

Washington Mentorship Participants

Public Health – Seattle & King County

Background

State: Washington

HD Population Size Served: over 2,105,000 (based on 2016 estimate Office of Financial Management)

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: Over 12,500 permitted facilities (over 3,000 temp food permits)

Standards Met/Working On: Working on FDA Standards 5 and 7

Year Enrolled in Standards: 2001

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 7th Cohort NACCHO Mentorship – Mentee Participant

Version of Food Code: 2009 Food Code (modified version)

Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) NO

Mission and Background:

“Promoting healthy people and healthy communities through education, reducing risk and advancing food safety”

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) is one of the largest metropolitan health departments in the country committed to identifying and meeting the needs of our diverse community members and as reflected by our diverse languages spoken by the food staff. The Food Protection Program has received national attention for developing and implementing innovative, research-based Food Safety Rating System with input from our stakeholders as well as addressing quality assurance and consistency in risk-based inspections through our side-by-side Peer Review Inspection process. The Program also has developed an innovative, online platform for disclosing foodborne illness outbreak investigations in real time by team-based Foodborne Illness Investigation Team (FIIT). The FIIT consists of Investigators, Epidemiologists and Disease Investigators from Communicable Disease and Communications who come together and investigate foodborne illness outbreaks and intervention strategies. If the outbreak meets the criteria for public disclosures then the information is shared via website and email notifications to ensure transparency and reporting to the public in real time.

Role in Mentorship Program

PHSKC served as a mentee in the seventh cohort. The Southern Nevada Health District mentored PHSKC on Standards 5 and 7.

Lessons Learned/Tips

- Example 1 – Incorporating documentation and revisions of policies and procedures into daily work plan will allow for foundation to aligning program to the FDA Retail Program Standards
- Example 2 – Partnerships/collaborations/mentorship programs with other similar jurisdictions help to 'sustain efforts in the FDA Retail Program Standards'
- Example 3 – Specializing each standard to separate teams help to make real progress on the 9 FDA Retail Program Standards

Contact

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Link to food safety program website:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/food-safety.aspx>

Snohomish Health District (WA)

Background

State: Washington

LHD Population Size Served: 778,000

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 3,434

Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and Self-Assessment

Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2005

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 6

The Snohomish Health District's mission statement is "to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats."

The Food Safety Program comprises of 2 supervisors, 2 technical leads, 1 plan reviewer, 8.75 field staff, and 2 part-time health educators. The food program oversees all field inspections for annually permitted foodservice establishments, temporary food permits, complaint/illness investigations, plan review, and food safety education.

Our Food Program regulates 3,434 annual retail food establishments and inspects 3 types of risk category food service establishments ranging from low, medium, and high-risk which is ranked by frequency of inspections per year. We inspect and address complaints for facilities that include full and fast menu restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, espresso stands, delis, meat and seafood departments, concessions stands, school kitchens, and over 1,400 temporary food booths. We also provide daily customer service for the public by having a sanitarian available for general questions and educational efforts.

The Snohomish Health District uses the 2009 FDA Food Code and derives local regulatory authority from the state: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 246-215, Washington State Retail Food Code and SHD's Sanitary Code, Chapter 10: Food Sanitation.

Role in Mentorship Program

The Snohomish Health District participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the sixth cohort. Vineland Health Department (NJ) mentored RRHD on Standards 3, 5, and 6.

Lessons Learned/Tips

Leadership in our organization has become aware of the importance of having a standardized program. A standardized program helps both the staff members and the public we serve. My hope is that other programs within Environmental Health will use a similar model to implement policy and procedures. One lesson we learned is that having more people involved in the program standards helps to stay motivated and accountable. It also helps having multiple people involved with this project in case someone leaves the organization or program.

Contact

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Tacoma-Pierce County, WA

Background

State: Washington

HD Population Size Served: 877,201

Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 4,113

Standards Met/Working On: Met 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 and partially met 1, 5, 6, and 8.

NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 9

Version of Food Code: 2009

We protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Our Food Safety Program is housed under the Communicable Disease Control Division. Our department does not use staff as generalists, rather each is hired into a distinct role. Food safety inspectors are only responsible for food safety permitting and inspection.

Role in Mentorship Program

Cohort 9: Tacoma-Pierce mentored the Northern Mariana Islands – Saipan on Standard 3.

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