



Interagency Council on Food Safety

Representing Ontario's Federal, Provincial and Municipal Food Safety Agencies



Interagency Council on Food Safety Meeting

Draft Minutes

Thursday, October 11, 2007

10:00 –13:00 HRS

Location: 2201 St. David's Road – Campbell East
Thorold, Ontario

Present: Bjorn Christensen (ALPHA), Ken Diplock (CIPHI), Bruce Morrison (MNR), Louise Sharpe (Intergovernmental Affairs – CFIA), Fran Gelder (ASPHIO), Peter Hulsman (OMNR), Akbar Ali (Environmental Health Branch, MOHLTC), Shriley Chalouh (Bureau of Food Safety Assessment, Health Canada), Adet Thomas (Agri-Food Ontario Program Network – CFIA), Mary Rutherford (Consumer Protection – CFIA), Glenn Wetherall (OMAFRA), David Norton (Health Canada – HPFB), Julie Pignon (Health Canada), Carry Simpson (CFIA), Peter Boleszczuk (MOHLTC), Karen Jessett (CFIA)

Guests: Paul Strohack (Health Canada)

Regrets: Jim Crawford (Ontario Area, CFIA), , Mike Cassidy (Food Safety Science Unit - Food Inspection, OMAFRA), Elroy Mann (Surveillance Lab for Food borne Zoonosis, HC), Syed Naqvi (Science and Statistics Unit - OMAFRA), Josée Rousseau (Toronto Region - CFIA), Gwen Zellen (Policy Development Branch, OMAFRA), Beverly Alder (OMAFRA), Pat Johnson (Food Safety Programs Branch, OMAFRA), Scott Barden (Food of Animal Origin – Ontario Program Network - CFIA), Tom Baker (Animal Health and Welfare Branch, OMAFRA), George Soleas (Quality Assurance, LCBO), Wayne Patterson (Food Safety Policy Branch, OMAFRA), Gwen McBride (Food Safety Programs Branch, OMAFRA), Andrea Martin (Food Safety Science and Environment Division, OMAFRA), Brenda Mitchell (Director, Environmental Health Public Health Division, MOHLTC), Rena Hubers (Food Inspection Branch – OMAFRA), P.K. Misra (Laboratory Services Branch – MOE), Ron Ramdeholl (Regional Director – CFIA), Ken Murray (CFIA – NE Region), Ellen Helps (Food Safety Policy Coordinator - OMAFRA), Peter Heywood (CIPHI), Lou D'Onofrio (Emergency Management, OMAFRA), Anne Maki (Environmental, Enteric, Molecular Surveillance and STI – MOHLTC), John Lynch (AAFC)

Chair: Bjorn Christensen

Minutes: Ken Diplock

1.0 Opening Remarks

1.1 Welcome & Introductions – New Members
Nothing to Report

1.2 Review of Minutes and agenda

Motion: that the June 27, 2007 minutes be accepted as submitted

Bjorn Christensen / Fran Gelder

2.0 ICFS Business Items

2.1 Review of revised terms of reference (Bjorn Chritensen)

Amendments:

6 – Change “expected” to **encouraged**

-remove any reference to meeting time length, covered earlier in point where meeting dates and time discussed

9 – Reword to massage out what can and cannot be shared.

- “In camera” The information that is shared at the table can be shared amongst our representing bodies unless expressly indicated or during an ‘in camera’ piece.

Action Item:

Review Terms of reference and forward comments to Peter Heywood, final draft to be presented at December meeting.

2.2 2008-2010 ICFS Chair Selection (Bjorn Christensen)

New Director of Food Safety and Environmental Policy – Ling Mark

Chairmanship – OMAF will be chairing and providing secretarial services, names to be provided at December meeting.

2.3 ICFS Participation on FoodSHIELD (Lou D’Onofrio - regrets)

Bjorn read e-mail from Lou D’Onofrio RE: FoodSHIELD. Recommend representatives log onto site and review information.

Deferred until December Meeting (**see action item under 2.3 June minutes**)

2.4 Mandatory Food Handler Training (Bjorn Christensen)

- ALPHA, CIPHI and other stakeholders strategizing ways to advocate for amendments to Provincial Legislation.
- Number of health units pursuing local by-laws.
- Looking for support from other representatives to advocate to the Minister of Health to include Mandatory Food Handler Training in the legislation.

- Akbar Ali – Ontario Public Health Standards being updated. Ministry reviewing core material and advocating that Health Units take steps necessary at the local level. Focus is at reviewing standards not mandating legislation.

Next Step - Bjorn to work with ASPHIO and CIPHI to draft letter and circulate at December Meeting for potential endorsement.

