



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP
State Health Commissioner

April 15, 2024

Dr. Joanne M. Brown
Chair, AFDO Awards Committee
Association of Food and Drug Officials
155 W Market Street, 3rd Floor
York, PA 17401

Dear Dr. Brown and Selection Committee:

I am writing to nominate the Indiana Department of Health's Food Protection Division (FPD) for the Elliot O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award in recognition of their exceptional achievements in transforming Indiana's food safety landscape.

The FPD has undergone a remarkable program restructuring transformation in the past three years. Despite a lean team, they tackled staff retention challenges, fostering a dedicated workforce committed to food safety. This strategic approach led to a significant increase in the effectiveness and efficiency of food safety inspections across Indiana. In addition, the FPD implemented innovative outbreak investigations, modernized the Retail Food Code aligning with the latest FDA standards, and is currently aligning the Wholesale Food Code with federal regulations. This comprehensive approach, coupled with a data-driven strategy, allows for targeted interventions and maximizes the FPD's impact on national food safety efforts.

While the IDOH FPD's accomplishments are noteworthy, it's the "how" they achieve these results that truly sets. Their ability to pivot while remaining mission focused on protecting the food supply in Indiana is cause for recognition. They see the need for shifting toward modernizing the overall approach to food protection and that buy-in is critical to the future success in safeguarding all facets of food production.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

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The Indiana Department of Health is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.



For your review, I have attached the application package and 2 testimonials on the FPD's accomplishments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 317-696-7383 or at vmccurdy@health.in.gov if you require further details.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vivien McCurdy, RDN, MPA
Director of the Food Protection Division
Food Protection Division

Association of Food and Drug Officials

◆ Elliot O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award ◆

*This nomination must be submitted by **April 1**
to be considered for the current year's award*

Criteria for Nominations

The Elliot O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award is given to recognize outstanding achievements made by food safety programs within State Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Agencies, Public Health Departments or Environmental Conservation Departments in the United States or Canada. The award will go to the program that best showcases improvement, innovation or sustained high performance within a food safety program. A food safety program could include responsibility for: food safety, food protection, and food defense or food sanitation. The applications will be made to the AFDO awards committee by the deadline.

(PLEASE TYPE)

Date of Nomination: 3/31/2024 for the year ending December 31, 2023

Program's Full Name: Indiana Department of Health, Food Protection Division

Nominator Vivien McCurdy, Division Director

Immediate Organization: _____

Agency: Indiana Department of Health

City, State, ZIP: Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Telephone (office): 317-233-3220 (mobile): 317-696-7383

Email Address: vmccurdy@health.in.gov

AFDO Member Vivien McCurdy

Executive Summary:

Over the past three years, the Indiana Department of Health's Food Protection Division (FPD) has undergone a significant transformation. Through a comprehensive program restructuring plan, the FPD has emerged as a leader in safeguarding Hoosier food safety. Despite a lean team size, the FPD has successfully addressed staff retention challenges, fostering a stable and dedicated workforce committed to promoting a robust food safety culture across Indiana. This strategic improvement has resulted in a marked increase in the effectiveness and efficiency of food safety inspections.

First, the FPD modernized its approach across the board. This included implementing innovative techniques for investigating foodborne illness outbreaks, ensuring a more rapid response to public health threats. It also undertook a complete overhaul of the Retail Food Code, aligning Indiana with the 2022 FDA Model Food Code. Additionally, the FPD is aligning its Wholesale Food Code with the U.S. FDA's Preventive Control for Human Food Standards. This comprehensive modernization, coupled with a data-driven approach, allows for targeted interventions and resource allocation, maximizing the FPD's effectiveness and contributing to the nation's food safety efforts.

Additionally, the FPD fostered robust partnerships with local health departments, federal agencies, and industry associations, creating a collaborative network for food safety. The team's dedication to education empowers food establishments with preventive practices, further strengthening the food safety culture across the state. The IDOH FPD's success story goes beyond the results achieved. Their commitment to open communication, innovative thinking, and unwavering teamwork serves as a model for effective food safety programs nationwide. This collaborative spirit, coupled with their focus on continuous improvement, positions the FPD as a leader in safeguarding public health.

