

**PPDC Farmworker & Clinician Work Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 14, 2021**

**Workgroup Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Walter Alarcon	The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-NIOSH)	X
Ruben Arroyo	California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA)	
Kaci Buhl	Oregon State University, Department of Environmental & Molecular Toxicology	X
Allison Crittenden	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	X
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	

EPA Co-Chairs: Steve Schaible and Carolyn Schroeder

**Other Attendees:**

EPA Office of Pesticide Programs: Rachel Eberius, Aidan Black, Kelsi Grogan, Quinn Gavin, Ana Rivera-Lupianez, Thomas Lopiano, Stephanie Burkhardt

## **Meeting Agenda**

1. Admin and meeting notes check in – 10 mins
  - a. May and June meeting notes
2. Farmworker updates – 20 mins
  - a. Farmworker guest planning
  - b. PISCA study
3. Clinician Training Subgroup – 20 mins
  - a. Outside request for clinician to be added to clinician training subgroup
  - b. How does the workgroup/subgroup want to involve a clinician?
4. Clinician training discussion – 60 mins
  - a. Review clinician training problems/solutions document
  - b. What are the problems with clinician training?
  - c. What are potential solutions?
  - d. How can we turn those solutions into recommendations to EPA?
5. Action items/homework – 10 mins
  - a. Next steps for moving towards Clinician Training recommendations
  - b. Prep for next meeting (August 11) focused on Clinician Training
  - c. Review July meeting notes prior to August meeting
  - d. Doodle Poll for September and October meetings?

### **Administrative Information and Previous Meeting Notes**

- EPA checked in if there were any comments or edits not already added to the draft meeting notes from the May and June meetings; no edits/comments so the May and June comments are now considered final.
- The subgroup working on farmworker issues provided an update on their progress and plans
  - The farmworker subgroup met with a farmworker to and plan to have more conversations with the farmworker about workgroup participation as guest speakers/consultation.
  - It was mentioned that two farmworker women are available to meet with them
  - Members of the subgroup plan to meet in person at the Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training (PACT) Conference in Denver in July to determine a path forward
    - The subgroup wants to find a way to develop a farmworker group where farmworkers can be advisors in the development of farmworker training materials
    - PACT will be an opportunity for some of the farmworkers and PPDC work group members to talk in person about farmworker participation in the PPDC workgroup.
    - The group discussed details of the conference
    - The goal of the smaller group is to engage farm workers with helping them developing training materials
- The group discussed the PISCA Study
  - PISCA = Pesticidas e Insolación que es Culturalmente Apropriada
  - The study was run by the southeastern states and the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
  - Supported by a grant from PISCA. With this grant money:
    - Have been developing trainings for about 2 years
      - Heat stress training
      - Pesticide training (which is EPA approved for WPS content)
    - These trainings were developed in both English and Spanish to train farm workers
    - They have partnered with Florida State University to conduct the trainings (with farm worker associations)
      - The trainings involve a pre- and post-training test and three-month survey to evaluate knowledge retention and behavior change
    - There is a draft paper is under review for publication
    - Study findings conclude that there was an increase knowledge by workers who were trained using by the PISCA training with trainer engaging the audience vs those trained by a video without engaging the audience.
    - The purpose of the training was to give to promotoras to take the manual anywhere in the country to train
  - The group discussed the need for more training beyond just the video
  - Over 300 people were trained for this study
  - The group noted that this will be a good paper to cite for “train-the-trainer” activities to help show that more interactive training materials are needed

## **Discussion Regarding the Subgroup on HCP Training and External HCP Support**

- The subgroup did not find a time to meet before the full group meeting
- EPA passed along a recommendation to contact a clinician outside of the work group to be consulted by the clinician training subgroup
  - There was consensus among the workgroup that they had interest in having input from clinicians outside of the workgroup
- EPA asked the work group how they would like to involve health care providers and how the group wants to approach the subgroup on the clinician training side
  - A group member said that people who tend to be interested in these types of issues are academics and toxicologists, and there is a general lack of awareness among clinicians
  - A group member shared a link to the PERC-Medicine (Pesticide Education Resources Collaborative) advisory board web page <http://pesticideresources.org/med/ab.html>
  - A group member noted that The Farmworker Health and Safety Institute made a training for farmworkers clinics and that they had a doctor who gave the trainings with them until he moved on in his career; this individual may be a good person to consult
    - There is not an emphasis in the medical field on pesticides. A possible way to attract clinicians is to look at heat and pesticides together
    - It is hard to get interest from just going out and doing a training is hard to get interest
    - It might be more effective to talk to clinicians about their role and how they play a part in the issues
  - It is a difficult task for clinicians, they often do not have a lot of time with patients
- The group members voted on whether they would like to have health care providers support the group / provide input for the work groups recommendations
  - Nine (non-EPA) workgroup members voted that they would like to have clinician consultation; there were approximately 12 members present
  - EPA noted that Dr. Dora Johnson (a resident at the Family Medicine Health Residency of Idaho, which is one of the original 11 Teaching Health Centers in the nation) was recommended to join the subgroup. Within the past month the clinician was matched with a local nonprofit working at the intersection of pesticide exposure and agricultural worker safety. Christina is with the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
  - A group member suggested Diana Simmes (UC Davis) be added to the list of potential members, [dsimmes@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dsimmes@ucdavis.edu)
  - EPA noted that there appears to be consensus that the group wants outside input from clinicians
    - The scope of their participation would not be to have them join the workgroup.
    - Outside clinicians would inform the workgroup and provide input on problem statements and solutions. The workgroup could also run our proposals by them to help bring our recommendation back to the PPDC
  - A group member noted that PERC-Med has been working on this for 3 years and volunteered to bring that experience to the subgroup

## **Health Care Provider Training Discussion**

- Workgroup discussion regarding problems and solutions and how to move forward with developing recommendations for tackling this issue.
- Problems discussed included:
  - Health Care Provider (HCP) training lacks focus on farmworker-specific issues.
  - HCPs do not effectively/appropriately work within the cultural context of farmworker communities.
  - HCPs do not understand the pesticide incident reporting system and requirements.
- Suggested solutions included:
  - Instead of attempting to change medical school curriculum, focus on improving and increasing continuing education opportunities for HCPs (not just for physicians, but also PAs, RNs, etc.)
  - In order to improve HCP cultural competency, target medical school student groups that are motivated to work with farmworker communities and incentivize their work with farmworker communities through student immersion projects and loan forgiveness programs.
  - Increased support for state surveillance programs through projects such as EPA/NIOSH funded SENSOR.

## **Action Items:**

- Subgroup for Health Care Provider training to meet prior to the August meeting
  - Notes taken during above HCP training discussion to be circulated as a starting point for subgroup
  - Follow up with contacting health care providers, as determined by the group, to engage with the subgroup and provide additional input/context for consideration.
- EPA will send out a doodle poll for dates for the next two meetings