Director’s Note

This quarter newsletter contains several stories about what states are doing to support Out-of-School Youth. In July, I had the pleasure to travel to North Carolina to attend the state’s networking day centered around best practices for OSY. I traveled with representatives from Kansas and Mississippi. In this month’s newsletter, you will hear their reactions to the day and what we learned from one another. Through participation in the Consortium, member states have opportunities to collaborate, network, and share their experiences and best practices. If your state is hosting an event and would like to share the opportunity with others, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued hard work and support of Out-of-School Youth. -Tracie Kalic

Promising Practices for OSY: A Networking Day in NC

On July 21, North Carolina Migrant Education hosted its second annual networking day for practitioners working with migratory Out of School Youth. Last year’s event had about 25 attendees, and we more than doubled that number this year, with over 55 people coming to Rocky Mount from as far away as North Carolina as Henderson and Haywood Counties.

The event provides a focused opportunity to think about and discuss OSY, an opportunity we don’t get during our regional meetings. This year’s meeting was especially exciting because we got to “cross state lines” to network with guests from Mississippi, Kansas, and Missouri. Our staff truly appreciated the information and insight gained through meeting people from other parts of the country and learning about the work of other SOSY Consortium states.

We followed the “café” model of discussion, with mixed table groups discussing various aspects of working with OSY:

- Identification and Recruitment;
- Assessment, both for needs and language;
- ESL and Other Lesson Delivery Strategies; and
- Thinking Outside the Box with OSY.

NCMEP is committed to having more of these kinds of networking/summit events. They definitely offer a “big bang for the buck” because they only last a day, but offer a chance to explore issues with intensity, passion, and focus.

Our OSY Promising Practices event has now become a “tradition.” Next year, we hope to showcase the efforts of our OSY programs in the area of health, technology, and integration into formal educational programs leading to high school diplomas. In addition, we hope to expand these one day summits to explore other areas of service delivery in Migrant Education. Potential future networking summits include: access to higher education; pre-K assessment and services; summer programs that inspire.

Sonja Williams,
North Carolina Migrant Coordinator

Partner Organizations: National Center for Farmworker Help (NCFH), Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC), the National PASS Center (NPC), and the National HEP/CAMP Association
“Knowledge comes by eyes always open and working hands; and there is no knowledge that is not power.”  R.W. Emerson

Walk with me as we make a grocery list of imported foods at the Signature Kroger super market in Carrollton Texas, a Dallas suburb. We’ll walk the produce section first.

- Cantaloupe----Honduras
- Large & small limes----Mexico
- Tomatoes----All were from Mexico except the Romas (no country of origin noted)
- Green onions----Mexico
- Dole Asparagus----Mexico
- Yellow Bell Peppers----Canada
- Green and Red Bell Peppers----Mexico
- Grapes, all varieties----Chile
- Onions----Mexico except for those wonderful Vidalia’s from Georgia

Next let’s go to the refrigerated section.

- Dole refrigerated fresh pack grapefruit sections and other citrus----Mexico.
- Tropicana Orange Juice, all sizes----Brazil & the U.S. Tropicana is a PepsiCo Company. The Dole brand is licensed to Tropicana-PepsiCo.
- Kroger Orange Juice, all sizes----made from concentrate from Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the U.S.
- Minute Maid Orange Juice, all sizes----Brazil, Costa Rica, and the U.S. Minute Maid is a Coca Cola company.

Now let’s go the grocery section.

- Kroger Apple Juice, all sizes----made from concentrate from China. The paper label on the bottle didn’t identify country of origin. It was identified with small, printed copy, similar to a date stamp on the bottle.
- Lucky Leaf was the only apple juice with a declaration of being pressed in the U.S. using apples grown in the U.S.
- Minute Maid Individual Cups----Concentrate from Argentina, Austria, Chile, China, Germany, Turkey, and the U.S.

