

WDC Farm Worker Health Task Force

2024 Annual Report

The Farm Worker Health Task Force collaborates with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to provide health promoters to work as part of the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP). KDHE provides the funds from federal grants for the Western District Conference to pay the health promoters. The health promoters identify farmworker families in need of medical, dental, or mental health assistance. They connect these families to the resources they need. KDHE funds are awarded to families below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level through translation services, vouchers for medical assistance, and educational opportunities. The health promoters work with Low German, Spanish, and English-speaking clients.

The Farm Worker program is transitioning from paper to digital records. Less staff time is focused on paper management and more on client outreach. One initiative has been the development of a provider portal with the current Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor, Phases. The provider portal gives providers the ability to upload vouchers directly into the Phases HER, reducing the need for mailing and faxing paper vouchers. This will save both providers and KSFHP staff time and paper and postage expenses. The provider portal is being tested with the program and is expected to be tested with providers in the fall of 2024. Since the spring of 2023 promoters have returned to in person contacts and outreach meetings with groups to reach more Farm Workers in need of health care and collaborate with other community and state partners to increase programmatic reach. In 2023 the program reported serving 2,716 clients.

Task Force Members: Margaret Goering, chair; Kathy Neufeld Dunn, secretary and Western District Conference Staff Representative, Lotti Boschmann, Carola Ratzlaff, Alicia Roth, KDHE Program Analyst, ex officio member, Amy Swanson, KDHE Section Director, Community Health Access, ex officio member and Kate Steeves, KDHE Special Population Health Coordinator, ex officio member.

-Margaret Goering, Chair