Update on Integration of the Food Safety System from a Federal Perspective

AFDO
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Barbara Cassens
Acting Director Office of Partnerships
“We will strengthen our collaborations with other public health agencies and leverage the expertise and resources of our colleagues at the international, federal, state, and local levels to ensure effective solutions for the American people.”

Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. Commissioner of Food and Drugs
Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)

Vision: Public health & regulatory partners work collaboratively across all jurisdictions to provide comprehensive, coordinated coverage of the food supply from farm to table to prevent foodborne illness in humans and animals.

- Federal, State, local, tribal, & territorial regulatory & public health partners
- Accomplished, in part, through the Partnership for Food Protection (PFP)
Vision Achieved, in part, by:

- Establishing and implementing national standards to ensure consistency across all jurisdictions;

- Developing training & certification programs to establish a highly skilled workforce across all jurisdictions;

- Implementing IFSS foundational elements including:
  - joint work planning including inventory sharing
  - joint inspections where appropriate
  - joint enforcement and compliance teams
  - joint after action reviews of significant events
  - joint responses to significant events
  - immediate notification of egregious conditions
IFSS

Identifying mechanisms, to share information and use data to support enforcement actions;

Ensuring food laboratory accreditation and providing food laboratory best practices to ensure consistent data;
A National Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)

Jointly developed and implemented inspection and enforcement programs

- Efficient utilization of resources: workplanning & training

Benefits:

- Increased ability to assess potential risks at domestic food facilities
- More consistent coverage of facilities across entire food supply chain
- Greater food surveillance through integration of food facility inspection information
- Improved rapid response capacity and efficiency

Outcome: Increased public health protection

Emerging focus on international food safety systems initiatives
Partnership for Food Protection

• Bring together regulatory stakeholders to develop an IFSS
  – Strengthened inspection, laboratory, and response capacity
• 2008, 2010 and 2012 50-State Workshops
• 10 Workgroups

• [http://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FoodSafetySystem/ucm357502.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FoodSafetySystem/ucm357502.htm)
Since the 1990s, Federal, state, territorial, tribal & local agencies have worked together to address an integrated food safety system.

1998: First 50-State Workshop due to launch of the National Food Safety Initiative - included a comprehensive approach to food safety; initial integration success, faltered after inadequate federal infrastructure & funding support.
2008: FDA held its second 50-State Workshop titled *Gateway to Food Protection*

- Reenergized integration to address challenges of growing global food supply
- FDA established PFP to bring together regulatory and public health partners to develop an IFSS
  - **PFP Coordinating Committee**: Established to advise FDA on IFSS infrastructure needs & to suggest strategies & tools for integration; set goals & provided oversight to PFP Workgroups
  - **PFP Workgroups**: Created by PFP Coordinating Committee to work on projects focused on IT, training, emergency response, risk-based work planning & development of PETNet.
Historical Background: IFSS & PFP

2009:
• White House Food Safety Working Group Key Findings Report: IFSS priority recommendation; unified IC structure & adequate provisions for sharing data in an emergency
• FDA drafts an IFSS vision paper, supported by PFP

2010:
• Administration supports IFSS in 2010 budget; $14.6 million to build FDA infrastructure for an IFSS
• Third 50-State Workshop; FDA commits to continued PFP IFSS support

2011:
• PFP work underscored by passage of FSMA; mandates an IFSS

2012:
• Fourth 50-State Workshop
• New PFP Governance Committee created; PFP Workgroups redefined
Internal FDA Action to Support Building an IFSS & the PFP

Organization Changes/Staff Additions
Implementation of Integrated Task Force Action Plan
FDA Support for an IFSS

- Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine (OFVM) Changes
  - Added Director of Intergovernmental Affairs & Partnerships

- Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) Changes
  - Created Office of Partnerships
  - Added Senior Advisor for Fed-State Relations
  - Added District State Liaisons;
  - Added District Emergency Response Coordinators

- New PFP Governance structure and Governance Council contains Senior Leaders from Across FDA’s Foods Program

