

2016-2017 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory, Science & Technology Committee

***Chair:** Yvonne Salfinger, Denver, CO

Chair: Daniel Rice, FDA Pacific Regional Laboratory – Northwest, Bothell, WA

Chair: Dirk Shoemaker, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Lincoln, NE (Retired)

Chair: Richelle Richter, FDA Pacific Regional Laboratory – Southwest, Irvine, CA

Charge 1: Work with AFDO Staff to meet APHL/AFDO/AAFCO Cooperative Agreement deliverables. Work to include expanding the SME registry, finalizing the IFPTI Curriculum Framework, and ensuring networking and community between laboratories seeking/maintaining ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Discussion: This work is being finalized for the current cooperative agreement. The committee co-chairs work on many committees/workgroups to ensure the cooperative agreement deliverables are met. Yvonne Salfinger is a consultant for AFDO and works closely with staff and Ron Klein, the program manager, to ensure that state laboratories have access to available resources to ensure laboratories become accredited. Dirk Shoemaker is also a consultant for AFDO working on the IFPTI Curriculum Framework and the Laboratory Managers Steering Committee.

AFDO staff reached out to SMEs for updates in July 2016. The next update is scheduled for July 2017. The AFDO Subject Matter Experts Registry (<http://www.afdo.org/sme>) had between 9/1/2017-4/13/2017: 170 Unique Pageviews. SMEs registered to date (4/13/17) for laboratory related topics:

Animal Feed Testing (11)

Chemistry testing (0)

Epidemiology (6)

Food Laboratory (44)

Laboratory Accreditation (3)

Microbiology Testing (0)

Pesticide Residue and/or Antibiotic Residue Analysis (1)

Pet Food Testing (7)

Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (0)

Rapid screening testing (molecular biology) (0)

Sampling (8)

Whole Genome Sequencing (0)

In collaboration with IFPTI, AFDO's Governmental Food and Feed Laboratory Curriculum Framework Workgroup has completed a draft curriculum framework diagram and definitions that is guiding the development of competency statements for the laboratory professional levels. The framework will allow laboratories to identify gaps in professional development and create personalized learning paths for employees. In the first part of Year 5, the Workgroup completed level 2-5 competencies and key performance indicators for the Entry Level Foundation (completed in October 2016). The Course Design Documents and Key Performance Indicators will be finalized in May 2017. The Workgroup will begin working on the Entry Level program specific microbiology and chemistry content areas in the Governmental Food and Feed Laboratory Curriculum Framework in May 2017.

To accomplish these goals the Curriculum Framework workgroup held a 3.5-day meeting on October 25-28, 2016 at APHL headquarters in Silver Spring, MD (our second meeting at that location). These meetings are indicative of the great degree of cooperation between AFDO and APHL. IFPTI plans to continue with two facilitator teams (each team consists of two people – a facilitator and co-facilitator). Competencies will be vetted by the larger laboratory community via online survey tool after each section of competencies is

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completed. All workshops may be supplemented with homework assignments and teleconferences to continue competency development work, along with supporting work by AFDO consultants. The next meeting will be held May 16-19, 2017 at APHL Headquarters.

The 3rd Annual Governmental Food and Feed Laboratory Accreditation Meeting was held January 24-26, 2017 in St. Petersburg, FL in association with the 2017 MFRP Alliance Annual Meeting. The meeting included those laboratories awarded funding for food testing accreditation, and laboratories not currently funded through cooperative agreements for accreditation (13 attended, with 2 having to cancel due to travel restrictions). These unfunded laboratories were funded by AFDO to attend. AFRPS feed testing accreditation laboratory staff were invited, but not required to attend, as they have a required meeting along with the AAFCO meeting the week before. FDA ORA laboratory quality managers were also in attendance and some were speakers, and it is hoped that participation and involvement of FDA ORA laboratory quality staff in this meeting and other federal-state venues will help build a community among state and federal laboratory staff.

