



## **CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION, INC.**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

*April 24-28, 2023*

*Houston, Texas*

## **Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative Update**

### **Background**

The Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative has a vested interest in decreasing foodborne illness at the retail level. Collaborative member organizations include the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), Conference for Food Protection (CFP), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and a new partner Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

Since being formed in 2019, the Collaborative associations have identified and are addressing six specific aims with harmonized objectives to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness:

1. Develop a national Food Code adoption strategy (includes integrating FC Adoption Tool Kit into the strategy)
2. Improve the regulatory approach, competency, and food safety culture in the regulatory community:
  - Increase retail food regulatory programs applications of risk-based inspection methods
  - Increase retail food regulatory programs implementation of intervention strategies
3. Increase enrollment and active participation and application of the Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards
4. Improve Outbreak Investigations - 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
5. Increase the number of establishments that have well developed and implemented Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS)s (Includes well developed employee health program)

- Advance the importance of facility and equipment design as preventative controls for retail food safety management (with appropriate trade organizations).
- Encourage the application of digital tools and incentives that prompt desired behaviors, such as handwashing (with appropriate trade organizations).
- Enhance existing manager certification and food handler education and training requirements to better influence human behavior (with Food Safety Manager Certification bodies).

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

Collaborative Face-to-Face Meeting, February 7-9, 2023 and Virtual Meeting, April 10, 2023

The strategic planning exercises from the September 2022 face-to-face meeting identified the need to define an organizational structure and establish rules of engagement that will advance the Collaborative's efforts while overcoming challenges such as the [Federal Advisory Committee Act \(FACA\)](#). It was determined that the Collaborative does not trigger FACA as the FDA is not seeking the Collaborative to provide recommendations or review FDA policy. An overview of the recommended revisions to the ground rules was provided and are set to be finalized mid-July, 2023. A facilitator position description will be completed by mid-July 2023 as well.

A facilitated Strategic Thinking exercise with idea generation allowed the group to review our successes and provide forward thinking on how to measure them. The concepts and ideas from this exercise have been tabled until August 2023 when an ad-hoc group will be formed to review and present this information back to the collaborative.

The assessment of projects planned for the 2022-2025 grant cycle of the FDA-funded cooperative agreements set the stage for an operational strategy, implementation plan, and core services approach for each of the six long-term objectives. The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) joins AFDO, NACCHO-CFP, and NEHA as a funded entity for the current grant cycle. The holistic assessment focused on the efficient leveraging of Collaborative resources including those of FDA and CDC. Member organizations provided an overview of work that is being conducted to support these objectives.

*Note: David Lawrence will review the NACCHO-CFP Research Project (RFA-FD-22-008) in agenda item 4.6.*

Over the course of the meeting, the attendees engaged in robust and open discussions about internal and external communication needs and reporting requirements.

Telling the story of the Collaborative is a responsibility we all share, including the members of the CFP Executive Board. Please visit and promote the Collaborative's website: [www.retailfoodsafetycollaborative.org](http://www.retailfoodsafetycollaborative.org).