- Add dedicated project managers for PFP WGs from across FDA’s Foods Programs
FDA’s Integrated Food Safety Taskforce

• Commissioner charged Deputy Commissioners for Foods & Global Regulatory Operations & Policy to establish a high-level Integration Task Force to oversee the development & implementation of new strategies & action plans to achieve full partnership with state/local agencies

• Co-chaired by Joe Reardon, ORA & Jeff Farrar, OFVM
  – Members include Senior Officials from
    • ORA
    • CFSAN
    • CVM
    • State/local leaders involved in the PFP
FDA’s Integrated Food Safety Taskforce

• **Charge:** Identify & address enhancements needed w/in FDA to ensure full adoption of an IFSS; immediate priority given to addressing the following:
  - Strengths/weaknesses of Fed-State partnership, perspectives of officials from FDA & state/local agencies
  - Current FDA policies & practices fostering/impeding development of a full partnership
  - Specific actions FDA leadership can take to institutionalize communication & operational practices required to achieve full partnership
  - Agenda for taking full advantage of FSMA’s mandate for an IFSS that strengthens the state/local role in the food safety system & establishes a full partnership

• **Deliverable:** Recommendations, Action Plan
How does PFP and the IFSS Relate to the Implementation of FSMA?

The good news is that many of the PFP and IFSS initiatives are directly tied to the goals and outcomes set forth in FSMA.

After the passage of FSMA, the leadership at FDA and PFP worked to ensure that the PFP Workgroups were closely aligned to FSMA deliverables.
Current PFP Workgroups

- Animal Feed Network
- Implementation & Communication
- Information Technology
- Local Engagement
- National Feed Sampling
- Response & Recall
- Training & Certification
Implementation & Communication

**WG**

**Charge:**
Develop an implementation plan to facilitate the use of PFP best practices and resource documents across Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments. And develop and enhance communication with partners.

**Current Projects:**
- Develop and Implement a Communication Strategy for PFP and maintain continuity in PFP messaging and outreach
- Develop feedback mechanisms to determine the usage and benefits of PFP resource and best practice documents.

**WG Chair:** Tracey Forfa (CVM), Melinda Plaisier (ORA), and Roberta Wagner (CFSAN)
Information Technology (IT) WG

Charge:
Defining and understanding the requirements for developing an integrated electronic information management backbone, and undertaking technical projects to create an interoperable and national integrated food safety system.

Current Projects:

- Developing a data dictionary to standardize terminology and facilitate the capture and exchange of common data elements
- Establishing a plan to increase the number of agencies capturing baseline set of common data elements for a subset of programs/activities

WG Co-Chair: Tiffani Onifade (FL)
WG Co-Chair: Don Jaccard (FDA)
Local Engagement WG

Charge:
To incorporate the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) deliverables that include “local” agencies with PFP projects and provide specific recommendations for engagement of local agencies within the vision for an IFSS.

WG Co-Chair: Pat Maloney (MA)
WG Co-Chair: Liz O’Malley (FDA)
WG Co-Chair: Davene Sarrocco-Smith (OH)

Current Project:
• Members to review the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and how it applies to working with local agencies.
• Review FSMA provisions and PFP projects to determine where local engagement is appropriate and best way to engage.
Response & Recall WG

Charge:

Develop response guides and records for event responses.

Current Projects

• Development of a SOP for using FoodShield to enhance sharing response information

• District and State Recall Cooperation Plan

WG Co-Chair: Travis Goodman (FDA)

WG Co-Chair: Ben Miller (MN)
National Feed Sampling WG

Charge:

Develop methods of sharing feed collection samples between Federal and State agencies.

Current Projects:

- Develop a database for sharing information relative to feed samples to improve detection and identification of positive feed samples by creating an early alert environment for regulatory officials

WG Co-Chair: Dan Danielson (TN)
WG Co-Chair: Darlene Krieger (FDA)
Animal Feed Network

Charge:
Provide mechanism for information sharing and monitoring between Federal and State agencies for animal feed related incidents.

Current Project:
- Review current Pet Event Tracking Network (PETNet) for improvement needs
- Expand the system to include food producing animals through addition of a LivestockNet portal
- Develop the revised Animal Feed Network to include PETNet and LivestockNet
- Develop a communication and outreach plan for launch of revised Animal Feed Network

WG Co-Chair: Liz Higgins (NM)
WG Co-Chair: Jenny Murphy (FDA)
Training & Certification WG

Charge:
To provide support for visionary development, best practices, appropriate content and recommendations toward development of an integrated food safety training and certification system.

Current Projects:

- Survey current Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) IFSS stakeholders to identify training needs and share the prioritized list of needs with FDA and other training centers of excellence.

- Utilize job task analyses (JTA) to validate the KSAs, competencies, duties and tasks required in each program area to design and develop training content.

- Begin to identify courses and certification programs that meet the needs of the various regulatory program areas (e.g., feed, manufactured & retail food, retail food)

WG Co-Chair: Allan Bateson (FDA)
WG Co-Chair: Jim Fear (FDA)
WG Co-Chair: Keith Johnson (ND)
WG Co-Chair: Dave Read (MN)
PFP Best Practices

• PFP Food/Feed Testing Laboratories: Draft Best Practices Manual
• PFP Information Technology Data Principles
• Model for Local Federal/State Planning and Coordination of Field Operations and Training
• National Program Standards Crosswalk Resources Paper
• Recycled Organic Waste as Animal Feed: A Recommendation for Regulatory Programs to Address Current Information Groups
FSMA & Building an IFSS
Main Themes of the Legislation

- Prevention
- Enhanced Partnerships
- Inspections, Compliance, & Response
- Import Safety
IFSS Related FSMA Sections

- **Section 201**: Targeting of Inspection Resources for Domestic Facilities
- **Section 205**: Surveillance
- **Section 209**: Improving the Training of State, Local, Territorial, & Tribal Food Safety Officers
- **Section 210**: Enhancing Food Safety
Next Steps

• Focus on development of a long-term strategic plan/vision for the PFP’s implementation of an IFSS

• Enhanced communication with Federal, State, local, territorial and tribal partners

• Continue to implement PFP Workgroup products
Addressing Challenges in the Path Ahead

- Budget cuts and extensive furloughs of State & local employees
  - Reduced capacity at State & local levels
- We must continue to invest in crucial areas
  - National Program Standards
  - Training & Certification Programs
  - Information Technology Structure
PFP VISION:

Mutual Reliance for Safer Food Supply

PFP MISSION:

Lead, Enhance, Promote and Sustain an IFSS based on Collaboration and Finding and Sharing Solutions
Take Home Messages

• The PFP is playing a **collaborative** role in developing & implementing an Integrated Food Safety System.

• PFP & FSMA have same goal = develop an Integrated Food Safety System.

• Integration will not happen overnight, but working in **partnership**, we are making strides towards having an IFSS become a reality.
ORA Office of Partnerships
Structure of OP

- **3 Sections**
  - Contracts & Grants Staff
  - New – Integration & Metrics
  - Standards and Implementation Staff
- **Immediate Office**
  - Quality Management System (QMS)
  - Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)
  - Senior Federal-State Program Specialists

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**Did You Know**
Barbara Cassens is the Acting OP Director
OP is part of the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA).
## FY13 Inspection Contract Programs

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<th>Program</th>
<th># of Awards</th>
<th>Inspections</th>
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<td>Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
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<td>Milk Residue</td>
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<td>Data**</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15.2M</strong></td>
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*Mammography Quality Standards Act  
**Analysis of nearly 4 million milk residue samples
## FY13 Grants & Cooperative Agreements

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<th>Programs</th>
<th># of Awards</th>
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<td>Ruminant Feed Ban Support (BSE)</td>
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<td>Rapid Response Teams</td>
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<td>Small Science Conference Grants</td>
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<td>FSMA Emergency Response &amp; Risk Based Inspections</td>
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<td>ISO 17025:2005 Laboratory Accreditation</td>
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<td>Voluntary Nat’l Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards</td>
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<td>Retail Association</td>
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### Total Funding

$37.4M