**IOWA FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Iowa Food Safety and Protection Task Force website**: <http://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/>

The Iowa Food Safety and Defense Task Force met on **Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa.

Those in attendance:

Jill Ball, Kwik Trip, Inc.

Cheryl Bingham, FDA

Katie Jo Close, FDA

Shannon Coleman, Iowa State University, Food Science

Jim Dickson, Iowa State University, Animal Science

Erin Dugan, FDA

Nancy Hall, Iowa Hygienic Laboratory

Jeanne Hansen, Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy

Melanie Harris, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Sandy Heinen, Iowa Environmental Health Association

Tim Link, Iowa Environmental Health Association

Steven Mandernach, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Mary Montgomery, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Jeffrey Moody, FDA

Kemi Oni, Iowa Department of Public Health

Jennifer Pierquet, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Carlene Russell, Iowa Department on Aging

Mark Shearer, Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Aubrey Williams, FSIS

1. Welcome: Steven Mandernach welcomed the group and introductions were made.
2. Emergency Pocket Guide: Jennifer Pierquet, DIA, shared with the group copies of the AFDO Emergency Regulator Pocket Guide 3rd Edition. In 2018, the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Food Protection and Defense Committee developed this guide to assist Regulators in planning for and responding to disasters or emergencies.

The guide is intended to aid Food Regulatory programs and addresses some common or unique situations that may require emergency responses by Food Regulators in the field.

1. “Scary Words” Presentation: Coral Beach, Managing Editor with Food Safety News, presented to the group. The presentation was broadcast live via webinar available to food safety task forces around the country. Link to the recording available at: (<https://foodshield.connectsolutions.com/p5ssa3khfr3/>)
2. "Cyclospora": Kemi Oni, IDPH-CADE, updated the group concerning the four Cyclospora outbreaks identified in Iowa this past summer including: Del Monte vegetable trays sold at Kwik Trip/Star, a food truck event with Cilantro identified, a Mexican style restaurant, and Fresh Express salad distributed to McDonald’s.
3. DIA Update:
* New Staff: Kim Miller has joined the Department of Inspections and Appeals as a new inspector covering southwest Iowa.
* 2018 has been the busiest year thus far for foodborne illness outbreaks.
* The Legislature passed a fee increase bill effective January 1, 2019 giving about a 40 percent increase average in licensing fees.
* As of January 1, 2019, the Department will charge for Certificate of Free Sale requests on behalf of manufactured food firms.
* The Department has received a 5-year funding stream from FDA with funding available for the Rapid Response Team, Food Safety Task Force and Manufactured Food Regulatory Program.
* The Department has entered into a 5-year agreement with FDA to complete manufactured food inspections.
* Public service announcements will roll out soon for the winter months with the general topic on foodborne illness after Christmas.
1. New Business:
* Steve Mandernach announced his departure from DIA as of October 4, 2018. Steve has taken a position as the Executive Director with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Steve shared many accomplishments and working relationships achieved by the Food Bureau, Food Safety Task Force, Department of Public Health, the State Hygienic Lab and FDA. Steve’s new email: smandernach@afdo.org
* DIA Chief Inspector Mark Speltz will serve as Acting Bureau Chief until a permanent Bureau Chief is hired.
1. Information Sharing: Those in attendance shared information concerning their specific organizations.
2. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.