

# Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health

*Together for a healthier Kansas*

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Office of Local and Rural Health  
1000 SW Jackson, Ste 340  
Topeka, KS 66612-1365  
Tel. (785) 296-1200, Fax (785) 296-1231



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## *New Health Promoter*

Lotti Boschmann began working as a health promoter with the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program in August. She is working closely with Patricia Fernandez, Regional Case Manager, providing case management and health promotion services to KSFHP clients in Central Kansas. Lotti brings a unique set of skills to KSFHP. She was born in Germany but raised in Paraguay in a Low German speaking community. As a teenager she lived in Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, where Spanish is the primary language spoken. She has lived in Newton, Kansas since 1968 where she raised her family and currently lives with her husband.

Lotti will be very helpful in assuring limited English proficient farmworkers are able to communicate with KSFHP staff and health providers as she speaks English, Spanish, German and Low German.

## *Updated Title VI Guidance*

Title VI Guidance has recently been revised. Title VI requires recipients of federal financial assistance from U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons. Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English may be LEP and may be eligible to receive language assistance with respect to a particular service, benefit or encounter.

Factors used to determine Title VI obligation to assure meaningful access for LEP persons include (1) the number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be serviced or likely to be encountered in the program or grantee; (2) the frequency with which LEP individuals come into contact with the program; (3) the nature and the



importance of the program, activity or service provided by the recipient to its beneficiaries; and (4) the resources available to the grant/recipient and the costs of interpretation/translation services. There is no "one size fits all" solution for Title VI compliance with respect to LEP persons and what constitutes "reasonable steps" for large providers may not be reasonable where small providers are concerned.

Some LEP persons may feel more comfortable when a trusted family member or friend acts as an interpreter. However, when a provider, after application of the above four factors is required to provide an interpreter, the recipient should make the LEP person aware that he or she has the option of a recipient provided interpreter for him/her without charge, or of using his/her own interpreter. Recipients should also consider special circumstances, such as whether the situation is an emergency, and whether there are concerns over competency, confidentiality, privacy or conflict of interest. Recipients cannot require LEP persons to use family members or friends as interpreters.

Recipients can also use the four-factor analysis to determine if specific documents or portions of documents should be translated into the languages of frequently encountered LEP groups.

Recipients have considerable flexibility in developing a plan to provide required interpreter/translation services. These five steps may help in designing such a plan: (1) identifying LEP individuals who need language assistance; (2) language assistance measures; (3) training staff; (4) providing notice to LEP persons; and (5) monitoring and updating the LEP plan. For technical assistance with plans, recipients may contact U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/lep](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/lep).

## Binational Health Week

Each year Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and the United States share in a week of health promotion activities for individuals living outside of their home countries. KSFHP staff will be participating in health fairs throughout Kansas in collaboration with this event. Health fairs will occur in Dodge City on October 4<sup>th</sup> and Garden City, Wichita, Topeka and De Soto on October 11<sup>th</sup>. All members of these communities are invited to the events. Information on diabetes, healthy choices, HIV infection, hypertension, and much more as well as information about health service resources in the area will be provided. Contact your regional case manager below for more information.



Western Region  
Lucia Gutierrez  
(620) 428-1762  
(620) 275-4970

[lgutierrez@ummam.org](mailto:lgutierrez@ummam.org)



Central Region  
Patricia Fernandez  
(785) 296-8983  
(620) 617-7428

[pfernandez@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:pfernandez@kdhe.state.ks.us)



Eastern Region  
Kendra Baldrige  
(785) 296-2671  
(816) 590-7577

[kbaldrige@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kbaldrige@kdhe.state.ks.us)