

# CIFOR: The Philadelphia Experience

Yvette Khachadourian, MPH  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual OutbreakNet Conference  
Atlanta, GA  
August 30, 2012

# Background

- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)/ Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) grant opportunity in 2011: Implementing the CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response: State- and city- based trainings
- 14 states and 5 local jurisdictions were awarded in early 2011
  - Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)

# Objectives of CIFOR Training

- Introduce PDPH to CIFOR
- Improve our response to foodborne disease outbreaks
- Enhance our food safety and protection
- Evaluate the CIFOR toolkit
- Reinforce our other food safety efforts
  - Food Protection Task Force
  - PulseNet/OutbreakNet
  - Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials (CASA)

# Planning

- A planning team was assembled in March 2011 and held periodic meetings
- Representatives from Environmental Health Services (EHS), Laboratory (PHL), and Disease Control Epi comprised the 5-member planning team
- A contractor was used to assist with venue/meeting logistics
- Planning team discussed:
  - Goals of the training
  - Logistics
  - Focus areas

# Workshop Logistics

- Half-day workshop: May 6, 2011
- Attendees: Disease Control staff epidemiologists, EHS sanitarian supervisors, and PHL PulseNet staff
- Find a workshop facilitator familiar with CIFOR guidelines
  - Seth Levine, MPH, Virginia Department of Health, Foodborne Epidemiologist
- Format: plenary session followed by 3 breakout sessions

# Focus Areas

- Mixed breakout sessions (2 of 3):
  - Focus Area 2: Necessary resources
  - Focus Area 5: Pathogen-specific surveillance
  - Focus Area 10: Control of source at implicated facility
- Department-specific breakout session:
  - Focus Area 7: Epidemiology Investigation
  - Focus Area 8: Environmental Health Investigation
  - Focus Area 9: Laboratory Investigation

# The big day!--Agenda



## Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) Toolkit Workshop

May 6, 2011

Doubletree Hotel – Aria Room  
237 South Broad Street; Philadelphia, PA 19107

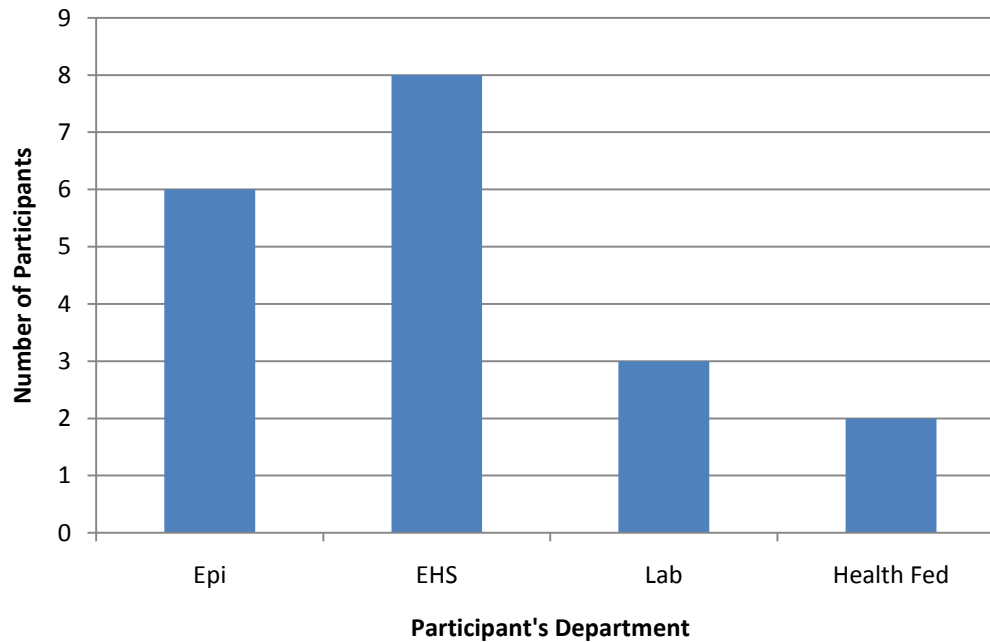
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10:30-11:00	Registration
11:00-11:10	Welcome/Introduction
11:10-12:00	Background on CIFOR Guidelines <i>Seth Levine, MPH</i> <i>Virginia Department of Health Foodborne Epidemiologist</i>
12:00-12:20	Toolkit Development
12:20-12:30	Purpose of Workshop
12:30-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:00	Breakout Session 1 <i>General Focus Area Session 1</i> <i>Focus Area 2, 5, or 10</i>
2:00-2:45	Breakout Session 2 <i>General Focus Area Session 2</i> <i>Focus Area 2, 5, or 10</i>
2:45-3:15	Discussion of findings from General Focus Area Sessions
3:15-3:45	Breakout Session 3 <i>Specific Focus Area Session</i> <i>Focus Area 7, 8, or 9</i>
3:45-4:15	Final Discussion & Next Steps
4:15-4:30	Evaluations

# The big day!

- We had a total of 19 participants at the workshop

**Number of Participants by Department,  
PDPH CIFOR training May 2011**





# The reaction

**Did the workshop meet your educational needs?**

**Please explain.**

- “Yes, help identify needed improvements within any specific organization/unit”
- “Yes, very engaging, allowed for interdepartmental communication”
- “Yes, this workshop helped me understand the importance of the laboratory role in an outbreak.”
- “Yes, I learned about our outbreak procedures and it was helpful to have a collaborative discussion about improving our procedures.”

# Findings

- Additional interdepartmental trainings/tabletop exercises
- Increased communication post-outbreaks, especially with the laboratory
- Creating checklists for EHS to use during inspections that would aid epidemiologic investigations
- Update and share outbreak response protocols

# Next Steps

- Create tabletop exercises for the employees of the EHS
- Schedule periodic interdepartmental meetings, extending the invitation to a larger number of individuals
- Distribute updated contact lists, including after-hours information
- Distribute updated outbreak protocol plans, etc.
- Assemble a library of resources for EHS

# Implementation

- Protocols, checklists, and contact information updated and distributed
- More aware of CIFOR in our approach to foodborne outbreaks
  - More after-action reports
- Tabletop exercise in June 2012 with EHS and Epi
  - Very positive reaction and generated momentum/excitement to sustain regular trainings and tabletop exercises

# Continued Work

- Partner with Public Health Preparedness for annual foodborne outbreak trainings
- Assess other Focus Areas in future workshops
  - Use student intern to assist in the process

# Acknowledgements

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- Anne DeMeis
- Seth Levine, MPH
- Health Federation of Philadelphia
- CIFOR/CSTE





Questions?