❑ Agency Demography (Population Served, Age and Diversity)

Indiana, the state Hoosiers call home, is the 38th largest state in the United States by land area. Despite its modest size, Indiana boasts a population of over 6.8 million people. Interestingly, the state has a relatively even age distribution, with 12% of the population younger than 9 years old and 17% older than 65. While the state is becoming more diverse, the majority is White (61.6% non-Hispanic), followed by Hispanic (18.7%) and Black or African American (12.4%).

Beyond its demographics, Indiana is a significant agricultural producer. It ranks as the ninth largest farming state in the nation, showcasing the importance of agriculture to the state's economy and way of life. Indiana's agricultural prowess extends even further, specifically in tomato production, where it reigns supreme as the No. 3 producer in the country. In fact, Indiana's Red Gold, based in Orestes, is a household name for many thanks to their canned tomato products that are distributed across the country.

❑ Agency Resources and Budget (Staff, Facilities, Revenues)

The IDOH Food Protection Division (FPD) stands as a sentinel, safeguarding the health of Hoosiers by ensuring the safety of their food. Its comprehensive efforts combining regulation, outreach, and education plays a critical role in protecting Hoosiers from the threat of foodborne illness. Unlike most state agencies, the FPD operates with a unique, centralized structure. All food safety regulatory programs, Produce, Retail, Manufacturing, Rapid Response Team, the enteric epidemiology team, and Food Lab reside within the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), fostering a collaborative environment and streamlining oversight.

The FPD protects the Hoosier food system through a comprehensive network of programs and collaborations. As a participant in three FDA Cooperative Agreement Programs (CAPs), the FPD's reach extends beyond Indiana's borders. The Indiana Produce Safety Team, established based on the CAP C model, oversees the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of Indiana fruits and vegetables. Meanwhile, the Wholesale Food Program ensures the safe storage, production, and distribution of manufactured food products throughout the state and beyond. The FPD's Rapid Response Team (RRT) plays a vital role in responding to multi-state foodborne illness outbreaks and nationwide recalls. Recognizing Indiana's home rule model, the FPD Retail Food Program supports the state's 95 local health departments (LHDs) by providing resources and training for retail food inspections. The FPD also directly inspects establishments located on state property. This program equips local inspectors with the necessary tools and knowledge to ensure the safety and sanitation of retail food establishments, the cornerstones of our communities.

The division takes a strategic approach to staffing, deploying field personnel to work from their homes and vehicles. This allows for efficient mobility, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the diverse landscape of Indiana. Central office staff, meanwhile, leverage a hybrid work schedule, striking a balance between flexibility and collaboration. The division operates with a total of 29.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) state employees and five part-time contractors, a dedicated team committed to public health. Over 75% of the division's budget is funded by the agency operation fund, demonstrating the state's unwavering commitment to food safety.

❑ Program Planning/Self Evaluation (Vision, Staff Participation)

The Indiana State Department of Health's Food Protection Division (FPD) has undergone strategic restructuring with their leadership team support to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in enhancing safe food production. This restructuring involved merging the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Produce Safety teams under one manager. This streamlined approach facilitates faster outbreak response, more effective on-site farm risk assessments, and improved post-outbreak support for growers. Furthermore, the FPD created a new Education and Standardization Officer position to support the upcoming modernization of the Indiana Retail Food Code and the revitalization of the Indiana Food Inspector Standardization Program. Additionally, the Health First Indiana (HFI) initiative contributes by bringing onboard additional LHD resources support a Food Specialist. This specialist plays a crucial role in standardizing inspection documentation and rule guidance, enabling the adoption of a risk-based inspection program across all 95 local health departments (LHDs).

Similar improvements are underway for the Wholesale Food Program. Under new leadership, the program has significantly bolstered its inspector capacity, ensured all inspectors are fully trained and that the program achieved full conformance with the MFRPS standards in 2023. This has empowered Indiana to double its U.S. FDA contract inspections and significantly improve compliance and enforcement response time. Finally, the Wholesale Food Program has embarked on modernizing the Indiana Wholesale Rule to fully align with the FSMA Preventive Control for Human Food Rule.

