

AFSAC Meeting Minutes January 5th, 2015

In Attendance

Haley Bissett – TEDS Box
Shelly Griffith – Municipality of Anchorage
Don Harmon – TEDS Box
Jeff Hickman – Municipality of Anchorage
Jennifer – Family Nutrition
Kirsten Myles– Alaska CHARR
Lorinda Lhotka – DEC/FSS
Sunny Muir – DEC/FSS
Ginger Provo – Section of Epidemiology
Rebecca Stephany – DEC/FSS
Kim Stryker – DEC/FSS
Noelani Thompson – DEC/FSS

Opening Remarks & Program Updates – Kim Stryker

Personnel Changes:

- Program Manager Bob Blankenburg will serve as acting Environmental Health Division Director from 1/16 until 4/16.
- New Anchorage Environmental Health Technician – Noelani Thompson.
- New Wasilla Environmental Health Officer – Lexi Salminen.
- New Juneau Environmental Health Officer IV – Jason Wiard.
- Juneau Environmental Health Officer I Bruce Gazaway – Promoted to EHO II.
- New Anchorage Environmental Health Officer – Ytamar Rodriguez.

Program Updates:

- The Governor's Office has instituted statewide travel and hiring restrictions until further notice.
- Budget reductions have warranted a suspension of hair and body art inspections.

- FDA has recently finalized revisions to seafood regulations. FSS is presently finalizing its own revisions based on the FDA model.
- The procurement process is underway for the purchase of a new database to replace the current one.

Marijuana Initiative:

- The Municipality of Anchorage and other agencies have been in the process of submitting draft proposals to the Marijuana Control Board.
- The Marijuana Control Board will begin accepting applications for licensing on 2/1, and anticipates issuing licenses by May.
- The role of FSS in the Marijuana Initiative will be one of regulating the production of concentrates and edibles produced by wholesale and retail operations, as well as overseeing recalls. FSS anticipates accepting applications by early autumn.

Section of Epidemiology Updates – Ginger Provo

- 59 G.I. illness calls were reported.
- 2 botulism outbreaks involving seal oil and seal flipper were reported.
- An ongoing salmonella investigation involving cucumbers is underway.
- Genome sequencing training is underway.
- The Foodborne Policy and Procedure, as well as the Norovirus webpages have been updated.

TEDS Box – Hallie Bissett & Don Harmon

The TEDS (Tracking Environmental Deviation) Box, designed by Don Harmon in 2007, is a secure, insulated, active cold chain, and temperature sensitive air cargo container designed for storage within wide body aircraft. It is capable of maintaining temperatures of +32 to +89 degrees Fahrenheit, making it possible to safely transport perishable, temperature sensitive items such as flowers and vegetables, as well as other food items such as meat and fish to remote Alaskan communities, as well as international markets. The container is a tested and proven technology, easily transportable either by forklift or pallet jack that can be utilized by airlines as well as shippers. TEDS Box clients are offered flexible leasing options, as well as maintenance and repair services. FAA certification is

anticipated to occur on 3/16. For more information, a video is available via www.tedsbox.com.

Member Updates

Lorinda Lhotka:

The S.A.F.E. (State of Alaska Food Service Excellence) Award application has been updated for 2016, in order to simplify the previous year's application process. Any ideas offered to further promote the S.A.F.E award are encouraged.

Shelly Griffith:

- The final revisions to the Municipality of Anchorage Food Code are being completed. Approval is anticipated to occur in April or May.
- Article 6 discussions in regard to Marijuana are underway. The Municipality's role in the Marijuana Initiative will be one of regulation of retail establishments only.

Jeff Hickman:

- The Municipality of Anchorage has recently applied for and received 3 A.F.D.O. grants
- In order to reduce the amount of paper currently used to write inspections, efforts are being made to procure touchscreen laptops.
- Restaurant inspection scores will be available via YELP in the very near future.

Topics For The Next Meeting

- A discussion regarding the possibility of increasing food safety management training statewide.
- Updates on the Marijuana Initiative.
- A discussion regarding the types of bacteria inherent to local wildlife.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5th 2016 at 1:30 pm.