The 27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was held in Grand Rapids, MI September 18—20, 2017. 165 migrant and community health professionals, representing 20 states and the District of Columbia, traveled to Grand Rapids, MI to take part in educational sessions, information sharing, and networking with their migrant and community health center colleagues. Forum participants were offered 20 individual 90-minute breakout sessions, 4 individual 45-minute breakout sessions, three plenary sessions, and three 3-hour intensive sessions, totaling over 50 hours of educational opportunities. The multi-track program featured sessions on agricultural worker health-specific clinical, research, lay-health worker educational outreach, administration, management, and leadership development topics. More than 40 speakers from across the country presented on a wide array of topics including: Diabetes, Opioid Epidemic, Language Access, Increasing Access to Healthcare for Agricultural Workers, Collaboration and Partnerships, Domestic Violence, Social Determinants of Health, Leadership, and Preparing Health Center Staff to Meet New Challenges, among many others. Educational sessions were submitted for CEU approval with varying accrediting institutions to provide educational credit in the professional areas of medical, nursing, social work and for community health workers. The 27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum united the agricultural worker health community for three energizing days of professional development. With the theme of Sowing Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope, the Forum emphasized the exchange of information on model programs, new resources and tools, and the latest research and trends in agricultural worker health. In hearing about the empowerment of enthusiasm, and the emphasis of connecting with others through collaborations and partnerships, and by sharing stories of success among health centers in the common goal of increasing access to care for agricultural workers, helped enlighten the way to sow seeds of health, equity, and hope to increase access to healthcare.

The 27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health opened Monday morning with a tour to an apple farm and cider mill where participants enjoyed hearing from local growers at Dietrich Farm about the apple harvest and farm happenings, and afterwards seeing apples processed into cider through a tour and lunch at Vander Mill for a farm to table experience. The afternoon began with information-filled, 3-hour intensives including topics around Diabetes, Opioid Epidemic, and Increasing Access to Healthcare for Agricultural Workers. The evening’s Welcome Reception included a buffet dinner followed by entertainment and dancing with music provided by the locally-renowned band, Los Bandits de Michigan.
Tuesday’s Opening Plenary began with a welcome address from Michigan’s Primary Care Association Director of Clinical Services, Lynda Meade, followed by an update from Joe Gallegos, Sr. Vice-President of the National Association of Community Health Centers. After the updates, our keynote speaker, Sonny Melendrez, a nationally-recognized radio personality and inductee of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as one of the “Top 100 Radio Personalities of All-Time”, delivered an inspirational keynote address on “The Power of Enthusiasm”.

Tuesday afternoon included an information-packed day of 12 educational sessions and poster presentations. Participants chose from a wide array of topics related to agricultural worker health and community health.

Wednesday morning began with 8 educational sessions followed by a luncheon with a keynote presentation from Roger Rosenthal on the topic of “Preparing Health Center Staff to Meet New Challenges Faced by MSAW Patients”. After 4 more educational sessions, the Closing Plenary was a time of reflection and celebration related to the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign. Bobbi Ryder, CEO of the National Center from Farmworker Health, facilitated the interactive presentation and several prizes of NCFH art prints were awarded during this fun-filled educational activity. Through this Circle of Care activity, health center staff enjoyed sharing experiences and ideas with each other of strategies applied and learned along the way.

Evaluation of the 2017 Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health revealed positive results for all sessions and plenaries. 25 of the 27 educational sessions were ranked at 100% in overall satisfaction. These sessions included Increasing Agricultural Worker Health 101, Building Healthy Communities: Engaging Elementary Schools in Partnership, CHW Manual de Recursos Para la Prevencion de Enfermedades del Corazon, and Food Insecurity and Farmworker Families and Their Children, to name a few. Evaluations also revealed that 18% of participants have been in the field of agricultural worker health and community health for less than one year. Sessions provided an important training opportunity for those in the new agricultural and community health movement.

We sincerely thank all who were in attendance for making this year’s Midwest Stream Forum one to remember. Special thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, and presenters who contributed to the success of the 2017 Midwest Stream Forum. We hope that participants found it as exciting, rejuvenating, and educational as we did.
Summary

This report explores valuable feedback provided by participants of the 27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 18 – 20, 2017. With the focus on *Sowing Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope*, the conference provided over 50 hours of educational content and professional development opportunities that successfully improved the knowledge and skill level of migrant health professionals.

