Conference Narrative & TTS Report
Conference Narrative

The North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) hosted the 31st annual East Coast Migrant Stream Forum in Portland, Maine from October 4-6, 2018. The conference convened 183 health professionals serving agricultural workers and other vulnerable populations, representing Migrant/Community Health Centers, community-based organizations, and government entities across the nation.

Content

The conference program was organized into five tracks: programmatic/administrative, outreach/lay health/community health workers, policy, clinical, and research. Sessions addressed the Bureau of Primary Health Care’s 2018 priorities for the Migrant Stream Forums, including a variety of intensive and educational sessions on mental health, childhood obesity, opioid and other substance use disorders, diabetes and chronic disease management, integration of oral health into primary care, toxic stress, emergency preparedness, occupational health and safety, addressing social determinants of health, and increasing access to care for agricultural workers and their families. The forum included eight 90-minute intensive sessions and 18 concurrent 90-minute educational sessions for a total of 39 hours of educational opportunities over the course of the three-days.

Participants

The 2018 East Coast Migrant Stream Forum convened 183 health professionals representing 18 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Thirty seven percent were first time attendees, 31% had attended twice, and 32% had attended the conference three times or more.

Chart 1: Attendance

How many times have you attended the East Coast Migrant Stream Forum? (n=183)

- First time attendee: 31%
- Two: 37%
- Three or More: 32%
An important training ground for staff new to the field, 42% of Forum attendees had worked less than one year or one to three years in agricultural worker health. Seasoned veterans were also well represented with 58% of attendees having worked four to six years (14%), seven to ten years (15%), or 11 or more years (29%) in agricultural worker health.

*Chart 2: Participant Experience*

The conference continued to receive strong participation from outreach workers and coordinators who comprised nearly 1/3 of all attendees. The next highest attendee occupation categories were “Community Health Worker/Promotor(a)” (9%), “Administrator” (7%), and “Other” (16%). Common responses occupations associated with “Other” included program director, interpreter, and agricultural worker (Chart 3).

*Chart 3: Attendee Occupation*
The conference kicked off on Thursday morning with a half-day site visit to Beth’s Farm Market in Warren, Maine. On the hour and a half journey from Portland to Warren, attendees learned about the agricultural landscape of Maine from staff members of the Maine Mobile Health Program, the state’s only Migrant Health Center. Once in Warren, attendees browsed the grounds of Beth’s Farm Market, host to a community of Jamaican H2A workers, then toured the Maine Mobile Health Program’s mobile unit parked outside.

The general conference program started on Thursday afternoon with four concurrent Intensive Training tracks: (1) Mental Health, (2) Childhood Obesity, (3) Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders, and (4) Diabetes and Chronic Disease Management. Each track offered two successive 90-minute sessions. Following the afternoon’s intensive training sessions, participants were invited to network at the conference welcome reception.

The conference continued Friday morning with opening remarks from Benjamin Money, President and Chief Executive Officer of NCCHCA, and a local greeting from Darcy Shargo, CEO of the Maine Primary Care Association. Roger Rosenthal, the Executive Director of Migrant Legal Action Program, provided the opening plenary session: “Welcoming and Serving All Patients, Including the Foreign-Born: What Staff Working for Health Centers Serving Agricultural Workers Need to Know.”

Immediately following the plenary, participants were offered a selection of five concurrent educational sessions: “Agricultural Worker Health 101,” “The Promise of Telehealth in Rural Communities,” “Recent Findings on Farmworkers’ Knowledge of Cancer and HPV: Implications for Patient Education and Clinician Training,” and “Navigating Identities: Identifying Social Determinants of Health in Cross-Cultural Settings.”

Focusing on the unique agricultural landscape and industry of Maine, the Friday lunch plenary session featured a panel discussion of agricultural and seafood processing workers. Facilitated by the Maine Mobile Health Program, panelists discussed their experiences as workers in agriculture/seafood and as patients in community health centers and other health care settings.

Next, the program transitioned to the presentation of the Steve Shore Community Catalyst Award. This award is given annually to an individual, program, or agency whose work has incited positive change in the health and wellness of agricultural workers. This year’s award recipient was Dr. José O. Rodríguez (second from right), Chief Medical Officer at Castañer General Hospital, in recognition of his life-saving work in Puerto Rico during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

After lunch, attendees participated in an additional round of concurrent educational sessions to conclude the day: “To be healthy, information is not enough: the case for SDOH,” “Protecting Farmworkers and Their Families: Examining New Requirements to Minimize Pesticide Exposure,” “How does the changing demographics of domestic (non-H-2a) crop workers affect our patient
population’s health status and healthcare needs,” “Managing Patients with Chronic Illness during and after Disasters: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Maria,” and “Collecting and Reporting SO/GI Data of Agricultural Worker Patients.”