Beyond restructuring, the FPD has implemented a multi-faceted approach to further solidify its food safety efforts. This approach integrates outreach and education into the core responsibilities of all team members. By embedding education into all programs, the FPD ensures consistent messaging reaches a wider audience, including the industry, the public, and even other state agencies. This fosters a deeper understanding of food safety regulations and best practices, ultimately promoting proactive compliance across the board. FPD inspectors are now empowered to act as dual experts – enforcers and educators. During routine inspections, they can provide targeted guidance and resources to food establishments, actively supporting their ongoing compliance. This shift fosters a more collaborative relationship between inspectors and stakeholders, culture a sense of shared responsibility for food safety and a shared commitment to a better food safety culture. Additionally, the inclusion of education, in-person or over virtual meetings, adds variety to the inspector's routine, potentially reducing burnout and leading to a more sustainable workforce within the FPD. This focus on training, alongside the existing "educate before and while we regulate," creates a more collaborative environment.

❑ Program Management (Staff Control, Community/Industry/Consumer Support)

The Food Protection Division (FPD) weathered a significant storm in 2020-2021, experiencing staff turnover exceeding 50%. This exodus was driven by a combination of factors: early retirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, employee burnout, and uncompetitive salaries. However, the FPD team has displayed remarkable resilience. They not only reached full staffing levels, but with all new members are fully trained based on national standards as of December 2023.

Additionally, the division strategically added a data analytics team to signify its commitment to modernization. This team will spearhead the upgrade of the electronic food inspection system, allowing for more efficient data collection and analysis. These data-driven insights will empower the FPD to make even more informed decisions, further strengthening Indiana's food safety infrastructure. Dashboards will be created for both information sharing with external partners and to monitor statewide outbreak incidents. Looking toward the future, FPD plans to add a full-time Manufactured Food Field Supervisor to strengthen oversight of manufacturing facilities inspection and the implementation of the full PC Inspection. Creating two additional administrative assistant positions will offer further support for overall operations.

While dairy, animal food, eggs, and meat fall under the purview of separate state agencies, FPD maintains open communication channels. Monthly virtual and quarterly in-person meetings are held to discuss regulatory developments, coordinate enforcement actions, and work toward a unified food safety culture. This collaborative approach prioritizes both public health and economic growth within the food industry.

❑ Program Implementation (Training, Compliance, Enforcement)

All FPD inspectors undergo a rigorous training program tailored to their specific program, agency policies, and area of coverage. Regulatory field inspectors require sign-off from their program manager before conducting independent inspections, followed by an annual field audit to ensure continued competency. To stay current with evolving industry practices and regulatory changes, inspectors must complete at least 20 hours of continuing education annually. Lessons learned from attending national conferences are expected to be shared with peers during monthly team meetings.

A critical review of the food inspection schedule and Indiana's burgeoning food industry in 2022 revealed the need for the division to transition towards a cross-training model. This shift has demonstrably improved the agency's investigation response rate and significantly increased the number of inspections conducted. For example, during the national cinnamon lead contamination incident, the Rapid Response Team (RRT), with the support of other program team members, was able to swiftly conduct traceback investigations, product samplings, and recall checks at over 133 locations within a 48-hour period, thanks to the newly implemented system. Another example is a dedicated rapid response team, comprised of three members and supported by two cross-trained produce inspectors, who efficiently collected and tested over 170 cantaloupes for Salmonella contamination during the summer of 2023.

Furthermore, the division restructuring process identified opportunities for improvement within the compliance enforcement administration process. This included fostering clearer communication channels between inspectors and managers regarding potential concerns, as well as streamlining the process for preparing, approving, and implementing regulatory actions. Led by the Manufacturing Manager and involving the division director, division attorney, inspectors, and the division administrative assistant, a new quality improvement process is underway to expedite the response timeline, aiming to reduce a previously two-week ordeal to a more efficient 72-hour turnaround.

❑ Program Outcomes (Measurable Outcomes)

In early 2022, the Food Protection Division (FPD) launched a robust 3-year program restructuring plan to significantly enhance its capabilities and effectiveness. This plan addressed critical areas like staff retention, regulatory compliance, outreach, and collaboration. Here is the progress FPD has made as of the end of 2023.

