



September Board Meeting, 9/22/2025, 1:00 pm

1. Welcome

- a. Thao Schlichte – present
- b. Bambi Press – present
- c. Ellen Ciarimboli – present
- d. Michelle Clausen Rosendahl – present
- e. Jim Dickson – present
- f. Michelle Boyd – absent
- g. Merri Cross - present

2. New Members added - **Thao**

- a. Nothing to report

3. November 3 General Membership Meeting Prep - **Thao**

- a. Confirm agenda
 - i. Main speakers – have they confirmed?
 - 1. Freeze drying, Mary-Grace Danao at U-Nebraska / Lincoln has confirmed
 - a. Merri will send her the meeting details after this meeting, including request to present for 20 minutes. **DONE**
 - b. Who else will be on the panel? Kurt, Tenesha?
 - i. Ellen suggested inviting both of them to the panel.
 - ii. Thao asked Ellen if she could be in the panel to represent industry. Ellen has agreed.
 - c. Jim would like to be the moderator, to introduce the panelists.
 - i. Merri will reach out to Kurt and Tenesha – they would not need to present slides but come with Q&A which could be discussed with all panelists. **DONE**
 - d. Ellen suggested adding rehydration to the discussion. Members agreed.
 - i. This will be added to the email Merri will send to Mary-Grace, Kurt, and Tenesha. **DONE**



- e. Mary-Grace would be asked to put together a presentation. Hers would be on the background of freeze-drying, and bring rehydration into the mix
 - f. Merri brought up having questions for the panel. Jim said he liked having a set of questions for the panelists to spur conversations. He would like the panelists to come up with the questions to present during the discussion, and Ellen offered to help. She has answered a lot of questions and is familiar with the topic.
 - i. Jim and Ellen offered to work on those with the panelists.
 - ii. Merri will share all information into emails with Jim, Ellen and Thao. **DONE**
2. FBI: Tyler Johnson did not reply to the email Thao sent in August
- a. Thao will send a follow-up email to ask for his answer.
3. If FBI is a no-go, who should we invite instead?
- a. Merri shared the topics spreadsheet. Topics of interest identified in August (food dyes and ag products on the farm) were discussed.
 - b. Ellen suggested someone to present on banned commercial dyes and banned ingredients. She said there is an interest in industry now, many people asking questions.
 - i. No one knows of a SME who could present with Scott Platt.
 - ii. Scott will be limited in presentations due to other priorities at DIAL.
 - iii. This topic was shelved for now but there is indeed interest.
 - iv. At this time, there was no agreement on a second presentation. The attendees discussed having the freeze-drying panel take a longer time to discuss, but only if the FBI presentation will not occur.
- b. DIAL update – Mark Speltz will need to present (Michelle will be absent). Thao or Merri will reach out to him to confirm. **DONE**
- c. RRT updates – Thao reached out to Kemi. There have been no outbreaks of note to present during the meeting. Thao said she would present an update for DIAL's responses.
- d. TF Board Update –



- i. Determine who will provide an update on the Task Force Advisory Board's activities (Bambi? Michelle CR?)
 - 1. Bambi volunteered to present
 - 2. Merri will send her the slide template **DONE**
- ii. Suggested topics – summarize Governance Guidelines completion, inform members that spring 2026 will be nominating and voting for Advisory Board members
 - 1. Bambi agreed to put those topics on the slides
 - 2. Slides will be created on the Task Force PPT template and combined with the main meeting PPT which Merri will create
- e. Welcome poll or meeting rooms
 - i. Merri/Thao – discussion on recent DIAL changes to Zoom accounts and limitations on creating breakout rooms and whiteboards, plus Merri's recent discussion with FoodSHIELD on alternatives.
 - 1. Whiteboards can no longer be created in advance, due to the limitations on DIAL's Zoom account.
 - 2. A slide will show an ice breaker question while people are joining the meeting. The question will be "What have you seen on social media that keeps you up at night?" Attendees will answer in the chat.
 - 3. A poll will be created in advance, multiple choice answers: "What is your favorite Thanksgiving food to eat?" Poll will open at the beginning of the break, and answers will be revealed at the end of the break.
 - 4. A poll will be created in advance, multiple choice answers: "How long have you worked in food safety?" Answers will be ranges (0-5, 6-10, etc.). Poll will open at the beginning of open discussion, answers revealed on the screen during open discussion.
 - ii. Board members agreed with the questions and the polling.
 - iii. Merri will create the polls when the meeting invite is created.
 - iv. Merri will add the icebreaker slide to the meeting deck.
- f. Review Member survey used as a meeting evaluation
 - i. Bambi asked Merri to share the results of the previous survey, which would be added to the Board update portion of the meeting. Merri agreed.
 - 1. Merri will research how the results were shared with the Board and will send that to Bambi. **DONE**



- g. Merri will create the meeting invite after this meeting is done (agenda will be sent after speakers are confirmed).
 - i. Zoom in FoodSHIELD will still be used as the platform, as there is no alternative yet.
 - h. Merri will take minutes of the meeting – **Thao will facilitate** (introduce speakers, keep the flow going, etc.).
 - i. Brian Church is available to monitor the chat
 - i. Open Discussion at the meeting
 - i. Thao suggested a slide of questions to answer after the poll is done. The questions would prompt discussions (special projects, new staff, hot topics of discussion in your agency/organization).
 - ii. Merri will add a slide to the meeting presentation. Questions will be agreed-upon by the Board at the October meeting.
4. Set date for October Board meeting - **Thao**
- a. Tentative suggested dates:
 - i. **Wednesday October 15:** 1-2 pm; 2-3 pm
 - ii. **Thursday October 16:** 1-2 pm
 - iii. **Friday October 17:** 10-11 am, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
 - iv. Consensus is to have the next Board meeting on Friday October 17, 10-11 am
5. Open Discussion
- a. Merri discussed progress with SAFHER and the proposed grant which will have Task Force funding with Manufactured Food's track.
 - b. Bambi said HHS will no longer host the National Resource Center for Nutrition and Aging. They hosted for 5 years. The federal partners are working to find another host agency.
 - c. Thao said Larry Johnson, DIAL's director, has accepted the position to serve as the IHHS director. A press release was issued by the Governor's office just prior to this meeting.

Meeting adjourned 1:57 pm.

Merri Cross, DIAL Grant Coordinator

Secretary