



Oregon

Housing and Community Services

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Farmworker Housing Facilitation Team

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 30, 2013

1:00-3:00 PM Room F

Labor and Industries

FACILITATOR: Theresa Wingard/OHCS

ATTENDEES:

Alan Trunnell, CASA	Karen Shawcross, Bienstar	Marilyn Schuster, OSHA	Roberto Jimenez, FHDC
Anzhela DePlois, DOR	Kathleen Fenton, OSHA	Martin Campos-Davis, OHDC	Stan E. Stradley, UHA
Betty Markey, OHCS	Luis Guerra, CAUSA	Martin Nguyen, USDA	Stephanie Page, ODA
Claudia Cantu, CASA	Marc Overbeck, OHPR	Natasha Detweiler, OHCS	Teri Watson, OSHA
Daniel Quinones, OED	Maria Elena Castro M., OHA	Ramon Ramirez, PCUN	Trudi A. Tyler, OSHA

SPEAKER:

Dr. Alice Larson

Marc Overbeck provided an introduction:

Alice C. Larson, Ph.D., Director of Larson Assistance Services of Vashon Island, WA, has been working with a variety of migrant and seasonal farmworker programs and services for over 30 years. This has involved efforts at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Specific topics have included: demographics, needs assessments, evaluation, program development, advocacy, access to services, migrant health research, and worker training on pesticide health and safety. She is a nationally known expert on gathering characteristics data on and estimating the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Dr. Larson has been involved in some capacity in every effort by the Migrant Health Program to estimate its target population since 1972. In 1998, the Office of Migrant Health engaged her (through the National Center for Farmworker Health) to estimate migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their household members at the county level in each of ten states. This began the series of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study reports, which now encompass 17 states. Updates for three of these original studies have been or are currently being conducted.



PRESENTATION:

Dr. Larson gave a presentation on her Oregon Update Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study. Her presentation outlined the information detailed in her study which can be viewed on the OHCS Farmworker Information page using the following link.

http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/Farmworker/CRD_Factsheet_Farmworker_Data_Resources.pdf

Dr. Larson's PowerPoint presentation can be accessed at the following link >
<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPR/PCO/Pages/Reports.aspx> A question and answer period followed her presentation:

1. What percentage of Oregon's population is migrant or seasonal farmworkers? Dr. Larson deferred to Marc Overbeck who offered the following numbers: Oregon's population is 3.85 million. The migrant or seasonal farmworkers make up approximately 4.5 percent of Oregon's total population.
2. Why did Dr. Larson use 19 years of age when determining statistics on children and youth? Dr. Larson explained statistics through age 19 were a requirement of the Migrant Health Program study format. However, the Census Bureau uses age 18, adding a level of complexity to her research. She noted that youth ages 19 are listed in a separate category in her study.
3. Is the migrant and seasonal farmworker aging? Dr. Larson deferred to Ramon Ramirez who reported the life expectancy of farmworkers is relatively low but noted that older workers had begun to work in areas that don't require as much physical labor which could show a trend toward longevity for farmworkers.

Ramon went on to talk about a study on indigenous workers regarding levels of pesticides in the workers' systems. The study is being done primarily with nursery workers. He was unable to provide a date of publication at that time. In addition, his group is providing education to workers on how to reduce the risk of bringing pesticides into the home via their clothing.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Needs: Stephanie Page (Chair), Laurie Hoefler and Natasha Detweiler

Sub-Committee Focus:

- Needs survey/where do farmworkers want to live?
- Labor camp housing/changing OSHA standards.
- Survey other agencies and groups for housing needs
- Research

Stephanie reported:

- The group has not met since the last FWHFT team meeting.
- Now that Dr. Larsen's study is available, this group intends to:
 - (1) Send a letter to Ag groups and ask for their thoughts on the study conclusions Stephanie noted the letter has been drafted but is not in final form yet.
 - (2) Identify a series of follow up questions to take to community partners about what is still missing (i.e., where do farmworkers prefer to live). She stated that the group will have the summer to draft the survey. They intend to target on farm housing with questions about OSHA standards and the quality of current housing; hopefully resulting in voluntary housing upgrades.

Policy and strategy: Roberto Jimenez, Carol Kowash, John McCulley, Ken Ross, Karen Shawcross

Sub-Committee Focus:

- Input & recommendations to OHCS/Priorities
- Tax credit
- Holistic approach to housing/farmworker needs
- Farmworker access to OHCS programs and other state services
- Immigration reform

Roberto reported:

- This group has not met since the last FWHFT meeting.
The group's recent work has been on the pending tax credit legislation. The farmworker tax credit bill, SB323, HB 2980 have made it to the Joint Committee on Tax Credits and is one of several tax credit bills waiting for further action.

Alignment and streamlining: Ian Tolleson (Chair) Claudia Cantu, Roberto Jimenez, Karen Shawcross, Stan E. Stradley

Sub-Committee Focus:

- Stream-lining of funding sources
- Innovative funding

Claudia reported in Ian's absence:

- This group had not met since the last FWHFT meeting.
- Claudia noted that OHCS and RD are working together to try and determine if what they currently have can work to streamline the environmental review process required by both agencies. She noted that it might be a good idea to involve Doug Carlson. She expects to see him at CASA's upcoming conference and will approach him at that time.

OHCS UPDATE:

- Claudia asked when materials for the NOFA would be available. Natasha noted the multi-funding NOFA application for OHCS grant and tax credits will be posted on June 17th, and that the supporting data for the competitive questions is in draft form and should be available on the OHCS website in the coming week.
 - The link for that data is:
http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/MFH_Multifamily_Funding_Data_Resources.aspx
 - NOFA trainings will be provided on June 21st in Portland and on June 26th in Eugene. Additional announcements on this topic will be posted to the website

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here:

http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/pages/mfh_multi_family_housing_announcements.aspx

- Dr. Larson's May 2013 study has been added to OHCS' Farmworker Housing Finance Information Center resource page at the following link:
http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/Farmworker/CRD_Factsheet_Farmworker_Data_Resources.pdf

INFORMATION SHARING:

- None

ACTION ITEMS

- Stephanie will forward a copy of the subcommittee's letter to Theresa.

NEXT MEETING:

July 25, 2013

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

OHCS/North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St NE, Room 124A

Salem, Oregon