-\$20,000, for more ambitious projects that further conformance with the Retail Program Standards (computer software systems, risk factor studies, development of a written compliance program, training events, etc.);
- 242 grants awarded Training up to \$3,000, for jurisdiction staff to meet the requirements of Standard 2 (Step 1 & 3 Curriculum or CEU maintenance) or to attend FDA Regional Seminars to maintain FDA Standardization; and
- 20 grants awarded Food Protection Task Force Support Projects up to \$3,000 per award. The goal of this category is to advance conformance with the Retail Program Standards by supporting attendance at Food Protection Task Force activities (or similar Food Advisory Board/Council activities, whether Task Force/Board/Council is supported by an FDA grant or not).

For more information visit Retail Food Safety Grants Website at <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>.

The 2020 AFDO-administered Retail Program Standards Grant Program Portal will open on in the Fall of 2019.

The Advancing Conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Cooperative Agreement Cohorts 2 and 3 continue their approved multi-year strategic plans to advance their Retail Program Standards conformance. No new funding opportunities for this grant were open during 2019. A new funding opportunity for this grant is not scheduled.

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Respectfully submitted to the CFP Executive Board by Glenda R. Lewis, CFSAN, on April 2-3, 2019.