PFP IT WG NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKGROUP

In This Issue

COFFEE TALK WITH
Tim Mueller

The FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) Data Exchange (DX) team recently had the pleasure of catching up with Tim Mueller, Director, Division of Integration, Office of Partnerships (OP).

Tim and his team support an incredible team of public health focused individuals by leading three critical areas at FDA. Read about Tim's job and interesting perspective of the ORA DX program *on page 4*. The *Coffee Talk article* is available on the *PFP website.*

FAREWELL JACOB FLEIG

Jacob has served as State Co-Chair of the PFP IT WG and has 20-plus years of experience in the food and beverage industry.

Join us in congratulating Jacob on his retirement as Program Coordinator from the Bureau of Feed and Seed at the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Jacob joined the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) as Implementation Manager with System for Agriculture, Food, Health, E-Inspections, and Registration (SAFHER) to help drive its adoption and implementation. While he has stepped down as State Co-Chair, he will remain active in the PFP IT WG.

"No one has ever become poor by giving." – Anne Frank

Meet Priscilla Neves!

Consumer Safety Officer and Business Lead for the Domestic Mutual Reliance (DMR) Project
Division of Integration, Office of Partnerships (OP), Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), FDA

Priscilla Neves oversees the Domestic Mutual Reliance (DMR) initiative as a member of the Division of Integration, Office of Partnerships, ORA, FDA. Her team works closely with the state partners, the Office of Human and Animal Food Operations (OHAFO), and FDA centers, on operationalizing mutual reliance activities via Partnership Agreements. She serves as the business lead for the DMR project developing an operational framework, long-term engagement strategy, and sustainability plan. She is also coordinating the development, planning, and evaluation of Partnership Agreements with Florida, Iowa Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

Priscilla received a bachelor's degree in Food and Nutrition from Framingham State University, earned a master of education degree in Instructional Design from the University of Massachusetts (Boston), and a professional certificate in Project Management from Duke University. In her nearly 40 years of food safety work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and FDA, she's been responsible for the development, education, and evaluation of local, state, and federal programs using regulatory program standards; supervision of state field and administrative personnel; management of state seafood, dairy, manufactured food, retail, and emergency response programs; development and implementation of FDA staff training programs; oversight of food safety task forces; and industry education and outreach.

Since joining FDA, Priscilla worked with the Division of Standards Implementation in the Office of Partnerships as a Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards specialist to help state programs develop their own quality systems, which is the foundation for DMR. Her extensive experience in an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) and her passion for system theories to support foodborne illness prevention, detection, and response, led her to the present position in the Division of Integration, where she captures and advances how they work with their state, local, tribal, and territorial partners.

Priscilla finds the complexity of the IFSS work challenging and rewarding. Her work in the Division of Integration has been an incredible opportunity to support FDA and state partners to better understand how their own programs function, how they can be good partners, and leverage their operational systems such as IT resources for more effective public health outcomes or, as she often likes to say, she helps individuals recognize that *"Integration begins at home!"*

More about Priscilla…

When not immersed in food safety work, Priscilla enjoys helping her parents on their farm, traveling, gardening, hiking the Massachusetts Blue Hills with Maxine (her Corgi-Wired Terrier), singing, and playing her ukulele. With two adult children on autopilot and a very patient husband, she is also able to make time for community work on racial justice and health equity.
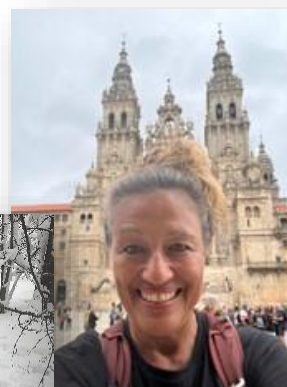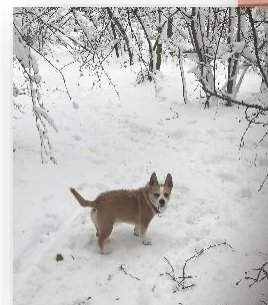
"I am grateful for the Partnership for Food Protection Information Technology workgroup (PFP IT WG) and ORA Data Exchange (DX) Outreach team led by, Mark Siegal, Barbara Thiel, and Omari Fennell. The ORA Partners Portal (ORAPP) and DX team have been critical components in our DMR partnership agreements to advance DX with FDA state partners. DX helps us strengthen and measure improvements in inventory reconciliation, coordination of inspections, and work planning by making our information sharing processes more efficient." -