The final day of the conference opened with a National Policy and Program Update plenary session presented by Jana Eubank, Associate Vice President, Public Policy & Research Division, National Association of Community Health Centers. Ms. Eubank’s update focused on how health centers are funded and when community health centers will experience another funding cliff. Ms. Eubank also stressed the importance of Migrant Health Centers and frontline staff are to advocacy efforts in the community health center movement.

Then, the conference transitioned into two successive rounds of concurrent educational sessions. The first sessions were “Adverse Childhood Experiences & Toxic Stress among Agricultural Worker Families: The Role of Primary Care & Promotores(as),” “Structural Competency,” “Creating Transportation Partnerships,” and “Integrating Education and Health Services for Migrant Children: Collaboration between Migrant Education and Migrant Health to Increase Access during Maine’s Wild Blueberry Harvest.” The final group of sessions offered were “Let Us Speak the Same Language: Language Access Strategies,” “The Integration of Community Health Workers into Health Care Teams: A Conversation between Outreach Worker, Provider and Administrator,” “Educating Farmworkers about Health Insurance Using Popular Education,” and “East Coast Migrant Head Start Project and Community Health Centers: Joining Forces for Healthy Children and Families.”

Participants reconvened for the closing lunch program, “Methods for Delivering Culturally Competent Care to Agricultural Workers” presented by Berthine Crèvecœur West, MA, CoreCHI™, nationally-certified interpreter, author, and corporate trainer. Ms. West discussed methods for delivering culturally competent care to migrant agricultural workers and limited English proficient persons. Ms. West also shared her experiences as a volunteer Healthcare Interpreter for migrant agricultural workers and their effect upon her life and worldview.

Finally of note, there were two additional meetings which took place alongside the conference – a voucher program meeting on the morning of October 4th and a focus group in the evening on October 5th, both led by the National Center for Farmworker Health.
Tracking to Success

The North Carolina Community Health Center Association uses a system called “Tracking to Success” (TTS) to evaluate the impact of workshops and plenary sessions at the East Coast Migrant Stream Forum. Conference attendees received hard copy forms during intensive and educational sessions and were asked to complete an electronic survey to provide overall feedback after the conference.

Overall Conference Tracking to Success

Participants shared two key concepts they remembered from any session they attended. Responses included: structural competency, adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, cultural competence is ongoing, use of CHWs in [the clinical] care team, and how to keep culture in mind when treating farmworkers with diabetes.

Of all survey respondents, 100% were very confident or somewhat confident that they will be able to implement something learned from the conference at their organization.

Feedback from conference participants was positive overall. Recommendations for implementation at the 2019 East Coast Migrant Stream Forum included:

- Less transition time between sessions
- Add 15 minutes to each session
- Having a social or meet and greet in an environment outside of the hotel
- Invite more educational/motivation speakers
- Reduce the number of sessions focused on research findings

Survey respondents provided suggestions for potential future session topics, including: farmworker health and safety education program, community health workers in the primary care practice office setting, ethics class on interpreting, an account of an agricultural worker, and provider and staff burnout.
Plenary Sessions

Session: Welcoming and Serving All Patients, Including the Foreign-Born: What Staff Working for Health Centers Serving Agricultural Workers Need to Know

Presenter(s): Roger Rosenthal

How likely are you to apply information from this session in your health center/organization?

Session: Maine Agricultural & Seafood Workers Panel

Presenter(s): Maine Mobile Health Program, local Agricultural and Seafood Workers

How likely are you to apply information from this session in your health center/organization?
**Session:** Policy & Program Update from the National Association of Community Health Centers  
**Presenter(s):** Jana Eubank

![Survey Results]

**Session:** Methods for Delivering Culturally Competent Care to Agricultural Workers  
**Presenter(s):** Berthine Crèvecœur West

![Survey Results]
**Concurrent Intensive Trainings**

**Session**: Single Session Therapy: An Approach to Working with Migrant Workers  
**Presenter(s)**: Kate Warner, Tabitha McCoy

Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) Asking coping questions to assess internal strengths, and (2) compliment positive behavior.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Samuel Lidsky, Medical Assistant, Benson Area Medical Center, 845-803-4788, slidsky@bensonmedical.org
Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: It was an excellent session that could have had more time to hear what others are implementing or have experienced with this. But it was great with the amount of time it had.

