

MINNESOTA FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 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, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Angie Wheeler, Julia Selleys, Lolly Occhino, Jamie Pfuhl, Steven Foster, Ruth Meirick, Derick Davis, Erin Mertz, and Luke Meier.

Visitors present included: Carrie Rigdon, Amy Zagar, Laura Stelter, Daniel Belina, Brian Yager Daniel Webber, Dionne Meehan, Sadie Gannett, Dan Opsahl, Greg Smith, Julie Wagendorf, Meghan Melheim, Katherine Simon, Alida (Sorenson) Siebert, Jacob Schmidt, Heidi Varberg, Ben Miller, Natasha Hedin, Evan Powell, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Kim Carlton, David Smith, Gabe Wilson, Trish Black, Sana Elassar, and Megan Jansa

1. Dates and links

The next Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

- [FDA Update on Post-market Assessment of Chemicals in the Food Supply | FDA](#)
- [128th AFDO Annual Education Conference](#)
- [AFDO Undergraduate Scholarships](#)
- [Farm to School Resources – Reduced Oxygen Packaging](#)
- [MDA Manufactured Food Program - Program Report](#)

2. The minutes from the January 2024 meeting were accepted with no comments.

3. Member and Visitor Updates

Lolly Occhino (Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI)): Lolly shared that AURI is going to be a technical service provider for recipients of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program grant.

Amy Johnston (University of Minnesota Extension): Amy shared that the U of MN working in collaboration with the Farm to School Leadership Team to provide a webinar regarding reduced oxygen packaging in schools.

Carrie Rigdon (Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)): Carrie shared the following updates:

- AFDO's 128th annual conference will be June 9-12 in Grand Rapids, Michigan
 - The conference will feature several tracks:
 - Food
 - Retail Food
 - Outbreaks

- Produce
 - Cannabis
 - Body Art
 - AI and Data Visualization (new!)
- AFDO offers three \$2,500 undergraduate scholarships each spring to students who desire to serve in a career of research, regulatory work, quality control, or teaching in an area related to some aspect of foods, drugs, or consumer product safety. The deadline is March 31.

Courtney Bidney (General Mills): Courtney shared that the FDA recently announced an update on post-market assessment of chemicals in the supply chain. Additional information can be found on the [FDA website](#).

David Smith (Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)): David Smith, Manufactured Food Program Manager for the Food and Feed Safety Division (FFSD) shared the following updates:

- The FDA Inspection Contract has been finalized for 3.5 years. It is subject to modifications.
- Starting in federal fiscal year 2025, the program is anticipating a 20% reduction in federal funding for contracts and cooperative Agreements.
- The program has an unfilled field inspector position in the metro. The position is pending Minnesota Management and Budget's decision on a classification.
- Program staff attended and presented during the AFDO/FDA – Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting in Little Rock, AR.
- The program's annual report has been published on the MDA website.

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. **Small School, Big Challenges**

Laura Stelter, School Director, of Arcadia Charter School, and Katherine Simon, Division Director, FFSD, provided a co-presentation. The presentation was centered on balancing funding, nutrition, food access, and food safety needs from a charter school perspective. Their presentation slides are attached.

5. **Task Force Admin Updates**

Natasha Hedin, Outreach Coordinator, FFSD shared administrative updates regarding the task force, including welcoming new members, discussing upcoming member term expirations, and an environmental sampling training update. Her presentation slides are attached.

6. **Controlling Contaminants During Construction Partnership**

Luke Meier, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRC), provided a high-level overview of the NCSRC Controlling Contaminants During Construction training. His slides are attached.

7. **Potential Agenda Items for May**

- New AFDO guide
- FIT update if applicable
- Member updates and Terms of Reference