2.5 Great Lake Borders Health Initiative (Bjorn Christensen)

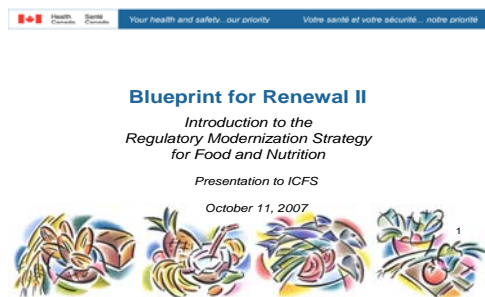
Action Items: Food Defence Subcommittee – ICFS members to forward all pertinent contact information for organizational members that have a role to play in any cross-border food safety issues.

Ken and Peter – to collect a list of all health unit Directors and or Food Safety managers.

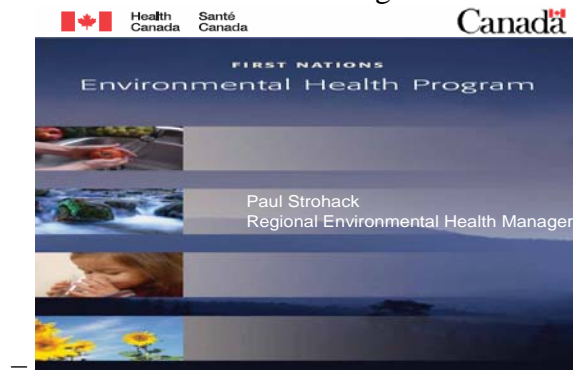
3.0 Speakers Forum

3.1 Health Canada’s Blueprint for Renewal – Regulatory Modernization Strategy for Food and Nutrition – Shirley Chalouh

Ppt presentation presented to group. Handouts provided to meeting attendees.



3.2 Food Safety and the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch – Paul Strohack Regional Environmental Health Manager.



Work in absence of a regulatory framework. Rely on F/P/T legislation for guidelines but must respond to the will of the First Nations Chiefs. Serious attempts are being made to include First Nations into the mainstream population of Ontario. Working on a First Nations based Health Unit focusing on public health prevention strategies. Provincial focus possible for non-land use issues. Provide services to 134 First Nations. EHO's are all certified PHIs. All First Nations are their own groups with

their own distinct identities, needs, and goals. Between 50-60 BWAs at any given time within the communities. Have developed a good working relation with the First Nations and have successful communication and education initiatives.

Recommend if trying to pursuing food safety initiatives, education, inspection, exportation etc., to contact the Office of the Chiefs of Ontario first and consult with the First Nations Environmental Health Branch (Health Canada).

4.0 Standards and Legislation

4.1 Memorandum of Understanding (Louise Sharpe)

4.1.1 Dairy
deferred

4.1.2 Meat
deferred

4.1.3 Laboratory (Karen Jessett)
deferred

4.1.4 Ungraded Eggs (Adet Thomas)
Work has begun on up dating the communications protocol –still in progress. Process being lead by Bob Armstrong.

4.1.5 Fish (Peter Hulsman)
No update. March 2008 aim to have information to share.

5.0 Product/Establishment Inspection

5.1 Baselines and other surveys (all)
No reports presented

6.0 Round Table

6.1 Issue

6.1.1. Akbar Ali– MOHTLC investigation outbreak of *S. typhimurium* PT108. Between March 15, 2007 and October 3, 2007, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care identified 220 laboratory confirmed cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* phage type 108 (ST PT 108). Over this period, ST PT 108 accounted for 42% of the 519 ST isolates, representing a marked increase in cases relative to 2006 when 8 cases were identified.

Of the PT 108 cases identified, 207 met the outbreak case definition. The median age of these cases is 25 years. The ratio of females to males is 1:1.

Cases have been identified in 27 health units across Ontario, with the most commonly consumed food item to date being chicken.

6.1.2 ASPHIO – following up on issues related to small drinking water systems.
Working within e-portal to create a community for ASPHIO.

6.1.3 Glenn Wetherall (OMAFRA) – working on policy related issues including:
foods of plants origin, fish and dairy related to goat and sheep milk under food safety
processing and production.

Working on a Provincial animal health strategy – planning to have it ready for new
Minister within next couple of months. Focusing on gaps within the system
specifically from an emergency response angle – protection, response and economical
impact.

Working on a traceability strategy.

More to report at future meetings on the above initiatives.

6.1.4 Bjorn – Food Safety Protocol being developed, progressing well.
At local level large outbreak of E. coli 0157 related to Chicken Shwarma.

6.1.5 Ken – CIPHI Ontario Branch commented on Donair Consultation Group
guidelines. MOHLTC also commented on guideline (Akbar) as well as ASPHIO
(Bjorn).

6.2 Future guest speakers

Canadian Co-operative WildLife Centre – up to date on hunted meat and could presented
an information session. Paul to forward contact name.

7.0 Next Meeting 2007

December 12, 2007 – LCBO