MD Mentorship Participants

Frederick County Health Department (MD)

Background

State: Maryland

LHD Population Size Served: Over 200,000

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 1,117

Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 2, 3, 7, Self-Assessment

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2013

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 3

The mission of the Frederick County Health Department is to improve the health and well-being of the residents of Frederick County through programs that prevent disease and illness, promote wellness and safety, and protect public health. Frederick County is approximately 667 square miles in size with a population of over 200,000 citizens. The types of retail establishments licensed and regulated by the Frederick County Health Department Food Control Office consist of low, moderate and high priority level facilities based on the population served and the food handling processes conducted within the establishment. These types of retail establishments include full service restaurants, catering kitchens, fast food restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals, public and private schools, universities, convenience stores, churches, fire halls, social clubs, mobile food trucks, etc. Currently the Frederick County Health Department has 1,117 retail establishments licensed. The Food Control Office enforces State of Maryland regulations COMAR 10.15.03 and derives regulatory authority from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (State of MD). The Food Control Office has seven staff members, which include six sanitarians trained and authorized to conduct mandated inspections of licensed retail establishments and one administrative support staff.

Role in Mentorship Program

Frederick participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in third cohort and was mentored by Fairfax County Health Department (VA).

Lessons Learned/Tips

Through involvement with the NACCHO Mentorship Program the Frederick County Health Department has gained advantageous understanding and access to resources that will be beneficial in continued efforts towards meeting additional Program Standards. Additionally, the relationships and connections made with other LHDs, NACCHO, and FDA have been and will continue to be a crucial factor with a direct positive impact in making progress within the Program Standards. The ability to freely reach out to other local jurisdictions that have knowledge and experience with the Program Standards to discuss problems/solutions, brainstorm, share resources and documents, and seek out auditors is invaluable. The connections remain after the NACCHO Mentorship Program ends, as well as access to all documents uploaded to FoodSHIELD.

Contact
Prince George's County Health Department (MD)

**Background**

**State:** Maryland

**LHD Population Size Served:** 881,138

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 4500

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Self-Assessment

**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2011

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 3

The mission of the Prince George's County Health Department is to protect the public's health, assure the availability of and access to quality health care services and to promote individual and community responsibility for the prevention of disease, injury and disability. This local health department (LHD) serves the entire population of Prince George's County, Maryland. The County is located in the heart of the Baltimore/Washington corridor, on the eastern border of Washington, D.C., just 37 miles south of Baltimore. It encompasses almost 500 square miles much of which is urban atmosphere while maintaining its rural origins in the southern and eastern regions. The county has an ethnically and culturally diverse population of 881,138 and a median household income of $71,696.

The LHD educates food facility operators and enforces the state of Maryland’s Food Service Facility regulations as well as its own locally enacted legislation, issuing over 4500 permits annually for various food operations. These operations include 3,025 high, moderate and low priority retail food service facilities, 134 warehouse and processing facilities, over 150 mobile facilities and over 1,400 temporary events. All of these operations reflect the diversity of the county’s population by preparing foods representing most nations of the world. In addition, the county is home to a NFL football stadium, a minor league baseball stadium, a large amusement park, a major university with its associated sports venues and a major, nationally recognized development overlooking the Potomac which continues to spur further development throughout the region. All of these unique venues and associated food operations are also regulated by the LHD.

While the FDA Food Code is not the basis for enforcement, the Code of Maryland Regulations Governing Food Service Facilities (COMAR) combined with the Prince George’s County Code, have many similarities including a shared intent to protect the public’s health by protecting the food supply.

**Role in Mentorship Program**

Prince George’s participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in third cohort and was mentored by Alexandria Health Department (VA).

**Lessons Learned/Tips**

The lessons learned from the mentorship program was the confirmation that all staff has something to offer and is willing to actively participate in writing policy and procedures.
Contact

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Link:
http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Services/EnvironmentalHealth/foodsafety/Pages/default.aspx