

**Food Innovation Team
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021**

Today's meeting was held via WebEx due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members present included: Jane Jewett, Lolly Occhino, Joe Jurusik, Shelley Erickson, and Blake Nordin

Visitors present included: Jeff Luedeman, Kerri Meyer, and Natasha Hedin

Meeting started 9:02 a.m.

March meeting minutes were accepted

1. Upcoming Dates

The next Food Innovation Team (FIT) Meeting will be Tuesday, July 20th via WebEx.

2. Case Review – Good Courage Farm

Team members reviewed the pre-screening intake form for Good Courage Farm of Hutchinson, Minnesota. The farm is currently exploring the intersection of food service and product of the farm, lodging, campsites, and potlucks and offers sales of fruit and other perennials (product of the farm) to farmers' markets, restaurants, bakers, and makers. Multiple options and scenarios were discussed and will be included on the recommendation report.

3. Admin Discussion

FIT Flyer and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Proposed Changes: Natasha shared the SOP update. The final version has been published on the FIT Webpage. The SOP and Flyer were updated to match. She sent the flyer out to be translated into Spanish, using task force funds which cost about \$200.00. The group discussed options for sharing the flyers more widely with the public. Jane offered to put them up on the MISA website and Shelley offered to add them to the MNCFPA resources webpage. Natasha will share the documents once they've been received.

FIT Case Summary Table: Jane summarized her edits to the Case Summary Table in efforts to slim it down. Natasha will work on updating the website with the edited version. Jane will shift the document to Dropbox for future use and collaboration.

Chair and Co-Chair Voting: The team decided to table this to the July meeting as three members were absent. Natasha will send a call for nominations in June. Nominations will be taken before and during the meeting. You may self-nominate.

4. Potential agenda items for July 20th:

- Lolly brought up a company called Step One Foods. This company has relocated to Eden Prairie and mainly sells packaged foods such as protein bars to give consumers with health issues a healthier option. This is sold via e-commerce. They have spoken to Joe Jurusik and Jeff Luedeman and it sounds like MDA has started working with them on a plan to upgrade their facility. Lolly was specifically bringing this up as she was wondering if a special license might be necessary in the future, focusing only on e-commerce and scenarios like this. Perhaps something like a cottage food producer registration.
 - Discussion concluded that this sounds like an interesting case to talk about however, county jurisdiction will always take precedence. Even though they are sort of classified as a restaurant they are really a packaging plant. E-commerce requires a restaurant license right now. It is also direct-to-consumer.
 - Lolly is going to reach out to Jeff again and see if it has the potential for a case

- Jane suggested we find more avenues for getting more FIT cases. Perhaps the MDA's internal agency might have some suggestions.