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." – Bishop Desmond Tutu
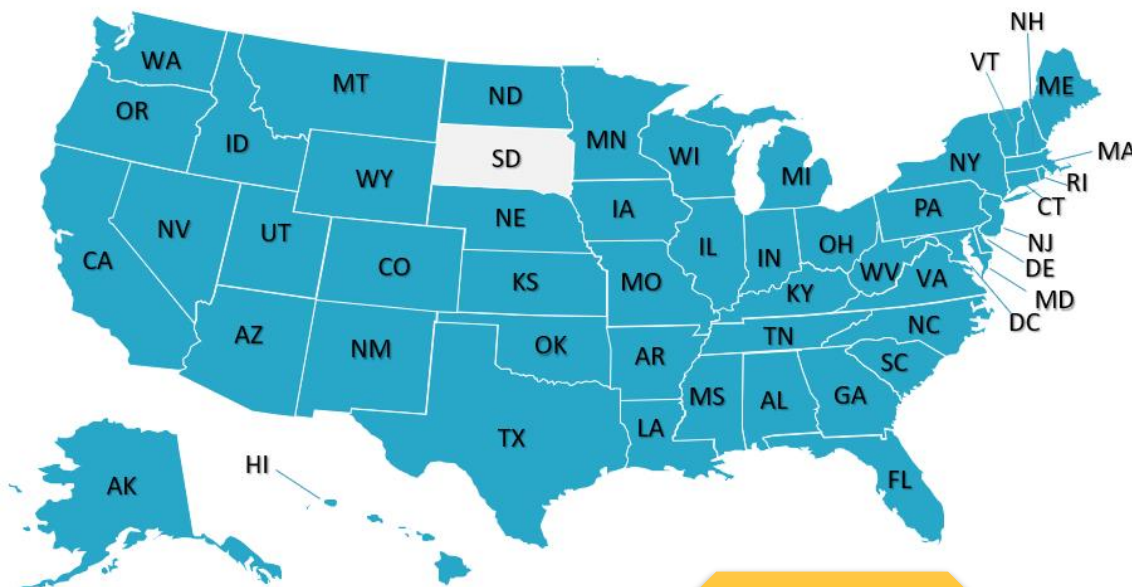
ORA DX Tech Talk

The PFP IT WG has grown to over 200 members. The ORA DX participation has grown to almost 50 states, including multiple agencies per state. Such significant growth has been possible with tremendous strategic collaboration across the DX teams and participating states.

The regulatory partner involvement and input is essential for ORA DX, to optimize system design and development, and ultimately, increase the value of the Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) to FDA, states, and other partners.

Last Modified: 2/23/23

States Participating in ORA DX

49 TOTAL

- 47 total states participating in PFP IT WG or Sample WG
- 70 partner agencies participating in ORAPP
- 24 partner agencies participating in System-to-System or Enhanced DX Client
- In certain cases, there is more than 1 partner/agency per state
- Some partners are in the process of onboarding

ORA DX Release 14.0 Enhancements

Sample Enhancements (February 2023). Regulatory Partners are now able to:

Copy or download information about all individual Sample Number / Analysis type Problem Area Flag (PAF) / Problem Assignment Code (PAC) results submitted in a single Excel file

Submit multiple Sample Collections, with different Sample Numbers, in a single Excel file

Submit multiple Sample Receipt and Analysis results, with different Sample Numbers, in a single Excel file

Submit results for multiple Sample Numbers / PAF and/or PAC in a Sample Collection or Sample Analysis Excel file

Leverage the new e-Learning courses about Sample Collections

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Hear from a few of our state DX partners in the [FDA TechTalk Podcast "Data Exchange in the New Era of Smarter Food Safety"](#)!