Introduction

The 27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was hosted in Grand Rapids, MI on September 18 - 20, 2017. The Forum brought together 165 migrant health professionals from across the United States to explore topics to Sow Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope. This report highlights key findings from conference attendee evaluations, including top sessions attended, knowledge gained, impact of sessions on professional work, and attendee satisfaction.

Background

Since 1990, farmworker advocates, health and social service providers, and other interested individuals have gathered together annually for the Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health. The Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health exists to provide farmworker-specific educational content, creating an environment for continuing education, professional development and social networking with other migrant health professionals.

Content

The title of this year’s Forum was *Sowing Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope*. Forum participants were offered a total of 20 individual 90-minute breakout sessions, 4 individual 45-minute breakout sessions, three plenary sessions, and three 3-hour intensive sessions totaling over 50 hours of educational opportunities. Topics ranged from “Diabetes Self-Care and Management, Opioid Epidemic, Language Access, Transportation, Childhood Obesity, Increasing Access to Care for Ag Workers, and Preparing Health Center Staff to Meet New Challenges Faced by MSAW Patients”.
Participants

The 2017 Stream Forum drew 165 participants from 20 states and the District of Columbia. States with the highest representation included Michigan with 60 attendees, followed by Texas with 20 attendees. Other Midwest Stream states with high attendance include Colorado (17), California (11), and Illinois (10).

Conference attendees also represented a wide array of occupations, including administrative staff (15), outreach/lay health worker/promotora (21), program coordinator/director (16), migrant director (14), and executive director/CEO (12). The forum included seasoned migrant health professionals as well as those new to the field. Nearly a third (37.5%) of participants had worked in migrant health for more than 10 years, while another third (21.4%) had worked in migrant health less than 3 years.
Evaluation Summary Highlights
At the end of each session, evaluations were distributed and completed by session participants. Evaluation questions are listed below with the corresponding 4-point Likert scale provided for each question.

The session met my needs and expectations.
Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree

The session content will be helpful to me in improving my own work performance with Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker population.
Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree

The session achieved its listed learning objectives.
Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree

My knowledge/skill level in the session subject matter before:
Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor

My knowledge/skill level in the session subject matter after:
Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor

How confident are you that you will be able to implement something learned from this session in your organization?
Very Confident | Confident | Not Very Confident | Not at all Confident

Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the session.
Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Not Very Satisfied | Not at all Satisfied
27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
*Sowing Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope*

A session scored 100% for a question if a participant responded to either “strongly agree”/ ”very good” or “agree”/ ”good”. For example, the session entitled “How You Can: Increase Access to Care for Agricultural Workers Through Practical Tactical Planning” had 25 participants, 17 of which filled out evaluations at the end of the session. For the first question, the session content met my needs and expectations, participants responded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This session received an overall score of 100% because 100% of participants who filled out evaluations (17) responded that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the session content met their needs and expectations.

At the end of the Forum, participants also completed an evaluation for the forum as a whole. The forum evaluation assessed overall satisfaction, implications for work performance, recommendations for improvement, and suggested topics for future Stream Forums.

Both individual session evaluations and the overall forum evaluation provided helpful data for measuring the success of the 2017 Midwest Stream Forum. This report will explore a few key indicators, including: sessions with highest attendance, knowledge gained, participants’ confidence in being able to implement something learned, and satisfaction with individual sessions as well as the forum as a whole.

With both the individual session evaluations and the overall forum evaluation, response rates were often lower than total number of participants due to participants leaving before evaluations were distributed.
27th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health

Sowing Seeds of Health, Equity, and Hope

Top Sessions Attended

Figure 3 shows the sessions with the highest attendance. High attendance for a session may signify high expectation of the session’s content. Each of the top 5 sessions attended received a 100% satisfaction rating and 100% for meeting participant needs and expectations.

![Figure 2: Top Sessions Attended](image)

The sessions with the highest attendance were Agricultural Worker Health 101: An Introduction to Agricultural Worker Health and Human Trafficking: Identifying and Responding to Labor Exploitation. Participants came away with many lessons learned from these sessions. For the session on Ag Worker Health 101, participants stated they will remember the importance of cultural competency and the barriers in access to care for agricultural workers. Participants from the session on human trafficking learned the awareness of human trafficking and how to identify potential victims.
Knowledge Gained

Specific concepts remembered from a session is one way to determine lessons learned and knowledge gained from a session. Additionally, session evaluations measured participants’ knowledge in the session subject matter before and after the session, indicating the impact of the session on the participant’s knowledge or skill level. On average, participant knowledge more than doubled from 44.4% to 97%, an increase of 52.6%, with some sessions showing an even greater increase in knowledge.