Strengthening Our Team: The division made a successful push to expand its workforce. By increasing full-time equivalents (FTEs) from 27 to 29.5, a 10% rise, FPD can provide more comprehensive food safety oversight. This investment also allows for the integration of outreach and education duties into the regular responsibilities of all team members. Recognizing the importance of attracting and retaining top talent, with the support of Governor Holcomb's statewide salary evaluation initiative, FPD implemented a significant increase in starting salaries. New inspectors now receive a competitive starting salary of \$60,000, a 43% jump. Management positions also saw a substantial raise, with salaries climbing 25% to \$76,000.

Enhancing Food Safety: FPD's commitment to proactive inspections yielded impressive results. The total number of inspections conducted saw a remarkable 79% increase. This translates to better coverage across the industry, ultimately leading to improved food safety practices. The agency's dedication to swift and effective response to foodborne outbreaks was also evident in the 59% increase in the number of responses handled. This success can be attributed, in part, to the implementation of a cross-training strategy that enhanced the agency's overall response capacity.

Furthermore, FPD prioritized industry and public education by conducting over 250% more outreach and education activities. This significant increase lays a strong foundation for fostering a culture of food safety awareness among both industry professionals, the LHDs, and the general public. Finally, FPD sent a clear message about the importance of protecting public health through a dramatic increase in compliance and enforcement activities. This includes issuing warning letters, civil penalties, and cease-and-desist orders. Partnership with the FDA OHAFOE6 Division resulted in rapid voluntary compliance for multiple manufacturing firms with close to 250 tons of contaminated products disposed of in two years.

Modernization process: The Retail and Wholesale Food Codes are undergoing a comprehensive review to ensure FPD operates under the most up-to-date FDA guidelines. This commitment to staying current with the latest scientific advancements strengthens the overall effectiveness of the division. Additionally, the recently created state-wide consumer complaint system serves as a valuable tool. This system allows FPD to identify potential foodborne illness outbreaks early and take timely action to mitigate any threats. Recognizing the power of data in informing sound decision-making, FPD initiated a data modernization project in June 2023. This initiative is expected to lead to significant improvements in data collection and analysis, ultimately benefiting both local and state agencies.

Goals for Improvement

Building on the significant progress achieved in the past three years, the IDOH FPD remains dedicated to enhancing its regulatory capacity, data modernization efforts, and policy updates. Here's a glimpse into ongoing initiatives for the next three years:

Modernizing Processes for Efficiency:

1. FPD is converting all forms to an electronic system, streamlining processes and offering online registrations for greater convenience to the industry. The expected completion date is early 2025.
2. A state-wide data repository system is under development to aggregate inspection data from all 95 local health departments (LHDs). This centralized resource will empower FPD to leverage collected data for proactive identification of emerging food safety trends, allowing for informed resource allocation, and a more responsive regulatory program across the state. The expected completion date is summer 2025.

Building a culture of food safety:

1. IDOH FPD is committed to fostering a public health culture that prioritizes preventative food safety measures. This includes establishing advisory teams comprised of industry members and consumers to gain valuable insights and build stronger relationships. Recognizing industry leaders who prioritize food safety further reinforces this collaborative approach.
2. Normalizing enforcement and compliance actions across the state is a key objective for the Produce, Manufacture, and the Retail program. Additionally, IDOH FPD is working with agency senior management to provide guidance and support to the 95 LHDs, and promote the implementation of FDA Retail Food Standards. This collaboration aims to achieve standardized retail food programs, eliminating regulatory confusion and ensuring consistent, safe practices throughout Indiana.

❑ Issues/Challenges/Risks

The Indiana Department of Health's Food Protection Division (IDOH FPD) has undeniably made significant progress over the past three years. However, to ensure long-term success, the focus must go beyond growth to include sustainability. While salary adjustments have been implemented, staff retention remains a key concern. Fostering a positive work-life balance environment is an ongoing priority. Combating burnout through employee incentives and building a collaborative team spirit will be crucial for retaining the dedicated professionals who are the backbone of the division.

A comprehensive food system and a better public health system require a collaborative approach among local, state, and federal entities. Modernization of food safety regulations presents an opportunity for uniformity across the board. However, Indiana's status as a home-rule state, where local jurisdictions have some autonomy, presents a unique challenge in promoting statewide adoption of the FDA Retail Program Standards, and the implementation of risk-based inspection. Additionally, the dramatic increase in food facilities necessitates a strategic approach to resource allocation.

