The 26th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was held in San Antonio, TX October 31—November 2, 2016. 174 migrant and community health professionals, representing 23 states, Mexico, and Canada, traveled to San Antonio, TX to take part in educational sessions, information sharing, and networking with their migrant and community health center colleagues. Forum participants were offered 16 individual 90-minute breakout sessions, 8 individual 45-minute breakout sessions, four 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 30 speakers from across the country presented on a wide array of topics including: Domestic Violence, Zika, Occupational Health, Indigenous Languages, Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data, Health Equity, Social Determinants of Health, Leadership, Increasing Access to Care for Ag Workers, and Immigration Policy, 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 26th Annual Midwest Stream Forum united the agricultural worker health community for three energizing days of professional development. With the theme of Open Doors, Open Hearts, Increased Access, the Forum emphasized the exchange of information on model programs, new resources and tools, and the latest research and trends in agricultural worker health. The sharing of personal stories, understanding the history of migratory agricultural work, and the emphasis of connecting with others helped enlighten the way to open hearts and open doors to increase access to healthcare.

The 26th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health opened Monday morning with information-filled, 3-hour intensives including topics around Indigenous Languages, Zika, and Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence. Monday’s Opening Plenary began with a welcome address from San Antonio’s Communicare Health Center CEO, Paul Nguyen and NCFH CEO, Roberta Ryder, followed by updates related to the Ag Worker 2020 Campaign and an update from Joe Gallegos, Sr. Vice-President, NACHC. The updates were followed by an educational presentation from Dr. Raymond V. Padilla, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at San Antonio, with a historical perspective of the migratory agricultural worker movement in his presentation, “Taken by the Road: Migration from Montopolis to Muskegon”, an autoethnographic account of his migrant-worker experiences.
Monday evening’s Welcome Reception included recognition of our Planning-Committee members and a brief introduction of our poster presenters. Reception participants enjoyed a plated dinner and entertainment provided by Mariachi Nuevo Estilo, previous contestant’s on America’s Got Talent. A great time was had by all.

Tuesday included an information-packed day of 20 educational sessions. Participants chose from a wide array of topics related to agricultural worker health and community health. The Keynote Address Luncheon on Tuesday was delivered by Jerry Tello. As an internationally-recognized expert in the areas of family violence, fatherhood, youth rites of passage, family strengthening, community outreach and mobilization and culturally-based trauma and healing, Mr. Tello inspired participants in the area of cultural competence and acknowledgement and connection as a fundamental basis for positive engagement and relationships.

Wednesday morning began with a Closing Plenary educational session presented by Roger Rosenthal, Executive Director, Migrant Legal Action Program on immigration policy updates. This session was followed by an interactive presentation and panel facilitated by Roberta Ryder, CEO, NCFH, related to the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign.

Evaluation of the 2016 Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health revealed positive results for all sessions and plenaries. 23 of the 29 educational sessions were ranked at 100% in overall satisfaction. These sessions included Increasing Access to Care for Ag workers, Shining the Light on Pesticide Exposure, Social Determinants of Health, and Resolving Employee Conflict Within Your Organization, 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 2016 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 26th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health, held in San Antonio, Texas on October 31 – November 2, 2016. With the focus on Open Doors, Open Hearts Increased Access, 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 26th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health was hosted in San Antonio, TX on October 31 – November 2, 2016. The Forum brought together 174 migrant health professionals from across the United States, Mexico, and Canada to explore topics to Open Doors, Open Hearts, and Increase Access. 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 agricultural worker-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 Open Doors, Open Hearts, Increase Access. Forum participants were offered a total of 16 individual 90-minute breakout sessions, 8 individual 45-minute breakout sessions, four plenary sessions, and three 3-hour intensive sessions totaling over 50 hours of educational opportunities. Topics ranged from “Domestic Violence, Zika, Occupational Health, Indigenous Languages, Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data, Increasing Access to Care for Ag Workers, and Immigration Policy”.

Participants

The 2016 Stream Forum drew 174 participants from 23 states, Mexico, and Canada. States with the highest representation included Texas with 71 attendees, followed by Colorado with 19 attendees. Other Midwest Stream states with high attendance include Michigan (7), Illinois and Louisiana (5), Iowa, Kansas, and New Mexico (4).

