

Baby Food Standard – Oversight Committee

Bluejeans

Approximately 4:25 to 4:55 pm EDT

FINAL February 16, 2021 Meeting Summary

Participants (members except as indicated):

- American Academy of Pediatrics (advisor): Aparna Bole and Zach Laris
- Beech-Nut Nutrition: Jason Jacobs and Amanda Ettinger
- Cornell University: Rui Hai Liu
- Earth's Best / Hain Celestial Group: Raul Fajardo
- Environmental Defense Fund: Tom Neltner and Boma Brown-West
- Food and Drug Administration (advisor): Conrad Choiniere
- Happy Family: Jason Rosecast and Jessica Dickstein
- Healthy Babies Bright Futures: Charlotte Brody and Jane Houlihan
- Gerber Products Company: Cheryl Callen, Wendy Johnson, Todd DeKryger, and Joel Lim ·
- McDermott, Will & Emery (antitrust counsel): Nicole Castle
- New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets: Maria Ishida and Debbie Oglesby ·
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: Pam Starke-Reed
- Food Chain ID (standard facilitator): David Gould

No members or advisors were unable to attend the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Tuesday, March 16 from 3:30 to 5:00 EDT.

Summary of Discussion, Decisions, and Actions

1. Baby Food Standard website (David and Tom)

a. Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:

- i. Website for standard - <https://www.foodchainid.com/babyfoodstandard/> - and for lab listing - <https://www.foodchainid.com/babyfoodstandard/labprocess/> - went live on February 3.
- ii. Cornell website for Council and lab criteria - <https://foodscience.cals.cornell.edu/industry-partnership-program/cifs-ipp-councils/> - was updated on January 19.
- iii. At David's request, Tom updated the Council's May 19, 2019 charter to indicate that it was approved for release on January 19, 2021 at Council meeting. It is available for [download](#) at webpage for Standard. [Terms of Reference](#) for Standard also live for download.
- iv. Cornell has asked that www.babyfoodcouncil.org not automatically redirect people to its website. It wants a separate page that that people would see so they can select going to the Cornell page. Tom is trying to figure out how best to do that. It may be that we simply direct people to a new webpage on FoodChain ID's website.

b. Meeting discussion:

- i. Tom had secured www.babyfoodcouncil.org and www.babyfoodcouncil.com URLs in 2019.
- ii. The URLs had been automatically redirecting viewers to [Cornell's webpage](#). iii. Cornell wants there to be at least a redirect notice, to avoid the appearance that Cornell University "is" the Baby Food Council.
- iv. The URLs could redirect to the FoodChain ID website for the Baby Food Standard, but it needs to be clear that the Council is more than just the Standard.
- v. Tom and David will meet with the FoodChain ID web team to create a landing page for babyfoodcouncil.org that gives a basic description of the Council's overarching work, and then has a link to the pages for the Standard and its development (ie the FoodChain pages). There could be an option to go to Cornell site.

c. Post-meeting note: *Both URL's automatically redirect to revised <https://www.foodchainid.com/babyfoodstandard/>. Cornell was satisfied with change.*

2. Oversight Committee update (David)

a. Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:

- i. We need to fill grower/processor slots on Oversight Committee. We currently have none but have representation on Technical Committee from United Fresh (produce) and have reached out to U.S. Sweet Potato Council, and carrot and squash producers in Michigan. See roster below.
- ii. Tom will remain as convening chair for Oversight Committee until it has sufficient representation to select a chair.

b. Meeting discussion:

- i. This is the first meeting of the Committee.
- ii. The Committee is still looking to complete its membership by filling seats from main crop commodity stakeholders.
- iii. The Technical Committee representatives for these categories may have recommendations.
- iv. David and Todd to raise the issue at the 1st Technical Committee meeting, which occurs on Friday February 19th.
- v. Tom will share with the Council and the Oversight Committee the current roster for all Committees.

3. Technical Committee update (Todd and David)

a. Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:

- i. Chair is Todd (Gerber).
- ii. Technical Committee's first meeting is February 19 from 1 to 2 ET.

b. Meeting discussion:

- i. First meeting happens on Friday February 19th.
- ii. Agenda has been circulated to all Committee members.
- iii. Todd noted that Greg Bird could serve to represent both the carrot and squash industries.
- iv. Additional members will be sought for sweet potato industry, and perhaps others.
- v. Meeting minutes will be shared with the Oversight Committee.

4. **Communications Committee update** (Amanda and David)

a. **Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:**

- i. Chair is Amanda Ettinger (Beech-Nut).
- ii. Communication Committee's first meeting is February 22 from 2 to 3 ET.
- iii. Amanda has worked up an outline for communications that she will review in the meeting so we can discuss.

b. **Meeting discussion:**

- i. First meeting happens on Monday February 22nd.
- ii. Agenda has been circulated to all Committee members.
- iii. The Committee will discuss, among other topics, recruitment of additional members and the website.
- iv. Meeting minutes will be shared with the Oversight Committee.

5. **Analysis of ingredient testing data** (Rui Hai)

a. **Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:**

- i. A critical step in preparing the Standard is evaluating existing ingredient testing data. The companies agreed to share the data with Rui Hai so he could blind it, evaluate it, and share it with the Council and technical experts.
- ii. CoC grant to Cornell on behalf of the Council for \$70K to support effort and receive testing data executed January 27.
- iii. Rui Hai's five priorities under the grant are:
 1. Evaluate ingredient testing results provided by the Council members and participating companies to identify potential best practices to reduce heavy metal contamination in baby food;
 2. Conduct a literature search of the best practices and other opportunities to reduce heavy metal contamination in baby food;
 3. Collaborate with experts on priority baby food ingredients such as squash, carrots, sweet potatoes, and quinoa to identify and define specific best practices to reduce heavy metal contamination in baby food containing these priority ingredients;
 4. Design and pilot a protocol to evaluate facilities that process ingredients for opportunities to reduce heavy metal contamination in baby food; and

5. Provide input to and edit drafts of the Baby Food Standard.

iv. **Data Use Agreements:** In order to share the data, Cornell needs to have an executed data use agreement in place with each of the companies. Cornell sent the agreements to each on January 11. Happy Family and Beech-Nut have executed agreements in place. **b.**

Meeting discussion:

i. Status on data use agreements:

Company	Contact Person	Cornell e-mailed	Status
Hain Celestial	Raul Fajardo, Senior Vice President Technical Services	1/11/2021	
Happy Family Organics	Jason Rosecast, Vice President Quality & Food Safety	1/11/2021	Signed on 2/2/2021
Gerber Products Company	Cheryl Callen, Senior Director Regulatory Affairs	1/11/2021	
Beech-Nut Nutrition Company	Jason Jacobs,	1/11/2021	Signed on 2/4/2021

Vice President, Quality and Technical Services		
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i. Cheryl and Raul said they will check on status.

ii.

Excel templates for data collection of heavy metals, arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb) in infant and toddler foods is ready for feedback from the Baby Food Council.

6. Securing technical expertise for Standard

a. **Pre-meeting items from draft agenda:**

i.

Sweet potato: EDF has granted \$35K grant to Arthur Villordon of LSU to start on December 1.

ii.

Squash: \$30K grant from Council to Cornell's Michael Mazourek for \$35K is in final stages of getting executed. The start date is January 1.

iii.

Carrots and quinoa: EDF is finalizing terms with Purdue for Lori Hoagland to provide assistance to start on March 1.

iv.

Each will serve on Technical Committee, help engage industry, conduct literature research, and review the standard. Michael and Arthur will test last year's harvest. **b.**

Meeting discussion:

i. None

7. Other items:

a.

AAP is open to the possibility of participating on any or all of the Committees, with whoever attends acting as a liaison to other AAP members and to solicit their input to Committee work as appropriate. Tom and David will have a meeting with Zach Laris and Aparna Bole to discuss possible arrangements.

8. Adjourn.