Finally, securing sustainable funding for the FPD team is imperative. This will not only ensure continued operations but also alleviate potential staff loss due to uncertainties surrounding future FDA Cooperative Agreements funding. IDOH FPD will continue to advocate for its vital role in protecting public health by highlighting the significant progress made and the importance of maintaining a robust food safety program for Indiana.

❑ Summary (Improvement or Innovation that Merits Award)

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Food Protection Division (FPD) team has emerged as a true champion in safeguarding Hoosier food safety. Their unwavering commitment is even more impressive considering recent hurdles. By implementing a comprehensive 3-year program restructuring plan, the FPD tackled critical areas like staff retention, regulatory compliance, outreach, and collaboration.

Measurable Success Through Teamwork:

Strengthen regulatory capacity: The FPD strategically increased its ability to conduct inspections and manage foodborne illness emergencies, ensuring swift intervention.

Modernizing Food Safety Standards: The FPD has completed the modernization of the Retail Food Code and is in process of adopting the Manufactured food code to align with the FSMA Preventive Control for Human Food (21 CFR 117).

Enhanced Enforcement and Compliance: Streamlining enforcement procedures has created a more efficient system, facilitating consistent compliance across the state.

Data-Driven Food Safety: The FPD's innovative food focus analytic team utilizes data to proactively identify emerging threats, allowing for targeted resource allocation and a more responsive regulatory approach.

Building Stronger Partnerships: The FPD has fostered stronger relationships with local, state, and federal partners, creating a collaborative network for food safety. This includes full conformance of the MFRPS standards, the revitalization of the Retail Food Inspector Standardization Program, and the execution of a summer melon surveillance sampling program.

Creating a preventive food safety culture: The FPD champions a culture of food safety education, emphasizing the importance of preventive safe food handling practices. Conducting outreach and education activities are now part of the job requirements of all the team members.

While the IDOH FPD's accomplishments are noteworthy, it's the "how" they achieve these results that truly sets them apart. A small, dedicated team of 29 FTEs, with their open minds, willingness to try new strategies, and commitment to teamwork, create an even more valuable impact. Their ability to pivot while remaining mission-focused on protecting the food supply in Indiana is cause for recognition. They see the need for shifting toward modernizing the overall approach to food protection and that buy-in is critical to the future success in safeguarding all facets of food production. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of shared responsibility for Hoosier food safety, ensuring every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.

❑ Attachments

- Testimonials (maximum of two)
- Acknowledgements
- Appendices

Nominated by: Vivien McCurdy

Signature:

Vivien McCurdy

The winner of this award will identify an individual to receive travel funds (if available and pursuant to AFDO's travel policy) to attend the annual AFDO conference held in June in order to publicly receive an official plaque of recognition and will be given time on the program agenda to comment on the award. The winner will be invited to attend the AFDO Wiley Awards Banquet during the conference.

Attendance is not mandatory for receiving the award. Return this form, a photocopy of this form (both sides) and ***please submit by April 1*** to:

Dr. Joanne M. Brown
Chair, AFDO Awards Committee
Association of Food and Drug Officials
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Chair, AFDO awards committee
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155 W Market Street, 3rd Floor
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OHAFOE6 supports IDOH for the 2024 AFDO Elliot O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award. OHAFOE6 has developed a strong partnership with the Indiana Department of Health Food Protection Division, setting the foundation for an integrated food safety system that will benefit from our collaboration. The Division has experienced a marked positive change in the department over the past 3 years which included greater staffing levels, higher training accomplishment, superior emergency response, great regulatory action support and clear communication.

During 2020-2021 pandemic era the department had been on a difficult footing which held back any growth or expansion. Employee retention was low, hiring was difficult, salaries were low and leadership was overwhelmed due to lack of support. Contract work was routinely not getting completed and grant money was not being utilized. The state of the department was such that the divisions had begun planning activities to add resources to Indiana in the event the department could not maintain the appropriate resources to adequately perform their public health mission for the state of Indiana. As director of the division I was routinely telling staff told to prepare to be the sole regulator in the state.

