

PPDC Farmworker & Clinician Work Group

Meeting Notes

March 12, 2021

Attendance

Name	Organization	Attended
Walter Alarcon	The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-NIOSH)	X
Ruben Arroyo	California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA)	X
Kaci Buhl	Oregon State University, Department of Environmental & Molecular Toxicology	X
Allison Crittendon	American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)	X
Ricardo Davalos	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)	X
Africa Dórame-Avalos	Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.	
Jeannie Economos	Farm Workers Association of Florida	X
Iris Figueroa	Farmworker Justice	X
Melanie Forti Rogenhofer	Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)	X
Katie Karberg MD	Bayer Crop Science	X
Patsy Laird	Syngenta/ American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE)	X
Amy Liebman	Migrant Clinicians Network	
Dominica Navarro	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides	X
Mily Treviño-Sauceda (Co-Chair)	Alianza Nacional de Campesinas	X
Emma Torres	Campesinos Sin Fronteras	
Jennifer Weber	Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Maricopa County Cooperative Extension The University of Arizona	X

EPA Co-Chairs: Steve Schaible and Carolyn Schroeder

Other Attendees:

EPA Office of Pesticide Programs: Shannon Jewell, Meleia Rose, Aidan Black, Ryne Yarger, Benjamin Tweed

Agenda

- Greetings/introductions - 10 mins
 - Name, position, and org., if your job were on a bumper sticker what would it say/look like?
- How does WG want to operate - 8 mins
 - Ground rules
 - Use of TEAMS channel and virtual meetings
- Review last meeting notes and content to finalize - 5 mins
- High level goals: What does the workgroup wants to accomplish - 20 mins
- Goal setting: What do we want to accomplish by October 27-28, PPDC meeting?
 - What does success look like?
 - What is the framework we are working towards that is sustainable for continuous input?
- May 12 PPDC meeting presentation (report out) - 10 mins
- Topics of focus for future meetings - 10 mins
- Planning for farmworker guests - 5 mins
 - Translation services update
- Consulting outside expert: who do we want to engage and when/how? - 10 mins
- Action items /homework - 5 mins
 - Future meeting dates (frequency and length)
 - Review meeting notes
 - Prep for PPDC presentation
 - Prep for farmworker guest meeting
 - Other?

How does the workgroup want to operate?

Ground rules:

- Using cameras (if willing and able to)
- Use hand raising feature to avoid people speaking over one another
- Use Microsoft TEAMS channel for posting and reviewing documents
 - Quick tutorial of TEAMS channel features provided in meeting
 - EPA offered “tech support” for those who would like/need it for TEAMS
- Distribution/review of meeting notes:
 - Group agreed that notes and documents should be provided via email attachment and also link to TEAMS channel, and members who would like to make/suggest edits should do so using the shared document within TEAMS
 - Comments/questions from the Chat feature will also be shared with the group as part of the meeting minutes
 - Notes will be reviewed by co-chairs and then distributed to the rest of the workgroup within a week of the meeting with the expectation that they will be reviewed by the rest of the members before the next meeting

Review February meeting notes

- Some minor edits were made to the notes by workgroup members
- Notes were finalized

High level goals: what does the workgroup want to accomplish?

- Bring concrete suggestions to PPDC group in October
 - Goal of workgroup to bring as much data to support recommendations to PPDC group, as possible
 - For example, PERC-Med has found that only 7 hours/7 years of medical training are dedicated to environmental occupational health issues
- Focus workgroup on health care provider (HCP) training – discussion to be continued in next meeting(s)
 - The lack of pesticide/farmworker-related training in med school curriculum was discussed
 - HCP training moving online provides opportunity to reach HCPs and suggest how coursework can better cover farmworker specific concerns (could provide continual training, annual)
 - If we cannot get changes in the medical schools, then, maybe we can get some special programs for farmworker clinics specifically for pesticide exposure issues
 - Multiple members suggested that training should be designed so that HCPs are aware of pesticide incident reporting requirements, able to identify potential violations, and understand process for reporting to enforcement authorities

- The need to focus HCP training on supporting farmworker communities was brought up
 - Combined effect of heat and pesticide exposure is a serious issue
 - Farmworker intimidation in the context of pesticide exposure and other issues such as sexual assault
- Importance of cultural context/appropriateness was discussed
 - Issues of HCPs' cultural competency was mentioned
 - Language barriers need to be addressed
 - Reference made to research study with Emory University that found many HCPs lacked knowledge about the issues facing their farmworker patients and many farmworkers may not express a lot to their providers if they do not feel comfortable
 - How can training be improved to address this?
 - How much are we preparing state/federal agencies that don't know how to work with/train those in specific farmworker communities?
- Need to have continuing education related to pesticide exposure
 - Focus on guidelines on who to report to when potential incidents are found
 - Underreporting of incidents an issue – multiple factors
 - Recognition and management/treatment of pesticide illness/injury
 - Awareness/access to resources that are out there. E.g.:
 - Medical evaluations related to using respirators
 - Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings Manual 6th ed.
 - Reporting requirements per state
 - Lack of HCPs and farmworkers reporting incidents
- Importance of training the trainers was mentioned
- Other areas workgroup may like to focus on and raised during the discussion:
 - Addressing policy changes within the health clinic in order to implement change (training staff not enough)
 - Increase enforcement/compliance
 - Lacking tools for testing/confirming pesticide injury/poisoning
 - Establishing who can do the training – who is the target trainers? Department of Ag? Dept of Health? Extension Service? NGOs?
 - Availability of physicians that can do simple medical evaluations for pesticide exposure
 - Need to help rural networks increase knowledge and awareness of farmworker health issues
 - Concrete goal: increase clinics available with trained physicians that can evaluate farmworkers for pesticide related concerns

- Community health worker training
 - Often can be the middle ground between farmworkers and clinicians
 - Clinician training geared toward cooperation with community health workers
 - E.g., Promotores, health workers, organizers – consider the role of different community members who are front line help.
- Train employers on identifying farmworker health concerns
 - Incentivize their compliance
 - Or potentially increase enforcement
 - Burden cannot just be on farmworkers for reporting violations because they are often intimidated to not report or fear of retaliation.
- Farmworker rights
 - Need paid sick time for all workers to help incentivize missing work to go to the doctors
 - Without paid leave, workers will refuse to miss work to get treatment or be seen by a doctor
- Increase/enhance pesticide regulations
 - Need to let EPA/PPDC know that no matter how much training there is, we need better regulations of pesticides
 - Concerns about specific pesticides expressed, such as paraquat, aldicarb, chlorpyrifos and disinfectants

May 12/13 PPDC meeting presentation

- PPDC has scheduled one-hour session for current workgroups to report on progress and opportunity for discussion/PPDC membership input
 - Suggestion made by EPA that presentation would be best led by workgroup members
 - Presentation will mainly just be a report out on discussions so far and what the workgroup is planning on doing (i.e. goals, vision, potential guests)
 - Suggestion to include written summary of issues of concern to present to the PPDC, since we may not get to all of them in an hour-long discussion.

Planning for farmworker guests

- Some interest expressed to invite farmworkers to a workgroup meeting
 - Include testimonies of farmworker experiences
 - Also to provide recommendations/input for consideration for the workgroup
- Names provided in the chat/email threads, thus far
- Translation services update:
 - With enough notice, EPA can arrange translation services

Topics of focus for future meetings/consulting outside experts

- Not addressed in detail this meeting due to time constraint
 - Continued interest to set some topics – such as:
 - HCP training, clinician experiences
 - Farmworker training, farmworker experiences

Action items

- EPA to follow up with...
 - Distribute draft meeting notes via email/TEAMS for workgroup review
 - Send placeholder dates for monthly meeting for Fridays at 11AM
- Co-chairs:
 - Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Tease out topics of discussion based on this meeting
 - Draft development of outline for PPDC May session, for membership input
 - Presentation framework (charge, roster, summary of progress, next steps)
 - Speakers/presenters/moderator (workgroup members)
 - Discussion with PPDC members
 - Explore farmworker guest/testimonial suggestions
- Workgroup members homework (to prepare for April 16 discussion):
 - Review March 12 meeting notes (link provided to edit in TEAMS if necessary)
 - Prep for PPDC presentation (May 12/13)
 - Think about scope and goals of workgroup and how it can be clearly expressed and tied to the charge questions
 - Provide input on outline for PPDC May session
 - At April 16 meeting can discuss if another meeting is needed before PPDC presentation to specifically prepare for reporting out
 - Volunteer for developing slides, being a speaker, presenter or moderator?
 - Brainstorm topics of focus for future meetings – provide in the TEAMS thread
 - Send Co-chairs agenda items for next meeting – provide in TEAMS thread
 - Gather names of suggested experts to contribute to the workgroup