

2019

HEALTH JUSTICE PLAN



AS A CLINICAL NETWORK, we stand with clinicians and the people they serve, to assure the health and well-being of migrant and vulnerable populations, who are often voiceless and marginalized -- but whose health matters. Improving the health of these oft-overlooked segments of our society provides substantial public health and economic benefits, but it's more than economic sense: it's our ethical duty as clinicians.



AS PIONEERS in migrant health, we anchor the passion of health care providers to a framework that anticipates their needs, responds to their desires, and helps them improve the health of humanity. We strive for all people to have quality, affordable, and accessible health care, and a safe and healthy workplace. We endeavor to assure the human rights of people as they move, whether moving across borders or within borders. We seek to call out and eliminate the negative impacts of social determinants of health that reduce stability, increase vulnerability, and lead to mobility in the first place.



IN STRIVING FOR HEALTH EQUITY, we develop practical solutions at the intersection of poverty, migration, and health. Our work results in improved health outcomes for the most vulnerable in this country and around the world. **The following outlines MCN's advocacy priorities for 2019.**



Battling Vulnerability

Outside forces -- war, violence, climate change, environmental degradation, economic instability -- push otherwise stable people into positions of vulnerability which lead to mobility. MCN is dedicated to bolstering health centers' ability to: prepare for and respond to the health needs of patients during disasters or other destabilizing events; recognize the root causes of vulnerability in the community, including mobility, and integrate those factors into care plans; and assure continuity of care if a patient's instability results in a patient leaving the service area.



Health Access and Migration

Migration should never be an impediment to care. In 2019, MCN will continue to fight health inequity with our programmatic efforts to provide case management to anyone with health needs who is unable to access the care they need because they are moving, or is at risk to be lost to follow-up.

As increases in migration to the US-Mexico border overwhelm detention facilities, MCN will continue to engage with pro-bono attorneys to assist migrants or asylum seekers in detention with urgent health needs that are not being met in detention. In addition, MCN will continue to advocate for the thousands of migrants who have experienced mental distress and other health issues while being held in detention facilities. MCN provides clinicians with resources and information on the special attention needed for the pre-, peri- and post-migration trauma that migrants may have endured before arriving in our communities.



Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

The effects of climate change hurt underserved populations the hardest. Extreme weather events, hotter days, and other changing conditions constitute a public health crisis, resulting in a myriad of issues for workers in high-risk jobs, including increased heat illness for outdoor workers, lack of access to potable water, shifts in availability of work, and changes in ranges of infectious diseases. Climate change also increases worldwide displacement, and will be a growing challenge for migration services in the coming years.



Worker Health and Safety

Through training, resource development, and distribution and advocacy on worker-specific concerns, MCN addresses the needs of workers and advocates for a safe and healthy workplace, including in relation to pesticide exposure and risks for heat-related illnesses.

photos: www.earldotter.com

Contact MCN!

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