



2023 STREAM FORUM AG WORKER ACCESS CAMPAIGN PANEL DISCUSSION RECAP

Overview

The Ag Worker Access Campaign hosted panel discussions at all three Regional Stream Forums this year to highlight strategic partnerships health centers are utilizing to increase access to care for Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural workers (MSAWs) and their families. During the sessions, entitled, Panel Discussion: Building Strategic Relationships to Improve the Health of Migratory & Seasonal Agricultural Worker (MSAW) Families, panelists explored the challenges that sparked the need for these types of partnerships, how they got their foot in the door to initiate the relationships, and how they continue to maintain partnerships long term.

The discussions were interactive, allowing audience members to share their strategic partnerships they are implementing, along with challenges they face. In this recap, each region's panel discussion is summarized to include strategies and challenges shared by panelists and participants.

Western Forum for Community and Migrant Health - Long Beach, CA



The three panelists at the Western Forum for Community and Migrant Health were Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega from Quincy Community Health Center in Washington, Marcela Suarez Diaz from Sea Mar

Community Health Centers in Washington, and Ignolia Duyck from Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Oregon. The key theme from this panel was relationship building with growers and employers.

Mary Jo shared strategies from her years of experience coordinating a very successful Promotor de Salud program. She believes strengthening your Promotor de Salud programs is a great strategy for creating access. Mary Jo shared that equipping Promotoras with science and research about the needs of the MSAW community and discussing the benefits of a healthy and strong workforce is key to successful relationship and trust building with growers/employers.

Ignolia has worked over 22 years at Virginia Garcia and discussed strategies from their experience with employer collaboration to offer summer MSAW screenings and health services on housing sites with their mobile unit. Ignolia says the key strategy they used to formalize collaborations with employers to offer these services were 1:1 meetings to explain the program, outlining the purpose and intention, as well as who is involved and the services provided. Ignolia additionally shared that regular communication and transparency to build trust and buy-in is so important so that health centers can maintain continued partnerships with employers.

Marcela has many years of experience studying and addressing health disparities in accessing health care for MSAW communities and reported being consistent and following through on commitments made with growers/employers has been a successful trust building approach for her team. Marcela shared inviting growers/employers to be a part of the team when coordinating mobile services or workforce trainings has helped them with buy-in and participation.

She also discussed the importance of demonstrating the value and unique characteristics of the services you can provide, for example interpretation for indigenous languages or offering culturally appropriate care.

Midwest Stream Forum - Austin, TX



The three panelists at the Midwest Stream Forum were Diego Lobo from Community Health Partnership of Illinois (CHP), Deb Salazar from Salud Health in Colorado, and Rocio Valdez from Ampla Health in California. One of the key themes from this panel discussion was visibility in your community.

Diego Lobo talked about CHP of Illinois's experience and strategies in establishing partnerships to provide services with their mobile health unit. CHP of Illinois partnered with local government agencies to apply for funding for their mobile unit. Diego shared the types of relationships they have built through utilizing their mobile unit to increase access to care for MSAWs and establish partnerships such as with farm owners, local foodbanks and social service organizations.

Deb Salazar spoke about some key strategies from her many years of work as the Migrant Health Director running Salud's mobile health unit. She discussed that when relationship building with growers, being persistent and showing up consistently with information, flyers, and even swag helps to initiate and maintain relationships. Deb shared that offering services in the evenings and early mornings so that workers were not taken away from work was helpful to both the growers and the workers.

If your health center does not already offer these extended after hours, Deb recommends working with your health center board and leadership to offer these hours.

Rocio Valdez also contributed Ampla's experience utilizing relationships with local radio and news outlets to increase access to care for Ag workers in Ampla's community. Rocio shared about the success they have had by consistently showing up to community events held by local radio stations and news outlets where they can not only share about their services but increase Ampla's visibility in the community. Rocio highlighted the importance of establishing trust within the community and allowing your partners and the community to get to know you.

