

KY Mentorship Participants

Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (KY)

Background

State: Kentucky

LHD Population Size Served: 756,832

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 3,985

Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 2, 3, 5, and Self-Assessment

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2012

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 4

The mission of Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) is to promote health and wellness; prevent disease, illness, and injury; and protect the health and safety of metro Louisville residents and visitors. Number of staff in the retail food regulatory program: 19 environmental health staff consisting of one supervisor, 14 Environmental Health Specialist, and four seasonal staff members who work specifically in Food Safety and provide support to complete our mandated inspections.

Size of Jurisdiction: 756,832 Louisville Metro area residents Description of Retail Food Regulatory Program: LMPHW's Department of Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Division (EHEP) is Louisville Metro's authority on environmental issues that can have a negative impact on the community. From permitted public facilities, environmental contaminants to pandemic flu preparation, the EHEP is responsible to ensure the safety of the citizens by educating, monitoring, preventing, and regulating potential health hazards. LMPHW's Food Safety and Protection is a program in EHEP that works as the local regulatory body for the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Cabinet for Family and Human Services Department for Public Health Food Safety Branch and is mandated by law (KRS Chapter 217) to protect consumers from the sale of adulterated, misbranded or falsely labeled foods and food products.

As of 2010, Kentucky adopted the 2005 FDA Food Code as its regulation policy for which all jurisdictions will enforce. The Food Safety and Protection Program team works diligently to ensure the safety of residences by educating staff on the nuances of the 2005 FDA Food Code and mandating compliance with the regulation. Acting as the subject matter experts on food safety throughout the community, the Food Safety and Protection Program provides educational materials and courses, in-service trainings, routine inspections and informational presentations to assist Louisville Metro's permitted food service establishments as they ensure safe practices and sanitary food handling. Types of retail establishments regulated: Food service establishments, temporary food service operations, restricted concessions, retail food establishments, mobile food units, and farmer's market operations. Number of retail establishments regulated: There are 3,985 state-permitted retail establishments that operate within Louisville Metro and are regulated by 18 LMPHW environmental health specialists.

LHD Regulatory authority from: 2005 FDA Retail Food Code; Kentucky Revised Statute 217.005 – 217.992 Kentucky Food Drug and Cosmetic Act; 902 KAR 45:005 Kentucky Food Establishment Act and State Retail Food Code.

Role in Mentorship Program

Louisville participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the fourth cohort. They were mentored by Alexandria Health Department (VA).

Lessons Learned/Tips

Lesson learned #1: By dissecting large projects into smaller more manageable pieces, more work can be accomplished in a shorter amount of time. Meeting the FDA Voluntary Standards is a huge undertaking, but reducing the individual standards into mini-projects allows each team member to focus on specific topics and as a whole the team operates more efficiently.

Lesson learned #2: Our Food Safety and Protection Program had multiple requirements of the standards in place, however we lacked the proper documentation and written policies. By documenting the activities we were already performing and verifying that written policies were in place, the gaps within our program were filled resulting in a more robust food safety and protection program.

Contact

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