

Farmworker and Clinician Training Workgroup Recommendations

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting

October 27, 2021

PPDC Farmworker and Clinician Training Workgroup Roster

- **Stephen Schaible**, EPA/OPP (Co-chair)
- **Mily Treviño-Sauceda**, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas (Co-chair)
- **Carolyn Schroeder**, EPA/OPP/CWPB (Co-Chair)
- **Africa Dórame-Avalos**, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
- **Allison Crittenden**, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)
- **Amy Liebman**, M.P.A., M.A., Migrant Clinicians Network
- **Dominica Navarro**, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- **Emma Torres**, Campesinos Sin Fronteras
- **Iris Figueroa**, Farmworker Justice
- **Jennifer Weber**, Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), University of Arizona
- **Jeannie Economos**, Farm Workers Association of Florida
- **Kaci Buhl, M.S.**, Oregon State University, Department of Environmental & Molecular Toxicology
- **Katie Karberg, M.D., Ph.D.**, Bayer Crop Science
- **Melanie Forti Roggenhofer**, Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
- **Patsy Laird, M.S.**, Syngenta Crop Protection
- **Ricardo Davalos**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- **Ruben Arroyo**, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA)
- **Walter Alarcon**, M.D., M.S., The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-NIOSH)

Charge Questions

How should EPA go about addressing new reporting requirements specified in PRIA 4 for PRIA set-asides for farmworker protection activities?

1. How should EPA evaluate appropriateness and effectiveness of farmworker protection activities?
2. How should EPA engage stakeholders in decisions to fund such farmworker protection activities?
3. How and when should EPA reach out to stakeholders, including farmworker community-based organizations, in their development of analyses on appropriateness and effectiveness of such activities?



Farmworker Training Recommendations

- May address more than one charge question
- Vary in ease of implementation
- Vary in time required to implement
- Most would be on-going once implemented

Highest Priority Farmworker Training Recommendations

1. Involve farmworkers, farmworker organizations, and WPS trainers in EPA-funded projects that design, develop, review, and evaluate WPS training materials (including via membership on advisory committees).
2. Incorporate evidence-based approaches to design and evaluate effective training.
3. Require that farmworker training be provided in an appropriate, engaging format **and** revise the funding mechanism to support development of training materials for diverse crop systems & farmworker communities
 - Culturally and geographically relevant
 - Results in better retention of material presented

Details of #3 Farmworker Training Recommendation

- a. Training is provided in a language the workers understand. (*already a requirement but difficult in practice*)
- b. Training method considers the literacy level of the workers and uses more images and fewer words.
- c. Training acknowledges the reality of some farmworker situations.
- d. Training incorporates relevant crops, pesticides, and types of application instead of a one-size-fits-all approach.
- e. Training takes into account cultural characteristics of the workers.

Highest Priority Farmworker Training Recommendations

4. Conduct a pre-training needs assessment (and follow up on any earlier needs assessments) prior to developing requests for proposals (RFPs).
5. Include farmworkers, farmworker organizations, and WPS trainers in needs assessments.
6. Test effectiveness of different methods of communicating to employers the benefits of WPS training for them and their workers.

Other Farmworker Training Recommendations

1. Consider requiring EPA-funded programs that are focused on serving farmworker community **and** that have advisory committees to reserve 25-50% for farmworkers and provide adequate support to facilitate their full participation.
2. Commit to continuing regular, quarterly meetings with farmworker organizations to receive feedback on farmworker issues related to WPS training.
3. Target farmworker groups when seeking proposals for WPS training materials.
4. Require transparency from funded programs in the development of training materials.

Other Farmworker Training Recommendations

5. Require programs that serve farmworkers to have farmworkers evaluate their activities.
6. Encourage or require refresher training for non-licensed trainers.
7. Emphasize that: a.) training is to be conducted where workers are comfortable, and b.) questions and discussions are to be encouraged during training.
8. Increase WPS training for pesticide inspectors to better equip them for enforcement.
9. Assess the level of compliance with WPS training (*on-going but possibly out of scope for this workgroup*).



