

MINNESOTA FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024

Today's meeting was held in Room B144, Orville L. Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North St. Paul and via Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing platform.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Members present included: Courtney Bidney, Chris Gindorff, Amy Johnston, Patrice Bailey, Angie Wheeler, Julia Selleys, Lolly Occhino, Jamie Pfuhl, Brent Kobielush, and Caldoun Abuhakel.

Visitors present included: Tammy Fikac, Amy Zagar, Daniel Belina, Jodie Burke, Daniel Webber, Dionne Meehan, Sadie Gannett, Matthew Gerths, Kathy Zeman, Lenora Howard, Julie Wagendorf, Jeff Luedeman, Meghan Melheim, Katherine Simon, Alida (Sorenson) Siebert, Josh Plunkett, Jennifer Stephes, Michelle Boyd, Jacob Schmidt, Heidi Varberg, Vanessa Vogl, Natasha Hedin, Evan Powell, Cari Dufner, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Kim Carlton, Chris McNulty, Erin Mertz, Luke Meier, David Smith, Gabe Wilson, Andrew Siira, Sana Elassar, and Megan Jansa

1. Dates and links

The next Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) Meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

- [Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management - Rulemaking](#)
- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Hotline and Information](#)

2. The minutes from the November 2023 meeting were accepted with no comments.

3. Member and Visitor Updates

David Smith (Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)): David Smith, Manufactured Food Program Manager for the Food and Feed Safety Division (FFSD) shared that the program is conducting dietary supplement inspections in warehousing for the FDA this year. The program is also in the final stages of preparing a dietary supplement needs assessment survey that will go out to industry in early February. The survey will be in reference to understanding of the regulation (21 CFR 111), identifying areas for educational/technical support needs, desired methods of communication, language, and more. David also shared that program staff will be presenting at the Midwest Food Products Association Meeting in April and the FDA/AFDO Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance Meeting in February.

Katherine Simon (MDA): Katherine is the Division Director for the Food and Feed Safety Division at the MDA. However, she is currently working on the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) implementation. She will be sharing additional updates during her presentation later in the meeting.

4. MDA 2023 Rapid Response Team Summary

Alida (Sorenson) Siebert, Response and Outreach Supervisor, at the MDA provided a Rapid Response Team Summary for 2023. Her presentation slides are attached.

5. **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update**

Joshua Plunket, Incident Management Team Coordinator at the MDA provided an HPAI update. His presentation slides are attached.

6. **Office of Cannabis Management Rulemaking Update**

Katherine Simon, Division Director, Food and Feed Safety Division at the MDA, provided the following updates regarding the OCM rulemaking process:

- Rulemaking input gathering is mostly being done through a series of online surveys. Each survey is focused on a different area.
- The [fifth survey](#) covering licensing and social equity considerations is available now. The deadline to provide input is Jan. 26. Two additional surveys will be released after Jan. 26.
- The Office of Cannabis Management is planning to share initial language for public feedback as part of the engagement process. Look to the OCM website for future announcements about timing.
- Once rules are formally proposed following the Office of Administrative Hearing procedures, people interested in providing formal comment will be able to submit through OAH portal. That process is expected to take place in the fall of 2024.
- Watch for updates on the [OCM website](#). You may also sign up for rulemaking email alerts.

Questions about the rulemaking process can be sent to cannabis.rulemaking@state.mn.us.

7. **Potential Agenda Items for March**

- AFDO guide
- FIT update if applicable
- Member updates
- School lunch and local foods