CIFOR: The Philadelphia Experience

Yvette Khachadourian, MPH
8th 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 sanitary supervisor, 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

10:30-11:00  Registration
11:00-11:10  Welcome/Introduction
11:10-12:00  Background on CIFOR Guidelines
             Seth Levine, MPH
             Virginia Department of Health Foodborne Epidemiologist
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
           General Focus Area Session 1
           Focus Area 2, 5, or 10
2:00-2:45  Breakout Session 2
           General Focus Area Session 2
           Focus Area 2, 5, or 10
2:45-3:15  Discussion of findings from General Focus Area Sessions
3:15-3:45  Breakout Session 3
           Specific Focus Area Session
           Focus Area 7, 8, or 9
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
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
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Questions?