
ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS

[2012]

RESOLUTION NUMBER [leave blank]

Submitted by: AFDO Board of Directors
Date: [Type date of submission]

Concerning: State Rapid Response Teams

Whereas, there exists an increased national focus on emergency preparedness and response relative to our food safety system and supply ever since the attack on Sept 11, 2001, and,

Whereas, 9 pilot states agreed to participate in a Rapid Response Team [RRT] program and strengthen their food defense program infrastructure and work towards an integrated food safety system as required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and,

Whereas, these pilot states agreed to conduct and submit yearly self-assessments plans, participate in audits to measure deliverables, and develop, implement, and sustain replicable model RRT concepts for adoption or use by other states, and

Whereas, a study conducted within the Fellowship for Food Protection to evaluate challenges that exist with the pilot states to properly complete deliverables in the RRT program revealed the following concerns:

- States cannot continue to plan, develop and implement an effective integrated food safety system without sustainable funding
- States have been primarily focused on the required grant deliverables that do not reflect some of the new recommendations that have resulted from learned lessons
- Written plans and strategies increased faster responses
- States can strengthen their RRT and meet training event requirements by conducting an After Action Report and team review of real food emergencies, therefore,

Be it resolved that AFDO advise FDA of the critical importance of sustainable federal funding as necessary for long term planning and continued development of a safe food supply, and,

Be it further resolved that AFDO advise FDA that component recommendations that have arisen out of learned best-practices should be incorporated into new RRT grant deliverables, and

Be it further resolved that AFDO, through the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance, continue to provide a conduit to share RRT recommendations with all state programs.