HEALTH BENEFITS OF BERRIES

Berries provide potassium, magnesium, vitamins C and K, fiber, and prebiotics — carbohydrates that help promote a healthy gut.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" – Robin Williams

Coffee Talk with Tim Mueller

Director, Division of Integration
Office of Partnerships (OP)
Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

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Hello, Tim! Tell us about your job role and involvement with the ORA DX program.

My role as the director for the Division of Integration in the Office of Partnerships is to support an incredible team of public health focused individuals to lead three critical areas:

1. International engagement between the FDA and foreign competent authorities
2. Advancement of FDA's support of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) through collaboration with state partners under Domestic Mutual Reliance (DMR)
3. Capture the return-on-investment of FDA funded and unfunded programs through data visualization

The DX team is a critical part of my division's engagements. We constantly leverage the efforts of the program team to support collaborative communication and data sharing between the FDA and its regulatory partners.

Based on your role as director and key DX stakeholder, share your thoughts on some of the benefits for states participating in this program.

My work focuses on collaboration, which is not possible without strong communication - this is why the ORA DX program is so critical. By exchanging data, FDA and its partners are better able to share information securely and efficiently within FDA legal structure.

What are the goals of the DMR program, and what are some of its key accomplishments?

DMR is a seamless partnership that enables FDA and states with comparable regulatory systems to rely on, and leverage each other's work/data, and actions to ensure a safe national food supply. Through collaborative efforts between ORA's field divisions and state partners, we have seen many positive impacts on consumer health. These include a reduction in duplicative inspections, joint enforcement actions, coordinated responses to outbreaks, and protecting consumers from harmful products. Recent examples of DMR accomplishments are in the "What's New" section of the DMR page on the FDA website.

Tell us about the DMR Partnership Agreements and associated activities.

Partnership Agreements are a specific type of memorandum of understanding that details the relationship between FDA and state partners responsible for carrying out the mission of advancing public health. These formal documents clearly define goals, activities, and responsibilities of each partner, and help us to work toward an IFSS. This enables partners to build a workforce with training support from FDA to protect consumers, coordinate food safety inspection efforts, share data, leverage resources, focus on preventing outbreaks, and better respond when one occurs. More information is available on the DMR Partnership Agreements page on the FDA website.

The PFP IT WG thanks Tim Mueller for his support of the ORA DX program and the PFP. For more on Tim's insight and ways he sees the ORA Division of Integration being involved in the ORA DX program in the future, continue reading the rest of the conversation, *on the PFP site*!

Random Acts of Kindness

- Connect with a conversation
- Be a good listener
- Have a judgement free day
- Give others the benefit of the doubt
- Compliment with reckless abandon
- Acknowledge someone who deserves praise
- Send a thank you note
- Make kindness the norm
- Ask someone about their day
- Send an encouraging message

Kindness at Work

Next PFP IT WG Meeting:
April 24, 2023

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

Q.A. ORA Data Exchange (DX) Frequently Asked Questions

Resources and Useful Information

- **PFP Website** and **Twitter**
- **PFP IT WG Page**
- **PFP Strategic Plan**
- **ORA Partners Portal**
- **AFDO Newsletters**
- **Presentations at MFRPA Conferences**
- **Contact Us at AppsDesk@fda.hhs.gov**

Question: Is ORA DX systems training available for all regulatory partners?
Answer: Yes. Virtual training is available for ORAPP users (regulatory partners and FDA) at no cost. In 2022, e-Learning courses were introduced and can be accessed upon successful login to ORAPP. Soon, the e-Learning courses will be accessible by public. In addition to the eleven courses, new e-Learning courses continue to be developed. Instructor-led courses will continue to be offered on an ad hoc basis.