The Minute Maid entry is evidence of the globalization of fruits and vegetables. International conglomerate buyers are shopping the globe for low cost ingredients. In a 2010 report from the Congressional Research Service—“Over the last decade there has been a growing U.S. trade deficit in fresh and processed fruit and vegetables. Although U.S. fruit and vegetable exports totaled more than $10 billion in 2009, U.S. imports were nearly $16 billion, resulting in a gap between imports and exports of almost $6 billion.” (For details go to www.crs.gov. The report is The U.S. Trade Situation for Fruit and
Other factors contributing to the decline of migrant worker jobs:

- Reducing acreages of many fruit and vegetable farms
- Shrinking supplies of fresh water for irrigation
- Mechanization for planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops
- More migrant families have discovered they can make more money by settling in a community
- The inability of the U.S. Congress to reform immigration law
- Rapid rise of all costs associated with the production of fruit and vegetables
- Aggressive marketing of China. “China is one of the world’s largest producers of agricultural products. China is a major supplier to the U.S. of seafood, canned vegetables, fruit juices, honey, and a variety of processed foods. In recent years, we have seen a dramatic surge of imports from China. During the past five years, FDA regulated food imports from China increased by more than 140 percent…Experts predict the import volume will triple by 2015.” David Acheson, Assistant Administrator for Protection, FDA. (For a complete list of Chinese food products go to www.made-in-china.com/agriculture.)

It is incumbent that all of us working to deliver services to migrant families and youth be informed about the forces at work that impact those we serve. Forty six years ago President Lyndon Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA 1965) said, “Congress has been trying to pass a school bill for all America’s children since 1870 and taken the most significant step of this century to provide help for all school children.”
Thoughts from Two States: Networking in North Carolina

Kansas: I really enjoyed spending time in North Carolina and learning about what is working for OSY students there. The best practices meeting was excellent, and gave me a chance to hear some great ideas and service models for meeting the needs of the students. Though the landscapes and types of qualifying work in North Carolina and Kansas are different, I was able to take several successful strategies away from the meeting that we will be able to modify and adjust to the needs of our students. Something that was clear throughout the meeting, was how dedicated the staff of the North Carolina OSY program is to finding and providing services to OSY students. I believe that this passion for OSY students is the foundation for any successful program in every State. This was evident throughout the day as the service providers discussed what was working in their areas. The service providers integrated their individual strengths and interests into building relationships with and educating their students. I also enjoyed hearing about the different SOSY resources North Carolina is using. I was familiar with several of the resources, while others were new to me. It was interesting to see how certain resources I am familiar with and have used for students in Kansas are being used in different areas. One of the most important conversations centered around how to implement lesson plans from these materials and what a session may look like as far as setting and timeframe. After getting a meeting time set up with students, the challenge becomes the ratio of time that a service provider spends building relationships with the students, while having enough time to present the material. This challenge increases as the students become more interested in the topic and begin asking more in depth questions.

It was interesting to see these issues and circumstances first hand and to hear different perspectives on them. The meeting provided me with several new resources, networking opportunities, and new ideas that will benefit Kansas OSY students as we work to organize and implement our revised OSY model in the Sunflower state.

Tim Thornton, Kansas OSY Coordinator

Mississippi: Our trip to North Carolina was very informative and opened our eyes to many new ways we can refine the services we provide to OSY. Some of the things we will look to implement in the coming months are:

- Modifying our goal-setting sheet to be printed on carbon paper
- Utilizing the Oral English/Basic Literacy Screening Tool to assess the English level of our students
- Piloting the 6-week ESL curriculum for our workers who are coming just for sweet potatoes
- Continuing to find volunteers who can work with our OSY to maintain consistent contact with them and help them achieve their goals.

Overall, we met some very energetic and innovative people from North Carolina and we’re excited to use these tools back home in Mississippi.

Jessie McKenzie, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Mississippi
PA Diary Milkers Protected Against Tetanus

The Migrant Education Program of Northwest Pennsylvania in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health traveled together throughout Lawrence County, Western Pennsylvania, on March 23, 2011 to provide OSY dairy milkers free TDaP and Influenza vaccines. After observing many metal related injuries at dairy farms, the Migrant Office of Erie, PA decided to offer students who had out-of-date, or no tetanus shots, a safeguard for their health. Through community partnership, the MEP and Pennsylvania Department of Health spearheaded an opportunity for Migrant OSY in Lawrence County.

TDaP is a vaccination against Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertusis and the influenza vaccine contains a dead virus of H1N1 plus the common cold. After two quick pinches and a couple Band-Aids, OSY were safe from lockjaw, swine flu, and other ailments.

Preparation for the traveling clinic began in February when the recruiter for the Northwest Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program met with OSY in Lawrence County to distribute information about the clinic and the two vaccinations. Because Northwest Pennsylvania is rural and rather remote, plus OSY have no transportation, the clinic would come to the students’ homes. Interested students were scheduled a time and a reminder was left.