Starting in 2022 there was a marked change to the organization of IDOH. Vivien took over as the Director of Food Protection. Experienced and trained personnel such as Jordan Young returned to become the Manufactured Foods Program Manager and additional leadership was established that included Kris Gasperic as the RRT/Produce Safety Manager. These initial changes to the organization eventually led to a fully staffed food protection group, a dedicated RRT, retail and produce safety staff. Division interaction with all the departments within Food Protection are at an all-time high with regularly scheduled meetings to ensure appropriate flow of information as well as IDOH participation in regional and national meetings with state and federal partners.

We have seen an increase in compliance work at the state level as well as assistance in FDA inspections. FDA recalls were processed in response to state inspections and state assistance in FDA inspections resulted in rapid voluntary compliance for multiple firms in response to state issued regulatory actions. (Klosterman Bakery, Zheng Hao, RTI warehouse).

The Food Protection Division continues to be innovative in their response to multiple years of potential outbreak investigations of Indiana produce growers. This has led to collaboration with Purdue Extension services, the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the FDA Office of Food Safety, surrounding states, and professional societies. These efforts resulted in expanded educational guidance in areas of concern, longitudinal studies, multi state sampling efforts and other activities to find the root cause of the contamination.

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The emergency response capabilities have expanded greatly. The RRT group has organized and hosted a Food Safety Defense Task Force in 2023 and 2024 as well as facilitating the Midwest States sampling initiative in 2023 with plans to continue in 2024. They also responded to an FDA request for assistance in ensuring adulterated fruit pouches were removed from shelves in response to a nationwide recall. IDOH completed 139 recall audit checks as verification in the effectiveness of the recall and protection of consumers. These meetings had been in abeyance for several years prior due to low staffing levels and low morale.

Indiana has managed to maintain full conformance in the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards despite the challenges the department has faced. Management showed their willingness to accept additional responsibilities to ensure the requirements of the grant were meant and they remained fully vested in the food protection mission. They participate in the Produce Safety cooperative agreement and have a team of fully trained Produce Safety field staff. They also participate in the Shellfish cooperative agreement and have recently been able to certify a shellfish inspector within the Food Protection Division.

The relationship between IDOH and the division has benefited greatly from the positive changes occurring within the Food Protection Division. They continue to be a trusted partner that continually expand their capabilities and most recently include pursuing the adoption of 21 CFR 117 into their state code which would further expand our goal of a seamless partnership.

William R Weissinger
Program Division Director
Office of Human and Animal Foods
Division East 6



Indiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 - 0457

March 28, 2024

Dr. Joanne M. Brown
Chair, AFDO Awards Committee
Association of Food and Drug Officials
155 W Market Street, 3rd Floor
York, PA 17401

Dear Dr. Brown:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) to express our support for the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) nomination for the Elliott O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award. IEHA has a long history of working with the IDOH Food Protection Division.

IDOH's Food Protection Division has undergone a significant reorganization effort in the past few years. This initiative has improved the division's regulatory response to food safety concerns, in turn strengthening retail food protection throughout the state of Indiana. The reorganization has led to:

- Improved regulatory support to local health departments (LHDs): The creation of monthly "Tuesday Training" sessions and specialized "Hands-on Special Processing" training provides crucial educational resources for LHDs. A full-time educator conducts statewide retail food support training further strengthening capabilities.
- Enhanced communication: Stronger internal and external communication channels foster collaboration and information sharing between IDOH and LHD food protection programs. Initiatives like attending IEHA meetings, sharing policy updates, and informing LHD health officers about program developments exemplify this commitment.
- Modernizing the outdated Indiana Retail Food Code: The upcoming implementation of a new code based on the 2022 FDA model will ensure Indiana's food safety regulations are current and effective. LHD involvement in the Advisory Team and "Train the Trainer" committee demonstrates their crucial role in this update. Additionally, planned, dedicated in-person training sessions will equip LHD inspectors with a thorough understanding of the new code.
- Revitalized retail inspector standardization program: The recent certification of two (soon will be four) IDOH staff members as FDA Retail Standardization Officers paves the way for standardizing LHD food inspector practices. This program had been stagnant for several years, and revitalizing standardization will ensure consistent and high-quality food safety inspections across the state.

These improvements contribute to a safer food supply system for all Hoosiers and to all parts of the nation. I appreciate your favorable consideration. Feel free to contact me at kclick@co.hendricks.in.us or 317-442-0374 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Krista Click

Krista Click, President
Indiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.

Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.
International Association for Food Protection, Inc.