

Integrated Food Safety System Task Force Update

50 State Meeting

**Nashville, TN
August 2012**

Background

Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) Task Force

September of 2011, Commissioner Hamburg charges Deputies to establish a high-level Integration Task Force to develop and implement new strategies and action plans to achieve full partnership with state and local agencies.

IFSS Task Force Charges

- 1. Identify the strengths and weaknesses** of the current federal-state partnership, taking into account the perspectives of officials from FDA and state and local agencies.
- 2. Identify current federal policies and practices** that are fostering and impeding development of full partnership.
- 3. Identify specific actions FDA leadership can take** to institutionalize the communication and operational practices required to achieve full partnership.
- 4. Develop an agenda for taking full advantage of FSMA's mandate** for an integrated food safety system that strengthens the state and local role in the food safety system and builds a full partnership.

IFSS Task Force Membership

FDA:

Office of Foods - Jeff Farrar, co-chair
ORA - Joe Reardon, co-chair
CFSAN - Ted Elkin
CVM - Tracey Forfa
ORA - Roberta Wagner
ORA/CER - Melinda Plaisier
ORA/DAL - Ricky Rodriguez
ORA/SER – Charles Breen

Associations:

AFDO – Joe Corby
AAFCO – Bob Waltz
NASDA – Bob Ehart
NEHA/Local – Brian Collins

States:

CA - Pat Kennelly
GA - Oscar Garrison
MN - Heidi Kassenborg
RI - Ernest Julian
TX - Julie Loera

IFSS Task Force Process

Data collection

- Base set of questions provided to associations, states, and districts to collect open ended feedback
- Face to face interviews with representative sample of states and districts
- Face to face interviews with specific, targeted states/districts to probe in depth around recent events, such as the floods in New England (VT) or the cantaloupe outbreak (CO)

IFSS Task Force Process

- Received numerous specific written comments
- Face to face interviews with state and districts in:
 - Sacramento, CA
 - Denver, CO
 - Atlanta, GA
 - Des Moines, IA
 - Baltimore, MD
 - Minneapolis, MN
 - Albany, NY
 - Dallas, TX
 - Montpelier, VT
 - Seattle, WA

IFSS Task Force

- Overview/rough draft of the Task Force findings and recommendations to be provided today based on initial summary
- Overview to be followed by panel discussion and Q&A session
- Recommendations will be reviewed by larger IFSS Task Force, additions or changes made, and then will be submitted to Deputy Commissioners

IFSS Task Force Findings & Recommendations

- Caveats
 - IT needs and utilization/integration of lab data are critical and numerous. Will require a long term strategy with prioritization of efforts.
 - Some things can be done with existing resources. Some cannot.

Findings & Recommendations

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1. Clarify the public health mission of the FDA Foods Program.
2. Reaffirm and act upon FDA's commitment to the IFSS.
3. Build the operational infrastructure needed to effect a true IFSS.
4. Strengthen training through improved coordination, priority setting, and use of modern delivery methods.
5. Provide strong technical support to investigators.

1. Clarify the Public Health Mission

Recommendation

Develop internal and external clarity around the primary public health mission and operational activities within the Foods Program, including inspections and investigations and compliance and enforcement activities.

Action Steps

- Clarify the primary mission and outline an operational plan to meet the mission.
- Develop and implement a change-management plan.
- Develop and implement a unified internal & external communications plan.

2. Reaffirm FDA's Commitment to the IFSS

Recommendation

Identify IFSS best practices, improve the consistency of implementation of best practices and processes across the Federal-State system, and ensure monitoring and accountability.

Action Steps

- Identify and implement best practices.
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- Hold leaders and managers accountable for implementation.
- Establish metrics to assess the success/outcomes of specific IFSS related collaborations.

2. Reaffirm FDA's Commitment to the IFSS

Recommendation

Increase the level of support for IFSS and Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) with more dedicated full time resources.

Action Steps

- Assign a full time senior PFP/IFSS manager & project managers.
- Streamline the PFP governance structure, strengthen Foods Program senior level participation, & revise the PFP workgroup structure.
- Update PFP deliverables & timelines for implementation.
- Clarify Foods Program plans for additional resources for key state initiatives - RRTs, MFPRS, lab certification, and Alliances.

3. Build the Operational Infrastructure

Recommendation

Improve the timeliness and consistency of how information is shared between FDA and States.

Action Steps

- Pursue information sharing agreements with key state health and agriculture officials with whom FDA currently has none.
- Create a web-based educational tool re Commissioning & Credentialing.
- Centralize the Commissioning & Credentialing programs.
- Task a group to develop a more efficient means of sharing information within the parameters of the law.

4. Strengthen and Improve Training

Recommendation

Develop a cross center coordinated approach, to include states, and ensure processes are developed to identify and prioritize IFSS training needs in the Foods Program.

Action Steps

- Prioritize Foods Program training and develop an operational plan that includes an interface with the four Alliances (produce, seafood, preventive controls and sprouts).
- Establish a clear and transparent process for the review and approval of all future training grants.

5. Provide Technical Support to Investigators

Recommendation

Develop a team of subject matter experts to respond to questions from state and federal investigators, and provide consistent and reliable guidance on technical food and feed questions.

Action Steps

- Establish a group of SMEs, with IT tools to ensure accessibility.
- Develop a strategic plan for building and staffing a technical support center.
- Enhance the use of technology for investigators while in the field – in real time.
- Develop and implement a knowledge management system.
- Evaluate FSIS field operational models (Omaha Technical Support Center).

Accomplishments

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- Launched a campaign to put all Commissioners of Agriculture & Public Health under a 20.88 Confidentiality Commitment. Currently 83% of all Ag and 55% of all Public Health Commissioners have an agreement in place.
- Cooperative agreement with AFDO, created the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance to provide additional support to state programs implementing the standards.
- In progress – Cooperative agreement to support ISO accreditation in state laboratories that provide support to manufactured food regulatory programs currently implementing MFRPS.
- Inspection Violation Pilot – five states, four districts, piloted sharing inspectional information in real-time. Findings & observations being drafted. Generally a success in demonstrating value in new models of collaboration and information sharing. Must move forward to full implementation.
- Funding to states – doubled since 2009.

Investments in Federal-State Integration

Programs Funding*	FY2009 Funding	FY2012
Contracts (total)	\$15.5M	\$16.2M
Egg Contract (added FY11)	None	\$700K
Grants (total)	\$17.4M	\$42.4M
MFRPS implementation	None (26 Programs)	\$11M (41 Programs)
ISO (added FY12)	None	\$8M
RRT (expanded FY12)	\$4.5M	\$7.5M
FSMA Emergency Response & Risk Based Inspections (added in FY12)	None	\$4M
Alliances (AFDO and NCSL)	None	\$500K
State Cooperative Programs (total)	\$250K	\$4.9M
Retail Standards Cooperative Agreement	None	\$4.2M
Retail Partnership	\$250K	\$500K
Dairy & Shellfish	None	\$250K
Total Funding	\$33.2M	\$63.5M

*2012 awards estimated

Next Steps

- Meet with complete IFSS Task Force to review and prioritize recommendations.
- Develop action plan to implement recommendations, including specific accountability for each component.
- Ensure mechanism for updating PFP on the progress of implementing.