On March 23, a Recruiter and a Student Support Specialist observed the Department of Health nurses at an Immunization clinic in New Wilmington PA. At this time, the DOH was offering vaccinations to Amish children from the community at Huntington Bank and the MEP had one family meet there to vaccinate their daughter so she could enter Kindergarten in the fall. This being the little girl’s first shot, Recruiter and Student Support Specialist rolled up their sleeves, got the shot, and had a lollipop. The little girl wasn’t nervous anymore and handled her shots better than the 6’4” 250 lb. recruiter. Something about seeing a big man tear up made the family very comfortable about the clinic.

Once finished at the bank, the vaccination team hit the road to visit OSY dairy milkers in New Wilmington, Volant, Slippery Rock, and West Middlesex. Vaccination sites ranged from trailers and migrant camps to the milking parlor.

In all, nine students, four parents, and two Migrant Education employees received TDaP and Influenza shots from the clinic. The success experienced has led the two agencies to partner again this summer to offer the same opportunity to OSY in Ellwood City, PA. News of the clinic has spread throughout the region, and plans for a similar clinic in Mercer County are being fostered. Health is a serious concern for OSY and fortunately migrant students in Northwest Pennsylvania have the opportunity to protect themselves from possibly life-threatening conditions.

Are you interested in learning more about the history of interstate collaboration, its impact on the migrant program, and successful examples of collaborative partnerships? A special edition of the SOSY Quarterly Newsletter will be published in September that focuses on these successes. Thank you to Angela Branz Spall, MT MEP for her work on the subject.

Objectives of the SOSY Consortium Incentive Grant

1. Each year of the project, increase the number of OSY identified and recruited
2. Each year of the project, serve a larger number of OSY (includes OSY who are recovered from drop out, enrolled in programs leading to graduation, GED, and/or pursuing identified education or career goals.
3. Between the beginning and end of the project, increase the number of OSY who meet performance standards on state-identified achievement assessments or identified education or career goals.
The purpose of this project was to pilot materials used in the Penn State Extension National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) for use with Spanish-speaking youth who work on farms but may not have much experience with tractors or machinery. The NSTMOP was developed by the Penn State Extension Agricultural Safety & Health Program (ASHP) and is used throughout the country to teach youth, young adults and new and beginning farmers of all ages how to safely operate farm tractors and machinery. The program also contains general farm safety and health information for those less experienced in farming.

The ASHP sought a cooperating organization where new to-be-developed educational materials could be tested with and evaluated by Spanish-speaking youth. Dr. Dennis Murphy, director of the Penn State’s ASHP, contacted Mr. Danilo Perez, Student Support Specialist for out-of-school youth the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) Migrant Education Program. Working together, Mr. Perez and Dr. Murphy successfully planned, implemented and completed a three-year collaborative educational program on farm machinery safety.

The Migrant Education out-of-school youth in this project studied translated farm safety task sheets, video clips, and safety operation procedures around farm tractors and machinery. The culmination of the program was hands-on testing of students to evaluate their ability to conduct a pre-operation inspection of a tractor, safely mount a tractor, start and maneuver it, and then safely stop, park and dismount the tractor.

The first year of the project was spent identifying specific task sheets to be translated and identification of video clips scenarios that might be used in support of the translated task sheets. In year two, Mr. Perez had his students evaluate the readability of a few of the task sheets and a few early video clip scenarios to see if they effectively communicated important messages to the students. In year three, Mr. Perez spent approximately 4 weeks teaching with the completed set of instructional materials (task sheets, video clips). The final activity, completed June 16, 2011, was an evaluation by Penn State instructors of Mr. Perez’s students’ safe tractor operation skills. This activity took place at Marlboro Mushroom farm, where the owners were gracious enough to let the students use their farm and equipment so that this hands-on activity could take place.

The initial evaluations completed by the students showed that they learned new skills, intend to use their new learned skills to be safer around farm tractors and machinery, and enjoyed all aspects of the education program. All OSY students were presented with a wallet-size certificate card that acknowledges their participation in this safety training program.

Lysandra Lopez-Medina, Pennsylvania MEP

The OSY Consortium builds capacity in states to identify, recruit, assess needs and deliver services to migrant, secondary-aged out-of-school youth.

For information, visit our website at: www.osymigrant.org or contact Tracie Kalic at tkalic@embarqmail.com