The most significant increase in knowledge was for the session “New Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey and Updates on Collaborations with HRSA”. Of the 20 participants that completed an evaluation, only 1 indicated any knowledge/skill level before the session, 0 indicating “very good” and 1 indicating “good”. At the end of the session, 14 participants responded that they had “very good” knowledge/skill level in the subject matter, and 6 responded that they had “good” knowledge/skill level, resulting in a 95% improvement in knowledge/skill level. The session entitled “Leveraging Resources Through Outreach, Collaboration, and Partnerships” had an 76% improvement in knowledge/skill level, and the session on “Using Digital Tools for Education and Outreach” showed an 75.7% improvement in participant knowledge/skill level.
Impact of Sessions

It is important that the Stream Forum not only improve the knowledge of its participants, but also have a direct impact on participants’ work with the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker population. Participants were therefore asked to respond to the following:

_The session content will be helpful to me in improving my own work performance with Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker population._

Overall, the majority of participants indicated a positive impact on their work from the sessions attended, with 98.5% indicating that they strongly agreed or agreed that the sessions would be helpful in improving their work performance. (See Figure 4)

![Image of Figure 4: Helpfulness of Session Content](image.png)

**FIGURE 4: HELPFULNESS OF SESSION CONTENT**

Many individual sessions scored high for both of these questions. Of the 27 total sessions offered, 21 sessions received a 100% positive score for providing content helpful in improving work performance, and 9 sessions received a 100% for ensuring participants would be able to implement something learned from the session.
Participant Satisfaction

Participants were asked their satisfaction with the educational content of the forum overall. Overall participants indicated that they were 100% satisfied with the educational content of the forum, with 76.19% being “Very Satisfied”.

![Overall Satisfaction](image)

Individual sessions were also scored for participant satisfaction. On average, sessions scored a 91.51% satisfaction success rate, with 25 of 27 sessions receiving a 100% score for satisfaction. One session had a 100% ranking of participants who completed an evaluation being “Very Satisfied” with the session. This session was *The Role of Plain Language*.

When participants were asked what they enjoyed most about this year’s conference, responses varied from specific sessions enjoyed, the opportunity to network and learn from colleagues doing the same type of work, policy updates, the educational materials, and most notably the speakers and the variety of topics.

Attendees described the forum as “very motivational” and “it was a fantastic experience” and enjoyed hearing about others’ experiences and strategies”. Another attendee said the sessions were “really great options”.

Future Implications

Conference participants were asked to provide one recommendation that could have improved their overall conference experience. Responses included wanting to see more clinical content, more intensives, a “networking mixer”, make it a four-day conference, more general sharing between health centers, and more about dental care.

Participants also provided feedback on topics for future Stream Forum sessions. Among the highest ranking topics were Cultural Competency, Mental Health, and Outreach and Referral. Other suggestions included various topics in professional skills building and health.

![Figure 6: Top Suggested Topics](image)
Conclusion

The 2017 Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was a success in bringing migrant health professionals from a variety of occupations and years of experience together for a time of networking and learning. Participants gained knowledge in various topics pertaining to migrant health and policy, and left the conference with confidence in their ability to apply the many lessons learned to their work with the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Population. Conference participants were extremely satisfied with the individual sessions provided and the educational content of the conference as a whole. One of the highlights of the conference was the Circle of Care activity at the Closing Plenary in which participants from various health centers shared their success stories and ideas for new strategies. Participants look forward to more professional development opportunities and improving their knowledge and skill in outreach and referral.
Participants enjoyed a farm tour and learned about the apple harvest from one of the growers at Dietrich Farms.

After the farm tour, participants learned about the next process for some of the apples through a tour of the Vander Mill cider mill.
Joe Gallegos provides the policy update for NACHC during the Opening Plenary.

A group of Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign Champions.
Participants in one of the many breakout sessions.

Sharing health center stories and ideas during the Circle of Care activity at the Closing Plenary.