East Coast Migrant Stream Forum - Orlando, FL



The East Coast Stream Forum Campaign activity was held during a general session on April 6, 2023 and featured panelists Elizabeth Avila from the South Carolina Agricultural Worker Health Program, Kristy Bowman from Community Health Centers in Florida, and Ruth Modafarri from Finger Lakes Community Health in New York. The key theme of this panel was on community partnerships. Panelists shared their perspectives on identifying, establishing, and maintaining collaborative relationships with participants and answered audience questions on the topic.

Elizabeth discussed the South Carolina Agricultural Worker Health Program's experience as a statewide Migrant Health Voucher program and the importance of collaborations to ensure

agricultural workers across the state have access to healthcare services.

In order to stay connected, they host outreach and task force meetings to maintain lines of communication and to work with partners to plan joint outreach activities and events, share resources, send referrals, and to achieve mutual goals.

Kristi provided information regarding Community Health Centers' longstanding experience with collaborative relationships within their service area. They focus on being a community partner that cares for the whole person, which has resulted in establishing relationships with a wide range of partners to meet their patients' unique needs. Partners include hospitals, academic institutions, health support service organizations, and social service organizations, among others. One example is the Farmworker Association of Florida, led by farmworkers, whose sites were established based on their response to natural disasters that impacted agricultural workers.

Ruth discussed Finger Lakes Community Health's experience collaborating with a neighboring state through the University of Vermont's Extension program to build capacity to see more agricultural workers over the past two years. The community health worker program, "Bridges to Health," is a health outreach program for migrant farmworkers in Vermont. The effort was funded by the State through an American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant. She also provided insight into other collaborative efforts her health center is working on.

In addition to a very engaging Q&A session, attendees participated in an exercise where they had an opportunity to share their challenges and strategies around partnerships with their peers. Some of the challenges and strategies follow below.

Partnership Strategies & Challenges Activity

Following each panel discussion, participants were asked to participate in an activity where they wrote down and shared their personal strategies and challenges related to partnership building. In the following section, we have compiled the strategies and challenges from across the country.

Partnership Strategies from Stream Forum Participants Across the Country!



Identify Potential Partners:

- MSAWs and their families
- Community ambassadors/trusted community members
- Legal organizations/legal aid
- Hispanic service agencies
- Community based organizations
- Religious groups/organizations/ministries
- Local colleges/universities
- Local food ministries

Strengthen Communication:

- Practice transparency with policies/procedures/expectations
- Develop strong MOUs and partner expectations to avoid duplication of services
- Implement collaborative planning

Strengthen Communication (continued):

- Dedicate time to helping all staff and partners understand what each partner does/services offered
- Develop strong referral process between partners
- Persistent communication - "Gentle pressure applied relentlessly"

Utilize Tools & Resources:

- Conduct needs assessments to better understand your MSAW population
- Provide incentives to partners, providers, MSAWs, etc.
- Set up use of a phone number that the MSAW community can call to identify local services and ask questions (i.e. NCFH's Call for Health)

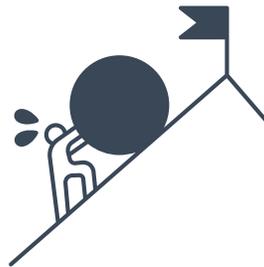
Increase Knowledge about MSAWs and Each Other:

- Train partner organizations on MSAW health and barriers to care
- Leverage storytelling
- Partner up for home visits to better understand transportation challenges, housing conditions, for building trust, etc.
- Make sure advisory and leadership groups are representative of MSAW population and diverse partners

Challenges from Stream Forum Participants Across the Country!

Systems Level:

- Funding
- Staffing/turnover
- Lack of capacity
- Mission/value differences
- Policies/procedure differences
- Internet and broadband access
- Staff burnout



Communication:

- Accountability
- Language barriers
- Translation/interpretation availability
- Lack of transparency/trust

To learn more about the Ag Worker Access Campaign and available tools & resources, visit <http://www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access.html>. For questions, email AgWorkerAccess@ncfh.org.