

# 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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## **Angelina County & Cities Health District, TX**

### **Background**

**State:** Texas

**HD Population Size Served:** 80,000

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 440

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Met 1, 3, 4, 7/Working on 2

**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2017

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 7, 8

### **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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**Link to food safety program website:** [www.acchd.us](http://www.acchd.us)



## **Hardin County, TX**

### **Background**

**State:** TEXAS

**HD Population Size Served:** 60,000

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 246

**Retail Program Standards Met by Verification Audit/Working On:** #7/#1,  
#3, #6

**Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2017

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 9

**Version of Food Code:** 2013

**Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) If Y, have you achieved accreditation?)**YES

To have Hardin County Food Establishments in compliance to the best of my ability and set for the future.

My background is in restaurant management. I have worked every position in a restaurant and could hang with the cooks during a dinner rush. I enjoyed working with the team and helping them to better their skills. So, I take that same approach now as a Health Inspector. I can go into their establishment and not just go over what they are doing wrong but help them to correct it and make it right. I want all of my establishments to be their best and the more I can grow as a Health Inspector the better I can help them to do their best and do things correctly. That is why I enjoy programs such as this Mentorship Program. It is a great learning tool and helps expand my knowledge so I can help train others.

### **Role in Mentorship Program**

- Mentee or Mentor? MENTEE
- Who were you paired with? HARRIS COUNTY

### **Accomplishments in the Mentorship Program**

- What Standard(s) did you work on and what did you accomplish? #6, NOT COMPLETED

### **Lessons Learned/Tips in Mentorship Program or working on Retail Program Standards**

- COVID only makes you stronger! Having to deal with a Pandemic while trying to complete all the tasks can be daunting but where there is a will there is a way. Keep your eye on the prize and work outside the box. Having a strong Mentor is priceless!

- The site visits were really helpful. It's so nice to see how other counties handle situations.
- FoodShield has a lot of great resources for the program standards. Learning to navigate that site was very helpful.

### 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, 6, and 9

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**

5th cohort: Harris 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.

6th cohort: Harris mentored Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Environmental Health Departments (GA) and North Shore Health Department (WI).

9th cohort: Harris mentored Jasper Newton, TX on Standard 3, Hardin County, TX on Standard 6, and Gasconade County, MO on Standard 2.

### **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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## Jasper Newton County, TX

### Background

State: Texas

HD Population Size Served: 49,394

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 230

Retail Program Standards Met by Verification Audit/Working On: met 7/  
working on 3

Year Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2017

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 9

Version of Food Code: 2013

Mission: To protect and promote public health by providing quality care and education.

Background: JNCPHD Environmental Services department permits and inspects retail food establishments and temporary events for two counties, permits and inspects On- Site Sewage Facilities for Newton County, conducts foster home inspections, and investigates general sanitation complaints. We enrolled in the Voluntary Standards program in 2017 to improve our food safety program.

### Role in Mentorship Program

- Mentee or Mentor? mentee
- Who were you paired with? Harris County

### Accomplishments in the Mentorship Program

- What Standard(s) did you work on and what did you accomplish? 3- written policies and procedures of a HACCP based inspection program

### Lessons Learned/Tips in Mentorship Program or working on Retail Program Standards

- Dedicate time each week to work on the Standards.
- Utilize all resources from your mentor and FoodShield
- Ensure that you will be able to meet the demand of the policies you are creating for your program

### Contact

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