Session: Computers & Connectivity
Presenter(s): Ramón Zepeda

Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) benefits of utilizing technology with farmworkers, and (2) the impact of technology and internet for farmworkers’ mental health
Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Amy Elkins, Outreach, NC Farmworkers Project, 910-891-9964, amy@ncfwp.org

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: Perhaps having videos of farmworkers who benefitted from this project. Interviews. Speak more about grants to make this [project] possible.

Session: Using Promotores(as) de Salud to Prevent Childhood Obesity
Presenter(s): Jennifer Bishop

Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) time constraints on families and implementing something that works with their time, and (2)
incentives & provisions to include (boxes of healthy fruit & veg), more (dance, step) pedometers that track goals, and at the end of four sessions turning it in for a prize.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Ana Rivera, Outreach Director, ReGenesis Health Care, 864 978-2201, arivera@myrhc.org

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: Intake forms that track/and how to collect data for a report to show a self-sustaining program. Act out a scene of how to approach and teach a man who is overweight/obese on this topic.

Session: Service Learning and Elementary School Partnership to Combat Childhood Obesity
Presenter(s): Jean Davison, Janice Anderson
Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) health literacy and how it can help reduce childhood obesity, and (2) levels of disease prevention and cultural understanding.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: José Rodríguez, MD, Castañer General Hospital, jrodriguez@hospitalcastaner.com

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: N/A

Session: Addressing the Opioid Crisis through Nursing Education: A Model for Outreach Workers
Presenter(s): Pamela Cromer, Carolina McKinnon

![Bar chart showing responses to session evaluations]

- Well-organized presentation: 83%
- Quality content: 67%
- Engaging speaker: 50%
- Participation was encouraged: 67%
- Meaningful group activities: 50%
- Applicable to my work: 83%
Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) motivational interviewing, and (2) learning risky behavior.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Krystal Mayberry, LPN/Community Health Worker, Gaston Family Health Services, kmayberry@gfhs.info, 704-874-1923.

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: Second part was more interactive and useful (practical).

Session: Substance Use Among Agricultural Workers: Report on a Needs Assessment in Maine
Presenter(s): Hannah Miller, Laura Valencia Orozco
Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) mobile unit function and screening for SUD, and (2) survey questions asked of Latinos regarding SUD.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Kirby Valentin, Coordinator, Mass League, kvalentin@massleague.org

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: More of a focus on mental health.

Session: Diabetes and Migratory Agricultural Workers: Partnerships to Promote Testing, Treatment, and Management
Presenter(s): Mercedes Hernández, Maridolores Valentín Gonzalez, Meghan Rolley Neville
Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) cultural influences on beliefs about causes of diabetes, and (2) a major barrier to care across organizations appears to be transportation.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Mohammed Durosinmi, Member - farmworkers Advisory, Westside Family Healthcare, mohduro@gmail.com, 443-258-1719.

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: concrete examples of diabetes interventions, examples of ways to improve cultural sensitivity in clinic.

Session: Understanding How Social Determinants of Health Impact Chronic Disease in Agricultural Communities

Presenter(s): Jennifer Bishop
Name two concepts that you will remember from this Intensive Training Session: (1) education can be effective when root causes are considered, and (2) mistakes in diagnosis and treatment can be made if cultural/social determinants are not considered.

Please provide your contact information below if you plan to apply a concept from this session and would be willing to share your implementation process with NCCHCA: Milta Franco, Outreach Coordinator, Baystate Health System, Milta.franco@bhs.org, 413-426-8863.

Please tell us at least one way that this intensive session can be improved for future trainings: I'd like more rigor and case studies, fewer group activities and reading from PowerPoint. Need more of a systems failure approach.
Concurrent Educational Sessions

**Session:** Agricultural Worker Health 101  
**Presenter(s):** Alexis Guild, Sonia Lee, Amy Liebman

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Ag Worker Health 101](image)

**Session:** The Promise of Telehealth in Rural Communities  
**Presenter(s):** Rebecca Young, Sarah Downer

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: The Promise of Telehealth in Rural Communities](image)
**Session:** Recent Findings on Farmworkers' Knowledge of Cancer and HPV: Implications for Patient Education and Clinician Training

**Presenter(s):** Kate Furgurson

![Bar chart for ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Cancer and HPV](chart1)

**Session:** Integrating Oral Health into Primary Care

**Presenter(s):** Sam Wakim, Michelle Blanchfield

![Bar chart for ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Integrating Oral Health into Primary Care](chart2)
**Session:** Navigating Identities: Identifying Social Determinants of Health in Cross-Cultural Settings  
**Presenter(s):** Estefani Ignacio Gallegos, Antonio Tovar  

![Bar Chart](image1.png)

**Session:** To be healthy, information is not enough: the case for SDOH  
**Presenter(s):** Hilda Ochoa Bogue, Amy Shepherd  

![Bar Chart](image2.png)
**Session:** Protecting farmworkers and their families: examining new requirements to minimize pesticide exposure  
**Presenter(s):** Carolyn Sheridan, Amy Liebman

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Protecting Farmworkers](image)

**Session:** How does the changing demographics of domestic (non-H-2A) crop workers affect our patient population’s health status and healthcare needs?  
**Presenter(s):** Susan Gabbard

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Changing Demographics](image)
**Session:** Managing Patients with Chronic Illness during and after Disasters: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Maria  
**Presenter(s):** José O. Rodríguez, Alma Galván

![Histogram showing evaluation scores for Hurricane Maria session](image1)

**Session:** Collecting and Reporting SO/GI Data of Agricultural Worker Patients  
**Presenter(s):** Alexis Guild, Chris Grasso

![Histogram showing evaluation scores for SO/GI Data session](image2)
**Session**: Adverse Childhood Experiences & Toxic Stress among Agricultural Worker Families: The Role of Primary Care & Promotor(as)
**Presenter(s)**: Javier I. Rosado

**ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Toxic Stress**
Average of responses from 20 evaluations (1 is low, 4 is high)

- Training met objectives?: 4.0
- How likely to apply info?: 3.6
- Overall satisfaction: 3.9

**Session**: Structural Competency
**Presenter(s)**: Sonia Lee, Cheryl Seymour, Gayle Thomas, Deliana Garcia

**ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Structural Competency**
Average of responses from 24 evaluations (1 is low, 4 is high)

- Training met objectives?: 3.9
- How likely to apply info?: 3.7
- Overall satisfaction: 3.9
**Session:** Creating Transportation Partnerships  
**Presenter(s):** Meghan Rolley Neville, Sharon Panuco, Macrina Guzman

---

**ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Creating Transportation Partnerships**  
Average of responses from 15 evaluations (1 is low, 4 is high)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training met objectives?</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How likely to apply info?</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall satisfaction</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Session:** Integrating Education and Health Services for Migrant Children: Collaboration between Migrant Education and Migrant Health to Increase Access during Maine's Wild Blueberry Harvest  
**Presenter(s):** Lisa Tapert, Ian Yaffe

---

**ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Blueberry Harvest**  
Average of responses from 17 evaluations (1 is low, 4 is high)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training met objectives?</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How likely to apply info?</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall satisfaction</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Session:** Let Us Speak the Same Language: Language Access Strategies  
**Presenter(s):** Hilda Ochoa Bogue

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Language Access](image)

**Session:** The Integration of Community Health Workers into Health Care Teams: A Conversation between Outreach Worker, Provider and Administrator  
**Presenter(s):** Gayle Thomas, Bryan Parrish, Ashley Brewer, Dominique Jones, Krystal Mayberry

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Integration of CHWs](image)
**Session:** Educating Farmworkers about Health Insurance Using Popular Education  
**Presenter(s):** Neissly Tapia, Ana Beltran

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Popular Education](image)

**Session:** East Coast Migrant Head Start Project and Community Health Centers: Joining Forces for Healthy Children and Families  
**Presenter(s):** Mercedes Hernández, Renee AboAmshe, Maridolores Valentín

![ECMSF 2018 Session Evaluation: Head Start](image)
Photos

Photo #1: Dr. José O. Rodríguez (second from right), Chief Medical Officer at Castañer General Hospital, shows off his Steve Shore Community Catalyst Award with the hospital’s CEO Domingo Monroig (second from left) and colleagues from Migrant Clinicians Network.

Photo #2: HOP’s Sonia Lee co-presents “Structural Competency” to a room full of engaged attendees.
Photo #3: Conference attendees discuss a case study during an interactive educational session.

Photo #4: Closing keynote speaker Berthine Crèvecœur West opens her session “Methods for Delivering Culturally Competent Care to Agricultural Workers.”