ABOUT THE FORUM

2019 THEME:
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS THROUGH AN ENGAGED WORKFORCE & CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The 29th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was held in Denver, CO, on September 25-27, 2019. Our theme, “Reaching New Heights Through an Engaged Workforce and Connected Communities” reinforced our commitment to collaboration and empowerment of the health care workforce to increase access to quality healthcare for our country’s agricultural workers. For decades, the forum has provided migrant health professionals with farmworker-specific educational content in an environment for continuing education, professional development, and networking.

Over three days, the forum offered educational sessions from over 30 speakers on clinical, research, outreach/lay health, and leadership topics that included priorities for community and migrant health centers, such as diabetes prevention programs, language access, social determinants of health, childhood obesity, mental health, emergency preparedness, and the opioid epidemic. The forum offered opportunities for professionals from medical, nursing, social work, and community health worker to receive CEUs from various accrediting institutions.

We are proud of the work of NCFH staff, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors, and all attendees for another wonderful conference full of learning, networking, and fun. See you in 2020!
Conference attendees visited the Fort Lupton Salud Family Health Center, located 38 miles northeast of Denver. Salud is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) operating 13 clinic locations, 9 school sites and a mobile unit. Tour participants boarded the mobile unit to hear all about Salud’s services at neighboring farms. In the lab and medical classrooms of the administrative building, trainers shared information about Salud’s sponsorship of a multistate program to train medical assistants. The tour finished off at the health center itself, a welcoming and attractive facility that provides medical, pharmacy, dental and behavioral health services to its community.

OPENING PLENARY: DR. AMERICA BRACHO

The second day of the forum kicked off with a keynote from Dr. America Bracho, Executive Director of Latino Health Access. Dr. Bracho delivered a motivating message, calling upon attendees to engage and connect with their farmworker patients. Attendees were asked to center farmworker voices in their work and consider the farmworker’s life experience and not just the patient experience or diagnoses. As the keynote came to an end, attendees lined up for Dr. Bracho’s book signing and stayed energized for a day of learning.
I CARE ABOUT AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

During the closing plenary of this year’s conference, an Ag Worker Access Campaign update was provided to attendees. The goal of this session was to offer an overview of the Campaign, present progress to date since this initiative began in 2015, and share strategies and resources that have been implemented nationwide and contributed to reaching the overarching goal of two million Agricultural workers and their families served in health centers by the year 2020.

The latest data were revealed, showing health centers served 995,232 Agricultural workers and their families in 2018, an increase of 22,981 since 2017. Attendees were recognized as playing a vital role in this continued effort. They were invited to reflect and engage in small group discussions by answering questions at their tables and then invited to share what they discussed in their small groups with the larger audience.

Attendees then received ideas of how they can contribute to this initiative, individually or as part of their organization. Attendees were invited to participate in the “Call to Action” activity, where they were asked to write down one commitment they were willing to do to continue increasing access to care for agricultural workers and their families. The following are some of the commitments received:

I commit to:

“Educating staff and coworkers on challenges experienced by Ag workers and how we can better advocate to meet their healthcare needs.”

“Supporting new ideas that are proposed by our Migrant Outreach Team. Be open to change and new uses of technology.”
ATTENDANCE SNAPSHOT

164 ATTENDEES FROM 20 STATES

Majority of attendees came from:
Colorado (42)
Texas (36)

63% OF ATTENDEES HAVE ATTENDED THE MIDWEST STREAM FORUM IN THE PAST

- 10+ years (35%)
- 1-3 years (24%)
- 4-6 years (21%)
- <1 year (12%)
- 7-10 years (8%)
- 4-6 years (21%)

35% OF ATTENDEES HAVE OVER 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN MIGRANT HEALTH

- Attended 3rd time or more (47%)
- Attended 2nd time (16%)
- Attended 1st time (37%)
- <1 year (12%)
- 1-3 years (24%)

"I really felt the benefit of the immersive experience of the conference. It is one thing to read a report or even engage in a conversation, but being dunked and submerged in a topic for 2+ days has a different effect on how thoroughly you get something. This conference dunks, in the best way possible."

- 2019 Midwest Stream Forum attendee

"I enjoyed America Bracho's session very much. It was very inspiring and helped me discover why I am in this work."

- 2019 Midwest Stream Forum attendee
95% Of participants, on average, were confident that they would implement teachings learned during the session.

100% Of participants, on average, agreed that their session would be helpful in improving their work performance.

98% Of participants, on average, reported having good or very good knowledge on a topic following a session.

80% Of participants, on average, reported an increase in knowledge following a session.
Attendees were asked to provide their opinions for future forums regarding improvements and priority topics and training needs. Some of the requested improvements included shorter sessions, more networking opportunities, and additional activities to meet and learn from each other. Additionally, attendees offered the following suggestions for topics for future forums:

- Immigration issues
- Leadership development
- Mental health
- Social determinants of health
- Outreach/referral support
- Cultural competency
- Increase access to care
- Diabetes
- Women’s health
- Managing multiple priorities
- Group meeting dynamics
- Family and/or domestic violence

NEXT IN MIGRANT HEALTH

ABOUT NCFH
The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) is a private non-profit corporation, established in 1975, located in Buda, Texas. NCFH provides information services, technical assistance, and training to more than 500 private and federally funded migrant health centers as well as other organizations and individuals serving the farmworker population. NCFH has organized the Midwest Stream Forum since 1990.

ABOUT THE STREAM FORUMS
The Midwest Stream Forum is one of three regional forums organized to address the health of Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers. Find out more about next year’s forums at the NCFH website: www.ncfh.org/regional-stream-forums.
THANK YOU!

TO THE FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Jennifer Bishop, MPH Salud
- Keith Bletzer, Arizona State University
- Gladys Carillo, National Center for Farmworker Health
- Melissa Copper, Proteus, Inc.
- Guadalupe Cuesta, National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start
- Patricia Fernandez, Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program
- Iris Figueroa, Farmworker Justice
- Otila Garcia, Gateway Community Health Center, Inc.
- Sirene Garcia, Finger Lakes Community Health
- Sylvia Gomez, National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.
- Patricia Horton, National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.
- Eduardo Huesca, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
- Maria Hufnagel, Community Health Partnership of Illinois
- Diana Lieu, Health Outreach Partners
- Olivia Lopez, Del Mar College
- Theresa Lyons-Clampitt, Migrant Clinicians Network
- Cindy Masias, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
- Lisa Miller, National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.
- Antonia Romero, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
- Roger Rosenthal, Migrant Legal Action Program
- Deborah Salazar, Sauld Family Health Centers
- Jessica Sanchez, Colorado Community Health Network
- Ted Scharf, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health
- Rocio Valdez, Ampla Health
- Helen Rhea Vernier, Community Health Association of the Mountain/Plain States
- Karen Watt, Watt Farms Country Market
- Amanda Wickman, University of Texas Health Science Center
- Lieah Wilder, Family Health/La Clinica

TO OUR SPONSORS:

- National Center for Farmworker Health
- MHP Salud
- Health Outreach Partners
- Farmworker Justice
- American Association of Diabetes Educators
- National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)
- Gateway Community Health Center
- Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)
- High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS)
- National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA)

TO OUR EXHIBITORS:

- Colorado Community Health Network
- Salud Family Health Centers
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Colorado Department of Health and Human Services
- National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement