
The Migrant Worker Clinic: Closing the Healthcare Access Gap for Migrant Farm Workers

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Introduction

- Estimated 81% of rural Nevadans live in a health professional shortage area. ¹ (2018 study)
- Yerington, NV experiences this shortage in the summer due to a doubling of the population during the harvest season.



The Migrant Worker

- H2A Visas requests have been consistently increasing the past decade ²
 - Seasonal farm worker influx during harvesting seasons
- USDA estimates significant portion of farm workers are not on a visa program ²
 - Exclusion from ACA insurance plans for undocumented individuals

Who are they?

- A transient population, some of whom have never seen a doctor
- Manual laborers
- Entire families
- Most are non English speaking
- Many are undocumented

The Problem

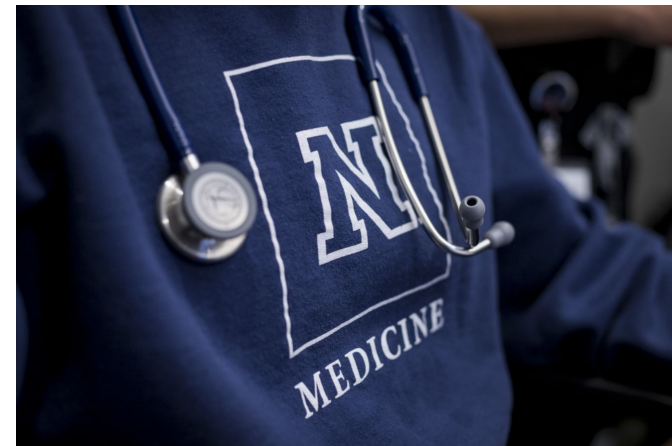
- Shortage of staff and lack of resources in the healthcare system to provide for the influx of community members
- Living arrangements, transportation, and working hours limits their healthcare access for seasonal farm workers
- An entire population of community members that has no support to address basic healthcare needs
- Cost of healthcare and economic sustainability of the town
- A Covid Snapshot - when one person gets sick an entire community gets sick

How do we solve these problems?

Addressing the lack of accessibility to healthcare services

The Clinic

- Professional school students and faculty volunteer their time as student doctors and preceptors
- Services include:
 - Adult and child vaccinations
 - Women's exams, health screenings and tests
 - General well check-ups
 - Physicals
 - Blood work
 - On site STI and HIV testing through Carson Health Dept
 - A BIG focus on diabetes screening and education/management and MSK complaints
- No ID, insurance, or payment necessary
- Translators at every clinic



Community

- Aligned community organizations connected us to funding, free supplies, clinic space and equipment

Healthy Communities Coalition
Centro de la Familia
Northern Nevada Food Bank

South Lyon Physicians Clinic
High Sierra AHEC
Immunize Nevada

Nevada Legal Services
Farmworkers Council
Drop in Dental

- Healthy Communities Coalition - the bridge to the community
- Northern Nevada Food Bank provided Food Pantry Rx to food insecure patients
- South Lyon provided the clinic free of charge as well as several vaccines
- Farm Workers Council and Nevada Legal Services were present on-site to provide support for legal and immigration services
- Referrals to Centro de la Familia provided supportive resources for families with children under the age of 18, including schooling and daycare services
- Immunize Nevada provided vaccine hesitancy education

Northern Nevada Food Bank

- Food Pantry Rx
- Provided a variety of diets to match the medical needs of the patient
 - “Heart Diet”
 - Low salt
 - “Diabetic Diet”
 - Low glycemic index and low carbohydrates
 - Family Rx
 - Additional food to provide for the family, not just the patient
- Provides the ability to care for the patient holistically
- How it works
 - Food insecurity questionnaire
 - Positive screen results in a Pantry Rx
 - Provided with a list of nearby participating locations
 - Type of Rx based off patient-student doctor encounter and history taking
 - Diabetes A1c tracking

The Dental Van and Vision/Hearing

- Drop in Dental
 - Full service dental van with two chairs
 - Provided x-rays, extractions, fillings, and consultations for adults
 - Currently not offered at every clinic due to lack of funding
- Centro de la Familia
 - Provided equipment to conduct vision and hearing tests
 - Vouchers for prescription glasses



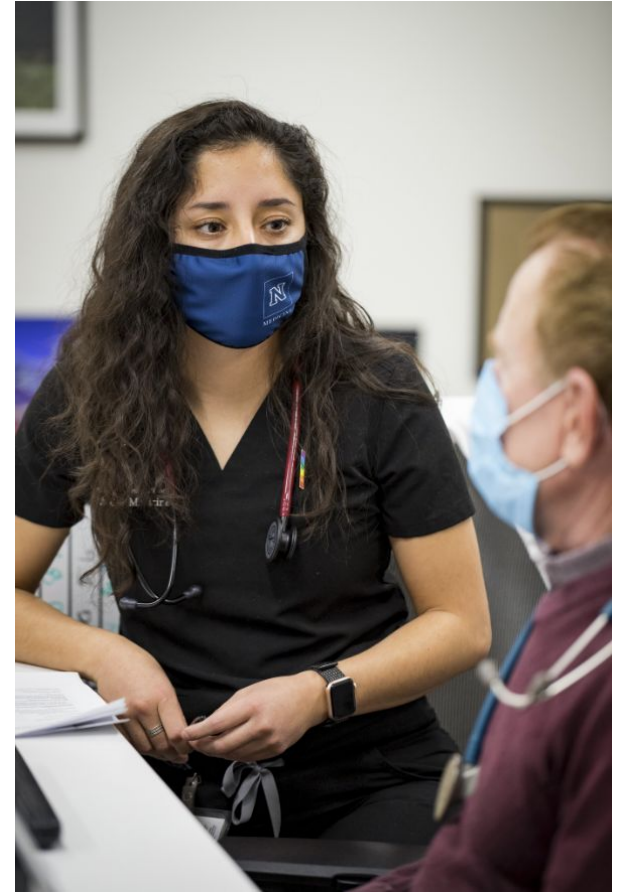
The Patient as a Whole

- We envision a scenario where these clinics provide a space for community-based groups to gather and provide services
- Our healthcare hub and one-stop shop to address and support every aspect of the patient



Healthcare Disparities

- Women's Health
- Dentistry
- Vision and Hearing
- Diabetes Management
- Vaccinations
- Lab Work
- Cancer Screenings
- Food Deserts



Addressing the Healthcare Disparities

- Take home BP cuffs and glucose monitors free of charge
- Free DME such as crutches, boots, wrist splints, etc
- Direct access to community healthcare workers to hook them into local resources
- Prescription pick-up/drop offs
- Direct access to food pantries
- Solutions to language barriers with onsite translators

All services free of charge with no proof of identity needed

Our overall goal is to address barriers in access, lack of providers, lack of resources, financial burdens, and social determinants

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So, does it work?

Impact

- Through the 2021 harvest season we were able to provide healthcare for 74 patients, including 62 vaccines, 70 labs, 23 vision and hearing screenings, and dental care to 76 patients
- Advertising has been accomplished via flyers, email, radio, social media, and in-person communication
- Regular rotations out to the farms speaking with managers and workers about services

Clinic Month	Patients Seen	Labs Ordered	Vaccines	Diabetes Education Counsel	Mammo Referrals	Vision and Hearing Screening	Dental Van Patients	Cost of Dental Services Provided
Apr	17	23	17	N/A	1	N/A	15	\$5200
Jun	16	16	11	3	0	9	17	\$7425
Jul	22	15	18	4	1	7	17	\$7150
Aug	11	13	12	3	1	7	17	\$3600
Sep	8	3	4	2	0	N/A	10	\$8550

Budget

Dental Van and Clinic Operations costs and budgets are considered separately, as the clinic can run without the Dental Van.

- In 2021, the total yearly cost of operations for the clinic: \$16,726.37
- 2021 Dental Van Operations Total: \$31,925

These clinics were paid for by generous donations from the community, funding from various community-based groups, grants, and through the Student Outreach Clinic.

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And a very generous donation from Steven and Lois Brown and Patricia Cafferata in memory of Treat Cafferata, MD.

Future Direction

- Continuation through 2022 season, they had their first clinic April and saw 15 patients
- Active advertising is continuously done weekly at the farms with efforts to improve outreach and trust within the community
- Transportation to and from the clinic is in development, providing an easier way for workers to access the clinic
- Each of these clinics will be supervised by attending physicians primarily from the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine Family Medicine Center and staffed by student doctors as volunteers
- These clinics will provide a space for a Healthcare Hub



Acknowledgements

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2. "Farm Labor." USDA ERS - Farm Labor, www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-labor/#h2a.
3. Hirko KA, Kerver JM, Ford S, et al. Telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Implications for rural health disparities. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2020;27(11):1816-1818. doi:10.1093/jamia/ocaa156



Questions?