

# Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program

*Together for a healthier Kansas*



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## Policy Manual

The newly revised KSFHP Policy and Procedures Manual is now available at our website [www.kdheks.gov/olrh](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh). It features the updated family registration form, which documents veteran status; 2008 federal poverty guidelines; and changes in dental assistance in the voucher program. The English and Spanish descriptions of covered services have also changed. Please take a minute to look at and/or download this manual for reference. However, never hesitate to call either the KSFHP director at [ctreaste@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:ctreaste@kdhe.state.ks.us) or your regional case manager with your questions.

## Quality of Care

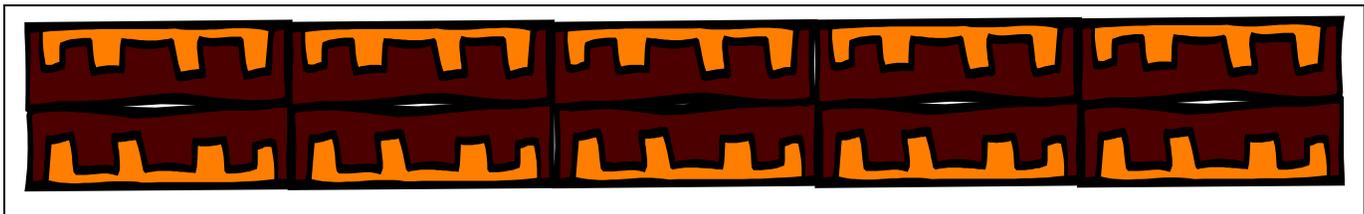
In response to new reporting measures required by our funder, Bureau of Primary Health Care, U.S. Health and Human Services, KSFHP will begin to utilize the Chronic Disease Electronic Management System (CDEMS) to track clients with hypertension and their most recent blood pressure results. KSFHP has been using CDEMS system since 2006 to track clinical outcomes for our clients with diabetes so you may already be familiar with our new Quality of Care Coordinator, Britt Short, ARNP. Britt replaces Shirley Dinkel, who worked with this project since its inception.

Britt is very familiar with KSFHP as she analyzed the KSFHP CDEMS aggregate data for her research to complete her degree from Washburn University in December of 2007. You can contact Britt at [brittnicole82@hotmail.com](mailto:brittnicole82@hotmail.com).

**ATTENTION! REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR VOUCHERS AND BILLS IN A TIMELY MANNER!**

The State Fiscal Year ends June 30, 2008. To assure the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program can process claims for services you have provided between December 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, please submit all vouchers and bills for services between these dates no later than August 15, 2008.

Please continue to send in bills and vouchers within two months of the date of service. This will allow us to most effectively manage the farmworker grant funds and ensure funds are available for all claims submitted.



# Focus Groups

In previous years, KSFHP staff surveyed clients regarding their satisfaction of KSFHP services and providers. In an effort to gather more extensive information and feedback, KSFHP staff has begun to utilize focus groups for this purpose. In total, five focus groups will be held this year. The locations of focus groups already completed include Linn, Whitewater, Sublette and Syracuse. One final focus group will be held in Eastern Kansas in the Kansas City area.

Completed focus groups were composed of from seven to twelve farmworkers. Two of the groups included Spanish-speaking farmworkers and two were composed of Low German-speaking farmworkers. Either regional case managers or health promoters facilitated the groups. The same eight open ended questions were asked of the farmworkers. Following are their responses:

The biggest health problems farmworkers face range from chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, ear infections, stomach problems, and congenital defects to more routine health issues such as prenatal care, colds, and respiratory infections. Most farmworkers believe their healthcare needs are being met.

The biggest problems farmworkers have trying to get healthcare are related to transportation and distance to travel to healthcare, getting time off work to go to appointments, language and lack of interpreters, as well as long waits in the clinic to see the provider. Sometimes it is hard to get vouchers before the visits and case managers are not immediately available.

Vouchers make the cost of care more reasonable and are generally easy to use. KSFHP serves the entire family and when vouchers can't pay for services, KSFHP staff help make arrangements with providers so farmworkers can afford to pay off their debt. On the negative side, sometimes clients are billed even when they have a voucher and the vouchers do not pay for surgeries, extensive specialty care or services in the hospital. These services often lead to years of debt for farmworkers to pay off. Clients would like to see KSFHP provide expanded coverage of services.

KSFHP clients especially appreciated the 2008 calendars and were able to discuss the health messages on the calendar of not smoking, eating healthy and getting exercise. They liked having the KSFHP staff contact information immediately available.



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