Texas Mentorship Participants

City of Arlington Health Division

**Background**

- **State:** Texas
- **HD Population Size Served:** 396,394 residents
- **Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 2,278
- **Retail Program Standards Met by Verification Audit/Working On:** Standard 3 and Self-Assessment
- **Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2005
- **NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 8
- **Version of Food Code:** 2013
- **Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) If Y, have you achieved accreditation?** No

**Mission and Background:**
The Health Division functions as an arm of Planning and Development Services in the planning, construction, permitting and operational phases of public and private sector enterprise. We serve to protect the health of citizens and visitors to our city.

**Role in Mentorship Program**
- Mentee or Mentor? Mentee
- Who were you paired with? Southern Nevada Health District

**Accomplishments in the Mentorship Program**
Arlington worked on Standard 3 and were able to get our health folder rebuilt through development and into testing with IT, establish a process for corrective actions plans and permit revocation with our City Attorney’s Office, and create a formal variance request process across programs to include retail foods.

**Lessons Learned/Tips**
- Be open to secondary benefits that come about through the experience of the mentor organization, for us this was our hotel inspections program
- Appreciate the small victories/wins, do not become discouraged by an arduous process
- Dedicate enough staff hours to completing the project goals

**Contact**
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**Link to food safety program website:**
[https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/planning_development_services/Health_Services](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/planning_development_services/Health_Services)
Amarillo Bi-City- County Health District, TX

Background
State: Texas
HD Population Size Served: 250,000
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 1,765
Retail Program Standards Met by Verification Audit/Working On: 1 / 3 (1,3,7)
Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2006
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): Cohort 8
Version of Food Code: 2013
Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) If Y, have you achieved accreditation? No

To improve the quality of life within our community by preventing injury and illness and promoting well-being by limiting exposures to hazardous physical, chemical and biological agents in the air, water, soil, food and other environmental media or settings.

The Bi-City-County Health Districts department of Environmental Health is the sole service provider for a two county, multiple Cities area for Food Hygiene, On-Site Sewage Facilities, Recreational Water, Special Event permitting, Group Care/Foster Care, Alcoholic Beverages and more! We have a dedicated staff of professionals that are focused on improving the environment in which we all live, work and play.

Role in Mentorship Program
• Mentee
• Who were you paired with – Southern Nevada Health District

Accomplishments in the Mentorship Program
The Bi-City- County Health District worked on Standards 3 & 4. We were able to put together a decent SOP for Standard 3 that encompasses all required elements. Standard three was most helpful for us in developing a variance policy and HACCP plan validation procedure. Our work in Standard 4 was slow but we were able to put together an SOP that lays out a QAP program and expectations. We were unable to accomplish the assessment and training portion but plan on tackling that as soon as possible.

Lessons Learned/Tips
• Don’t overextend yourself
• Allow for ample time to work on the standard you choose
• Use Food Shield early!

Contacts
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Mission and Brief One Paragraph Background:

Our Mission: Angelina County & Cities Health District will strive to efficiently, professionally, and compassionately administer comprehensive public health services to promote and protect the health of Angelina County.

Background: The Angelina County & Cities Health District is a public health district formed between the county and cities of Angelina County in 1967. The Health District serves as a dynamic community organization working toward a healthier tomorrow through the provision of public health services. We adopted the new Texas Food Establishment Rules in 2015 which models the 2013 FDA Food Code along with a Risk-Based Inspection Frequency after enrollment with the FDA VNRFRPS. We have diligently worked on conforming to national standards since enrollment in 2017 and have since met four of the nine standards to include 1, 3, 4, and 7. This is our second year participating in the NACCHO Mentorship Program with previous enrollment in Cohort 7. During Cohort 7 we applied for guidance on Standards 2 and 4 and were able to achieve verification audits for Standards 1, 4, and 7 by project end. In addition, Standard 2 requirements and verification audit completion is scheduled to be met by 2020. Enrollment in the Cohort 8 Mentorship Program has now enabled our jurisdiction meet Standard 3. ACCHD looks forward to continuing progress with national conformance and staying up to date with food safety assurance methods and techniques to better assist and protect our consumers and establishments in our community.

Role in Mentorship Program

- Mentee or Mentor? Mentee
- Who were you paired with? Fairfax County, VA in cohort 7 and Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments, GA in cohort 8
- What Standard(s) did you work on? Standards 2 and 4 in cohort 7 and Standard 3 in cohort 8

Lessons Learned/Tips

- For jurisdictions with less than 10 inspectors (Ex. ACCHD = 2 inspectors) working on Standard 4, conducting field inspections with neighboring jurisdiction(s) would be beneficial to help assure objectively and thoroughness of quality assurance evaluations.
- For jurisdictions with less than 10 inspectors working on Standard 2, working with neighboring jurisdiction(s) would be beneficial during training for standardization purposes if approved.
- Allow more time to conduct quality assurance audits for Standard 4 so we have more time to thoroughly document any challenges we identify.
- The HACCP Verification and Validation Inspection can be scheduled in advance and conducted separately from the establishment routine inspection. Designate a separate routine inspection frequency for HACCP Plan verifications with establishments that have special processes and include frequency in policies.
- Create a fillable HACCP Inspection form for mobile use and ease of completion during complex HACCP Plan verifications.
- Lab results verifying food safety for special processes are only required initially instead of every year unless there has been a change in the recipe.

Contact

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Harris County Public Health (TX)

Background

State: Texas
LHD Population Size Served: 2.2 million
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 8100
Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, Self-Assessment, Verification Audit
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2001
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 5 and 6

The mission of HCPH is: Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community, Preventing Illness and Injury, Protecting You, Your Department for Life.

HCPH joined the FDA’s National Voluntary Standards Program in 2001. A verification audits conducted at various times deemed that HCPH meets eight of the nine standards.

Role in Mentorship Program

Harris County Public Health participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentor in the fifth and sixth cohorts. In the fifth cohort, they mentored Clackamas County Environmental Health (OR), Northwest Georgia Public Health District 1-1(GA), and Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Environmental Health Departments (GA) on standards 2, 4, 5, 6, & 7 collectively. In the sixth cohort, Harris mentored Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Environmental Health Departments (GA) and North Shore Health Department (WI).

Lessons Learned/Tips

Mentors should provide an overview of all the Standards to mentees to help them start thinking about the Standards as a whole and about what pieces are missing in their program so they can develop a game plan. The strategies developed in the mentorship program should be shared to enhance advancement of the Standards in other jurisdictions.

Contact

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Link: http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/About/Organization-Offices/Environmental-Public-Health