

2017-2018 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory, Science & Technology Committee

Chair: Yvonne Salfinger, Denver, CO

Chair: Maria Ishida, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Albany, NY

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

Chair: Sally Flowers, Nebraska Department of Agriculture – Lincoln, NE

Charge 1: Work with AFDO Staff to meet MFRPA Cooperative Agreement deliverables as they relate to the laboratory regulatory community to ensure networking and community between those laboratories, Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance members and other food programs. Work will include support for the MFRPS-Laboratory Sampling Committee, support for a Laboratory Accreditation meeting for laboratories working under the MFRPA, support for unfunded laboratories to attend such a meeting, updating of Topical Index, Subject Matter Experts list, and MFRPA portal resources.

Discussion:

- Several LST Committee members helped plan the January 2018 Laboratory Accreditation Meeting. Meeting attendees received new information on the 2017 changes to the ISO 17025 standard (see Charge #7)
- There have been sessions on the upcoming Laboratory Flexible Funding Model at the Laboratory Accreditation Meeting, the AFRPS face-to-face meeting, APHL Food & Feed Testing Subcommittee meeting, and FDA FERN Technical meeting. Laboratories were invited to provide input to FDA. Additional discussion on the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model will continue at the annual APHL meeting with an invitation-only luncheon with FDA for laboratories involved with a cooperative agreement with FDA.
- Several LST Committee members are participants of the MFRPS-Laboratory Sampling Workgroup. During the past year, the workgroup goal and the problem statement were defined. After initial discussions, three subcommittees were established and tasked to provide resources related to sampling foundations, methods, and procedures based on the Food Foundations Sampling Course Competencies. This committee's work is shifting, and collection of documents for the MFRPA site and review for best practices will be occurring in early summer.
- MFRPS-Laboratory Sampling Committee continued working on a best practices document, *Good Test Portions*, anticipated to be published in Summer 2018.
- Yvonne Salfinger has continued seeking out additional subject matter experts for a list that is maintained by AFDO.
- Working to obtain laboratory sampling documents through a survey for the MFRPA portal.
- Working to update the Topical Index for the Laboratory and Laboratory Accreditation areas.

Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/6/18

Charge 2: Provide a committee structure environment and encourage involvement from laboratory managers to assist in technical guidance solutions, in sharing best practices, and liaison with APHL's Food/Feed Subcommittee.

Discussion: This is an ongoing overarching charge of the LST committee. Sally Flowers is now the AFDO liaison for the APHL Food and Feed Subcommittee, which held an in-person meeting in late March 2018. The LST committee has an in-person meeting at the annual AFDO Conference and held a call with committee members

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on January 12, 2018. Committee members also communicate frequently via email.

Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/6/18

Charge 3: Serve as AFDO liaison to the Partnership for Food Protection Laboratory Science and Training workgroups, and other as needed to ensure the regulatory laboratory community is represented in this activity.

Discussion: Yvonne Salfinger is AFDO liaison to the PFP Laboratory Science and Training and Certification workgroups. This committee continues to work on the Laboratory Best Practices Manual, which is incorporating the 2017 changes to ISO/IEC 17025. Also, the Current Major Laboratory Initiatives is being formatted at APHL for publication.

Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/6/18

Charge 4: Continue with the structured process to recommend changes to the Program Standard 10 (MFRPS).

Discussion:

- AFDO input on any MFRPS Standard 10 changes along with laboratory representation in the MFRPA continues to be a high priority. Maria Ishida continues to serve as laboratory liaison to MFRPA, through an appointment is with the APHL Food and Feed Subcommittee.
- Maria Ishida participated on the MFRPA Standard Analysis Workgroup. In this group, Maria provided feedback concerning the crosswalk information between MFRPS Standard 10, VNFPS Standard 5, AFRPS Standard 10, National Shellfish Sanitation Program, and Core Competencies.

Recommendations: Continue the charge

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/6/18

Charge 5: Serve as AFDO liaison with APHL and provide AFDO's Board of Directors with a list of relevant activities of mutual interest.

Discussion:

- The LST Committee had a conference call on January 12, 2018.
- Yvonne Salfinger has continued to advocate for continuation of funding to complete the Laboratory Curriculum Framework. This is a living document and will best serve its purpose if there are resources available to review and revise the document, at least once annually. The product is posted online at APHL now so that state regulatory laboratories can access the information already created.
- APHL applied for a RFA in May 2018 for work supporting the Laboratory Curriculum Framework.

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Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

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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:

- This was a major topic at the January 2018 Laboratory Accreditation Meeting. All accredited laboratories must conform to the new standard by 2020, and some as early as Spring 2018. These changes are a large undertaking, especially for newly accredited labs and those seeking accreditation for the first time.
- Denise Toney (VA), Jason White (CT), and Maria Ishida (NY) are part of the Advisory Committee of the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model Workgroup. This group was created to discuss criteria and requirements for the 2020 FDA Laboratory Flexible cooperative agreement.

Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

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Charge 7: Identify and recruit laboratory subject matter experts to participate in the development of the Laboratory Curriculum Framework and course and provide liaison between the Laboratory Curriculum Framework and the Regulatory Curriculum Framework.

Discussion:

- Requests for additional subject matter experts have been made at the 2017 AFDO meeting and on conference calls of related committees of which several of us are participating members. Yvonne Salfinger has been maintaining this list. Also, the Laboratory Curriculum Framework, once issued, will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to meet the training needs of regulatory laboratories.
- It came up in our January 12, 2018 committee conference call that many committee members continue to face travel restrictions. Future collaborations might rely more heavily on WebEx-type venues if face-to-face meetings are not feasible for most of the LST committee members.

Recommendations: Continue the charge.

Executive Committee Action:

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Two New Charge Suggestions:

- Supporting *GOODSamples* and *GOOD Test Portions* - Provide platform to help disseminate information on sampling theory to state laboratories via best practices. Identify avenues for workshops, presentations, and/or webinars

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- Whole Genome Sequencing - Provide educational forum on their use to support food safety; include participating laboratories in LST committee