The e-Learning courses offer the following benefits:

- Varied course options to fit a modularized approach
- Clearly defined course pre-requisites
- ORA DX Capability focused and concise courses for better retention
- Courses are accessible anywhere, 24/7 for self-paced learning
- Reduces environmental impact
- Ongoing access to resources for later reference

For additional ORA DX FAQs _read more..._

ORA DX e-Learning Courses

The **NEW** ORA DX Sample Collections e-Learning courses have arrived! These courses are available on ORAPP. The System-to-System and Sample Receipt and Analysis e-Learning courses are in development and will be available soon! Check out the ORAPP Training page regularly for the latest e-Learning courses.

The next Sample Data Sharing **Instructor-led courses** are planned for July 2023 (1.5-hour refresher) and September 2023 (spread across 4 sessions; each session is 1.5 hour).

To register for upcoming instructor-led courses, or to find out more information on ORA DX Training, please contact us at APPSdesk@fda.hhs.gov.

NEW! ORAPP Sample Collection Overview (8 mins)	**NEW! ORAPP Sample Collection Guidance Materials (9 mins)**	**NEW! ORAPP Sample Collection Submission (10 mins)**	**NEW! ORAPP Sample Collection Errors and Corrections (10 mins)**
ORA DX Program Overview (10 mins)	**ORA DX Onboarding Overview (6 mins)**	**ORAPP Overview (6 mins)**	**ORA DX Firm Search and Firm History (10 mins)**
ORA DX Non-Contracted Inspection (NCI) Overview (10 mins)	**ORA DX Non-Contracted Inspection (NCI) Submission (10 mins)**		**ORA DX Non-Contracted Inspection (NCI) Errors, Correction, and Resubmission (8 mins)**

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." – Maya Angelou

Take a few moments to show some random acts of kindness to a colleague.
A little kindness will go a long way!

Workplace Kindness Challenge

This is a fun and engaging challenge to use in your workplace to encourage a kinder, more compassionate environment.

When someone completes all of the items below, celebrate! Consider offering an incentive like a gift card, a vacation day, tickets to an event or whatever is appropriate to your organization.

Wake up early to exercise	Place encouraging sticky notes in public areas	Smile	Donate to a local non-profit	STOP! Hydrate yourself.
Include someone who might have a new perspective.	Share your favorite song with someone	Create time in your day to connect with someone	Compliment with reckless abandon	Start and end the day with positive intentions
Send an uplifting text to a friend or family member	Laugh until your belly hurts	Treat someone to a cup of coffee (a colleague or stranger)	Download a meditation app and try it out before bed	Help someone that could use an extra hand
Celebrate someone's accomplishment.	Share some positivity	Write a list of things you appreciate about your boss and give it to them	Tidy up a disorganized area (your desk, storage room, etc.)	Text a colleague an encouraging message
Explore your surroundings	Start a gratitude journal	Tell someone they are doing a great job	Make it a point to listen to others and don't interrupt	Write a letter to your future self at futureme.org and schedule it to send back to you in 1 year
Leave a glowing review of a local business online	Take five minutes to think about all your positive relationships	Stop what you're doing and breathe deeply, close your eyes and appreciate your life.	Go for a long walk	Get some exercise doing something you enjoy!
Buy something from a locally owned business	Become a RAKtivist	Call someone you've been meaning to reach out to	Answer your phone with a smile on your face. People can 'hear' your smile	Recommend an uplifting movie or book to someone
Reflect on three things you accomplished this week	Leave coins at a vending machine so someone can enjoy a treat	Tell someone two things you appreciate about them	Relay an overheard compliment to someone	Send someone a card or note of appreciation
Put away your phone while in someone else's company	Bring a yummy treat in for everyone to enjoy	Don't complain for 24 hours	Publicly acknowledge someone who deserves the praise	Text someone a positive message
Change three small things about your routine that will help the environment	Take a walk and reflect on the things that bring you happiness	Remind yourself that you are doing the best you can	Exhibit kindness, even when in a hurry	Sign up to be an organ donor

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION®

If you're interested in working with us at The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation to create a customized challenge for your organization, email us at info@randomactsofkindness.org.