

# Workshop on Public Sector Food Safety Data Collection, Access and Sharing

November 2-3, 2006 | Holiday Inn Conference Center | Decatur, GA

## Meeting Goals and Agenda

### Goals

The goals of this workshop are to: (1) foster cross-sector dialogue among public and private stakeholders on their shared interests in improving the food safety information infrastructure (FSII) as it operates in the public sector, (2) develop a deeper understanding of key topics stakeholders have selected as important to improving the FSII, and (3) identify and analyze specific, realistic opportunities to improve the FSII.

The workshop will include about 50 invited participants from federal, state and local government; the food industry; academia and the research community; and the public health and public interest communities. It will be conducted in a roundtable format to promote discussion among all participants.

### Agenda

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:30 – 8:30

#### Breakfast

Continental breakfast to be served outside of meeting room

8:30 – 9:00 am

#### Introduction

Led by: Mike Taylor, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Michael Batz, University of Maryland School of Medicine

- Welcome and introductions
- Goals of the workshop in relation to the overall FSII project
- Observations on public data collection and access by FSII project staff

**9:00 – 10:30 am      Session 1: Public Health Illness Surveillance: How Can It Better Meet Stakeholder Needs?**

Led by:      Chris Braden, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
                 Kelley Hise, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
                 Elaine Scallan, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
                 Rob Tauxe, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Using FoodNet, OutbreakNet (including eFORS, the Electronic Foodborne Outbreak Reporting System) and PulseNet as examples to focus the discussion, this session intends to stimulate discussion about how national systems of foodborne illness surveillance can better meet stakeholder needs. It will engage participants in discussion of such questions as:

- What do stakeholders need from the foodborne illness surveillance systems managed by CDC?
- To what extent are stakeholder needs being met?
- How might the different foodborne illness surveillance systems be refined or expanded?
- How might the timeliness and depth of access to foodborne illness surveillance data be improved?
- What are the key constraints (e.g., legal, policy, bureaucratic, resource) on CDC's ability to collect, report and share data from different surveillance systems?
- What are the realistic opportunities to overcome constraints?

**10:30 – 10:45 am      Break**

**10:45 – 12:00 pm      Session 1 (Continued): Public Health Illness Surveillance**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm      Lunch**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm      Session 2: Frontline Management: Data Needs of State and Local Government**

Led by:      Rob Blake, DeKalb County Board of Health, Georgia  
                 Dale Morse, New York State Department of Health

State and local government agencies are on the food safety frontline in detecting and investigating individual cases and outbreaks, preparing for emerging problems (including intentional contamination), and implementing prevention and control measures. This session will explore opportunities to improve their access to the data they need by addressing these questions:

- What do state and local officials see as their key unmet data needs for the detection, investigation, prevention and control of foodborne illnesses, outbreaks, and emerging problems? Who should be responsible for meeting those needs?
- How can the quantity and quality of needed data and timeliness of access be improved?
- Are there needs and opportunities to improve sharing of data among health, regulatory, and agricultural agencies, and related laboratories, at the state and local levels?
- In multi-jurisdictional outbreak situations, what particular obstacles to data access and sharing arise? How can they be overcome?

**3:00 – 3:15 pm**            **Break**

**3:15 – 5:00 pm**            **Session 3: Regulatory Data: Can It Have Utility for Other Purposes?**

Led by:            Paul Allwood, Minnesota Department of Health  
Richard Barnes, Office of Regulatory Affairs, FDA  
Loren Lange, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies collect substantial food safety data through their inspection, compliance, and monitoring programs that at least potentially could be useful to other stakeholders. The purpose of this session is to explore whether and how such regulatory data might have broader uses to improve food safety by addressing such questions as:

- What do other public and private stakeholders see as the potential utility of regulatory food safety data for non-regulatory purposes?
- What incentives would regulatory agencies have for sharing such data?
- Given the great diversity in how data are collected among federal, state and local agencies, what efforts or changes in current practice would be needed to make regulatory data useful for other purposes?
- What are the chief constraints (e.g., legal, regulatory, resource) on improving access to and utility of regulatory data for other purposes?
- What are the realistic opportunities or pathways for overcoming those constraints?

## **FRIDAY, 3 NOVEMBER**

**7:30 – 8:30**                **Breakfast**

Continental breakfast to be served outside of meeting room

**8:30 – 10:00 am**        **Session 4: System-Wide Management: Meeting Data Needs for a Systems Approach to Food Safety**

Led by:            Michael Batz, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Risk managers in the public and private sectors seek to understand the causes and opportunities for prevention of foodborne illness on a farm-to-table “systems” basis, whether to better allocate resources, target interventions, or manage supply chains. A systems approach requires data, however, that no one participant in the system may have incentive or capability to generate and share. This session will explore needs and opportunities for improving the public sector role in collection of and access to such data, by considering these questions:

- What are the priority needs of public and private stakeholders for data to support a systems approach to improving food safety?
- In general, what roles and responsibilities is it reasonable to expect federal agencies to undertake in producing and making available food safety data to meet these needs?
- Specifically, what should be the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies in:

- Conducting baseline studies?
- Building public use data sets?
- Maintaining inventories/repositories of relevant data, information, and analysis?
- What is the potential utility of state and local data for “systems” approaches to improving food safety?
- What are the obstacles and opportunities at the state and local level for generating and sharing such data?

**10:00 – 10:15 am      Break**

**10:15 – 10:30 am      Discussion of Draft FSII Survey**

Led by:      Jan Powell, University of Maryland School of Medicine

**10:30 – 12:00 pm      Session 5: Standardization of Data Collection and Reporting**

Led by:      Glenn Morris, University of Maryland School of Medicine

There is wide diversity among agencies at all levels of government in how food safety data are collected and reported, including differences in sampling protocols, testing technology and procedure, pathogen coding and other nomenclature issues, and reporting formats and systems. It is widely recognized that greater standardization in these areas is a foundational step toward improving data access and the utility of data for multiple purposes. The opportunity to make progress in this area will be explored in this session by asking such questions as:

- Why pursue standardization? What are the interests and realistic goals that might be advanced by any such effort?
- What are the highest priority and most realistic opportunities to pursue standardization?
- What institutions should take the lead?
- What are the major constraints? And what are the pathways and opportunities for overcoming them?

**12:00 – 1:00 pm      Lunch**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm      Concluding Discussion: Key Opportunities for Improving Public Data Collection, Access and Sharing**

Led by:      Mike Taylor, University of Maryland School of Medicine

This concluding discussion will produce an inventory of opportunities for improving the public sector role in the FSII, including “outside the box” ideas for addressing issues and taking advantage of opportunities identified in the workshop and a realistic appraisal of productive next steps.