Clinician Training Recommendations

Clinician Training Recommendation #1

Implement a national pesticide incident reporting system since high-quality data are essential to inform and evaluate worker-protection activities.

- **Near-term, high-priority action:** Establish a standardized case definition for acute pesticide poisoning incidents.
- **Long-term, high-priority action:** Use new standardized case definitions to implement a national incident reporting system.
 - Invest in collaborations to expand and improve incident reporting in a uniform, defined way.
 - Encourage/initiate inter-agency collaboration between EPA & CDC.
 - Evaluate PRIA agreements with respect to observed increased reporting.

Related to charge question 1 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness)

Clinician Training Recommendation #2

Target a wide range of clinicians with outreach related to pesticides.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to the range of clinicians targeted or reached.
 - Define “clinician” broadly to include any person that may be involved along the path of a person seeking medical care for a pesticide-related health concern.
 - What are commonalities of pesticide exposures relevant from a clinician lens?
 - Can commonalities inform clinician training for all pesticide exposures?

Related to charge questions 2 and 3 (engaging stakeholders in decisions and reaching out to stakeholders)

Clinician Training Recommendation #3

Emphasize the importance of occupation (or parental occupation in pediatric cases) in the recognition & management of pesticide poisonings.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities related to clinician training regarding the occupational emphasis included, for example:
 - Emphasize case studies for inclusion in clinician training
 - Provide materials
 - Update *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings*
 - Create app with pesticide-specific training
- Pesticide training for clinicians should include discussion of occupational and environmental screening and history taking.

Related to charge question 1 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness)

Clinician Training Recommendation #4

Seek and include clinician input, including piloting and testing of training materials, when designing and evaluating interventions.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to the steps taken to involve clinicians in each stage of development and review.
 - Consider demands on clinicians' time and other challenges.
 - What sources do clinicians currently use?
 - What is an effective educational material?

Related to charge questions 1, 2, and 3 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness, engaging stakeholders in decisions, and reaching out to stakeholders)

Clinician Training Recommendation #5

Increase support, coordination, and outreach to promote awareness of pesticide illness and injury reporting among clinicians.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to the extent of outreach, coordination, and support for clinicians in understanding reporting requirements and use of reporting systems.
 - For example, ensure training and Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems include education on current International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes and expand codes.

Related to the overarching charge question (addressing new reporting requirements)

Clinician Training Recommendation #6

Target and incentivize clinicians and staff in federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to receive training and resources on pesticide-related health issues.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to whether and how they:
 - Increase and improve inclusion of clinicians and staff in pesticide trainings
 - Increase in pesticide-related knowledge
 - Improve clinical practices to recognize and manage pesticide exposures
- FQHCs are often the only healthcare providers for farmworkers and their families.
- Clinicians and staff are not well prepared to recognize and manage pesticide exposure.

Related to charge question 1 and 3 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness, reaching out to stakeholders)

Clinician Training Recommendation #7

Invest in needs-assessment activities related to clinicians' pesticide-related knowledge, competence, and/or training opportunities.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to their potential to increase clinicians' pesticide-related knowledge, competence, and/or training opportunities.

Related to charge question 1 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness)

Clinician Training Recommendation #8

Partner with professional societies/organizations to which clinicians belong* in order to help promote pesticide reporting and recognition and management of pesticide-related illness and injury.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to their potential to increase clinicians' pesticide-related knowledge, competence, and/or training opportunities.
 - Get buy-in from clinical systems and make it relevant to clinicians.
 - Emphasize and incentivize the training.

Related to charge question 3 (reaching out to stakeholders)

*For example, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT)

Clinician Training Recommendation #9

Specify in cooperative agreements that EPA include groups that have front-line relationships, expertise, and grounding with clinicians.

- **Action item:** Evaluate PRIA-funded activities as to whether their activities include groups with front-line relationships, expertise, and grounding with clinicians, especially those who work with farmworkers and others with regular occupational exposure to pesticides (e.g., non-profits, community-based organizations).

Related to the overarching charge question (addressing new reporting requirements) and, in part, question 1 (evaluating appropriateness & effectiveness)