Recommendations: Work going forward is dependent on needs by FDA and any funding opportunities for projects such as the Laboratory Curriculum Framework completion. The fiscal year will end August 31, 2017 for the current charge/cooperative agreement.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/7/17

Charge 2: Provide a committee structure environment and encourage involvement from laboratory managers to assist in technical guidance solutions and in sharing best practices.

Discussion: AFDO is sponsoring an active Laboratory Managers Steering Committee, with 23 members, including staff from APHL, AFDO and AAFCO, which meets monthly, by phone, to discuss various topics to help facilitate laboratory accreditation, with the charge of also working to improve the MFRP standards regarding laboratory issues (specifically Standard 10). The Committee has been supportive of work being done by the PFP Laboratory Science Workgroup, Food and Feed Laboratory Curriculum Development Workgroup, Data Acceptance Workgroup, GOODSamples, Food and Feed Subcommittee reports, NASDA Produce Safety Project, and MFRP Standard 10, Laboratory Support review process and recommendations. The Laboratory, Science, and Technology Committee for AFDO in collaboration with the Laboratory Managers Steering Committee will be presenting to the AFDO Board for member consideration a resolution supporting APHL's Best Practices for Submission of Actionable Food and Feed Testing Data Generated in State and Local Laboratories which was published in October 2016.

The LST is also planning on participating in the MFRPA – Laboratory Accreditation Work Group which was established in April 2017 to evaluate food and environmental sampling training, identify existing training resources and best practices, and make recommendations on how training needs can be met.

Recommendations: Continue this charge for 2017-2018. This forum compliments the Laboratory, Science, and Technology Committee, and is a sounding board for issues for the laboratories working with regulatory programs. Additionally, this forum works to provide input into revisions for the MFRPA.

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Charge 3: Continue with the structured process to implement changes to the Program Standard 10 (MFRPS) and the Program Standard 5 (VNRFRPS).

Discussion: This is a topic for the Laboratory Managers Steering Committee agenda on a monthly basis. Maria Ishida (NY Ag) is the appointed non-voting laboratory member to the MFRPA Board. She is also a member of the Laboratory Managers Steering Committee, which is the lead for changes to this activity (MFRPS).

Recommendations: Continue this charge.

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Charge 4: Serve as AFDO liaison with APHL and provide AFDO’s Board of Directors with a list of relevant activities of mutual interest.

Discussion: The AFDO co-chairs, staff and members are on many APHL committees. Ron Klein is the appointed liaison with APHL-he will be retiring from this position in July 2017. Relevant activities currently include many related to the Association’s Cooperative Agreement. A Steering Committee made up of liaisons from each Association guides the work and assesses the progress of the cooperative agreement. Dan Rice with FDA ORA/ORS participates in the APHL/AFDO/AAFCAO executive steering committee meetings. APHL is representative of many laboratories performing testing on food, and as such, the relationship with APHL is an important link for AFDO to maintain as a relationship.

Recommendations: This charge should be continued whether there are formal relationships (such as with a cooperative agreement) or informal.

Executive Committee Action:

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Charge 5: Track FDA involvement with non-governmental entities to determine whether they are being utilized for regulatory analytical activity.

Discussion: The related resolution (Resolution Number 2016-1: FDA’s Use of Private Laboratories) is still pending a formal response from FDA. APHL also has issued a position statement on this issue as well as the AFDO resolutions from 2015-2016.

Recommendations: Continue to keep pulse on this issue, and other issues to help state and local laboratories be utilized for work rather than private entities for regulatory work.

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Charge 6: Feedback and participate in discussions and activities related to the sustainability of regulatory food/feed laboratory accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Discussion: Various committees and venues are looking at this topic. This was a topic at the Laboratory Accreditation Meeting. Barbara Cassens held a discussion with the laboratory attendees and discussed potential bridge funding and possibilities of a strategic plan for a future funding model.

Recommendations: Continue. Work with FDA to perhaps facilitate the strategic planning, or at a minimum, work to obtain feedback from AFDO members when this strategic planning is conducted by FDA.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/7/17

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