Conference attendees also represented a wide array of occupations, including lay health worker/promotora (40), administrative staff (10), migrant director (8), program coordinator/director (11), and executive director/CEO (16). The forum included seasoned migrant health professionals as well as those new to the field. Nearly a third (37%) of participants had worked in migrant health for more than 10 years, while another third (40%) 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
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 “Migratory Agricultural Workers and Indigenous Languages” had 28 participants, 20 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>14</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 (20) 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 2016 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.
Top Sessions Attended

Figure 2 shows the sessions with the highest attendance. High attendance for a session may signify high expectation of the session’s content. Three of the top sessions attended received a 100% satisfaction rating and 100% for meeting participant needs and expectations.

![Bar chart showing the top sessions attended]

The sessions with the highest attendance were Increasing Access to Care for Ag Workers: Strategies and Tools for Effective Identification and Verification of Special Population Status and Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence. Participants came away with many lessons learned from these sessions. For the session on increasing access to care for Ag Workers, participants stated they will remember the definition of an agricultural worker and the importance of properly identifying and verifying migratory and seasonal agricultural workers. Participants from the session on Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence learned the difference between neglect and abuse, barriers in the recognition of abuse, and the importance of screening and recognizing the symptoms that result from an abusive environment.
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 40.9% to 83.8%, an increase of 42.9%, with some sessions showing an even greater increase in knowledge.

The most significant increase in knowledge was for the session “Effective Use of Interpreters: Improving Communication and Outcomes in Health Care”. Of the 14 participants, only 2 indicated any knowledge/skill level before the session, 0 indicating “very good” and 1 indicating “good”. At the end of the session, 6 participants responded that they had “very good” knowledge/skill level in the subject matter, and 8 responded that they had “good” knowledge/skill level, resulting in an 86% improvement in knowledge/skill level. The session entitled “Building Capacity on Social Determinants of Health Using The Internet” had an 86% improvement in knowledge/skill level, and the session, “Expanding Your Health Education ToolBox” showed an improvement of 73% 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.

- How confident are you that you will be able to implement something learned from this session in your organization?

Overall, the majority of participants indicated a positive impact on their work from the sessions attended, with 97.1% indicating that they strongly agreed or agreed that the sessions would be helpful in improving their work performance, and 79.6% stating they were either very confident or confident that they would be able to implement something learned from the sessions.
Many individual sessions scored high for both of these questions. Of the 29 total sessions offered, 20 sessions received a 100% positive score for providing content helpful in improving work performance, and 11 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 79.07% being “Very Satisfied”.

Individual sessions were also scored for participant satisfaction. On average, sessions scored a 90.71% satisfaction success rate, with 23 of 29 sessions receiving a 100% score for satisfaction. One sessions had 100% of participants who filled out evaluations indicate that they were “Very Satisfied” with the session. This session was Resolving Employee Conflict Within Your Organization.

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, and most notably the keynote speakers, Dr. Raymond V. Padilla and Jerry Tello.

Many of the responses from attendees described the forum as “excellent” and “educational” and “enjoyed meeting people from around the country that do what they do and learning new things to perform their job better”.

Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
Open Doors, Open Hearts, Increased Access
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 information for healthcare providers, best practices within health centers, longer trainings, providing professional development for leaders, more hands-on experiences, more on H2-A workers, and more networking opportunities.

Participants also provided feedback on topics for future Stream Forum sessions. The highest ranking topics were immigration issues, women’s health, and diabetes. Other suggestions included various topics in professional skills building and health.

Conclusion

The 2016 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 Agricultural Worker 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 were the Keynote Speakers and networking with others. Participants look forward to more professional development opportunities and improving their knowledge and skill in outreach and referral.
Paul Nguyen, CEO of Communicare Health Centers, gives a San Antonio welcome, alongside Roberta Ryder, CEO, NCFH.

Dr. Raymond V. Padilla, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at San Antonio, presenting a historical perspective of the migratory agricultural worker movement.
Keynote speaker, Jerry Tello, speaks to participants on the significance of acknowledgment and connection as a fundamental basis for positive engagement and relationships.

Dr. Sergio Romero presents on Migratory Agricultural Workers and Indigenous Languages during an intensive training session.
Leatha Ross shares her research findings with a poster presentation during a break.

Participants sign up for the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign.
What is your story? Letty Alvarez, Community Health Development, Inc., shares hers during a Closing Plenary activity for the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign.