Director’s Message

I have never been more impressed with the migrant education community than I am during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine. The MEP staff in every state rose to the challenge immediately in order to continue providing uninterrupted quality service to their migrant students while navigating new standards and precautions. The level of cooperation and collaboration has been exciting, even as we warily watch the story of COVID-19 unfold and deal with almost-daily changes in procedures and planning. GOSOSY is committed to providing as many tools and resources as possible to support you. I am very proud to work alongside such a dedicated, creative, determined group of people. We want to hear from you. Please continue to reach out to me any time at tkalic@embarqmail.com with your questions, suggestions, and stories.

~ Tracie Kalic, GOSOSY Director

We are extremely excited about the new and improved version of our GOSOSY website. The site is now web responsive, meaning it will work well on phones and tablets, as well as computer monitors.

The Student Page now greets visitors with real-life OSY success stories and our unique materials including ELL resources, COVID-19 information, and free online resources that parents can use to help their children continue to study basic subjects. All of the tools have a language widget that families can use to access the materials in their native languages. Please visit and look around at all of the wonderful tools and resources that are included. We would love to know what you think!
GOSOSY developed a COVID-19 Resources Padlet this spring to compile multiple tools and resources to help service providers during the COVID-19 quarantine. The links and files have been collected from sources including the CDC, National Center for Farmworker Health, and various state programs. Users will find the link in the middle of the GOSOSY website home page and the Padlet is being updated regularly as the situation and related resources are evolving. Included at present on the Padlet are:

- cards and videos in Spanish and multiple other languages concerning COVID-19 disease prevention
- cards and videos in Spanish and multiple other languages commonly used remote learning tools including ZOOM and SEESAW
- official information from the CDC in multiple languages
- infographics specifically created to help children and families deal with the stress as a result of the disease and quarantine
- self-care resources specifically for service providers including an self-care assessment worksheet and plan
- hotlines and resources for students and families dealing with stress, unemployment, and the need to access available assistance
- GOSOSY Webinars “Working Remotely with Students” and “Supporting Migrant Staff and Families During COVID-19 Crisis” available as downloadable recordings with audio and accompanying materials

It is our hope that this Padlet of resources remains an easy, accessible way for service providers to find quality tools and information as the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve over coming months. Please feel free to forward any valuable resources, links, graphics, etc. that you come across so that they may be considered to be included in the Padlet as it is updated.
GOSOSY Partners with IRRC on COVID-19 Bag Project

GOSOSY and IRRC partnered in a project to send bags with important COVID-19 safety materials and information to migrant workers in our member states. In early May, 2,000 bags were shipped out to member states. Each bag contained:

- facemask
- large oversized bandana
- soap and plastic soap box (hand sanitizer is cost prohibitive)
- washcloth
- high-quality, nitrate-coated washable work gloves that can be used at work and as a way to protect their hands
- packet of sunscreen
- information about how to protect themselves during the pandemic
- educational resources, including the new GOSOSY Website Student Page

The consortia invested in this project as a concrete way to provide hard-to-get supplies to migrant workers and their families. It is also a first step to starting additional services and a way to provide a benefit that farms and agribusinesses will see as a real value to their workers. Other states have been given the opportunity to purchase additional bags at a cost of $12 each. For more information, visit:

https://www.idr-consortium.net/COVID-19%20Bags.html

Did You Know? GOSOSY Has Lists of Online Resources for Summer Services with Quick Links

Visit the COVID-19 Padlet and scroll through the column labeled “Working Remotely with Students – Including Audio Lessons & Free Online Resources by Grade Level”. There are QR codes for these important lessons, plus information to assist you and your students in using the shortcut codes.
GOSOSY jumped right into the idea of remote learning and offered several free webinars to interested parties over the past few months. All of the webinars were recorded and may be accessed on the GOSOSY homepage.

Topics thus far have included:

- **Supporting Migrant Education Staff and Families During COVID-19**
  GOSOSY’s personal wellness consultant Lora Thomas led a virtual discussion about the effects of COVID-19 on the nation, our educational institutions, and the migrant community. The presentation addressed helping migrant students and their families deal with the stress of the COVID-19 crisis and the uncertainty of what the future holds. The discussion also included strategies for self-care and maintaining your own personal wellness so that you may be a strong support for others during this time.

- **Working Remotely with Students**
  Deke Showman and Josiah Long, PA MEP service providers, presented useful ways for migrant education service providers to reach and teach their students remotely. The webinar walked through the steps to design a viable lesson deliverable through ZOOM, GoTo Meeting, and similar platforms. The presenters showed what it looks like to teach remotely and legitimately engage students for quality learning. GOSOSY materials that are already designed for virtual use were highlighted so attendees left the webinar equipped with the tools and skills they needed to begin successfully working remotely with their students.

- **Introduction to new English for Daily Life Lesson – SHOPPING**
  GOSOSY consultant Michelle Bastiani led an overview of the newest *English for Daily Life* lesson all about SHOPPING. The presentation explained the ideology behind the lesson and the many digital tools designed to enhance this lesson for English Language Learners. Attendees were walked through the lesson itself and invited to attend the follow-up webinar in May that will detail the online tools available to enhance the lesson, whether in person or virtually.
• **Navigating the New GOSOSY Website**
  GOSOSY unveiled its revamped website (www.osymigrant.org) with a one-hour webinar. MEP service providers Deke Showman and Emily Williams presented their own experiences using the site and resources with students. Attendees learned how to navigate the new site, featuring an expanded main menu bar, updated Student Page, and web responsiveness – making it much easier to navigate on mobile devices like cell phones.

• **Joint CIG Presentation**
  All four Office of Migrant Education-funded consortia presented a webinar designed to share resources from GOSOSY, MiraCORE, Pre-School Initiative (PI), and the IRRC Consortium. The focus was to share those ideas and resources that are currently available to help provide high quality services for all MEP students. Realizing this is a time of modifying the approach to working with migrant families and youth, the consortia directors shared resources to help in the process of reaching out and providing needed services to students during this challenging time.

• **English for Daily Life: An In-Depth Look at Specific Strategies**
  This follow-up webinar to the April 28 introduction of the English for Daily Life Shopping lesson will help you get familiar and comfortable with important online tools, EdPuzzle and Quizlet, used to engage students in new and exciting ways. GOSOSY Consultant Michelle Bastiani will walk through creating your accounts, as well as accounts for your students, and how to use the tools with confidence.

More webinars are planned for future months and we welcome your ideas about worthwhile topics to feature. To ensure that you are in-the-know about webinar dates and other news, make sure you click the “Sign up for our newsletter” button on the website’s home page.

May 27, 2020 –
**Using the GOSOSY Goal Setting/Learning Plan Materials in a Virtual Format**
GOSOSY’s highly successful Goal Setting and Learning Plan project has been revamped and improved for virtual use during this time of quarantine. Join our Work Group leaders as they walk through how to use the program successfully even when you cannot meet face-to-face with your students. The brand-new Goal Setting Rubric will also be introduced and explained.

June 9, 2020 –
**Introducing the OSY Relationship Building Manual**
GOSOSY is proud to introduce a new important resource for all migrant education service providers: the OSY Relationship Building Manual. OSY Engagement and Relationship Building Work Group members Emily Hoffman and Joyce Bishop will walk you through 10 best practices identified as important keys to strengthening your initial engagement with OSY and maintaining a successful relationship. There is a lot of diversity within the migrant student community, but essential to every success with OSY is establishing a strong relationship with them and determining how to motivate and mentor each as necessary.
OSY Relationship Building: OSY Engagement – The Importance of Mentoring

GOSOSY has emphasized the importance of mentoring migrant students for many years. This effort was distilled by a group of experienced service providers into our new OSY Relationship Building manual. While there is a lot of diversity among migratory adolescents, both high school and out-of-school youth (OSY), as well as different program structures and program offerings, one area that all programs can benefit from is successful and authentic engagement with students. There are specific approaches that programs can take to improve student engagement, with an understanding of the relevant research.

This new tool applies research and promising practices for work with OSY. It is designed for anyone working with OSY to reflect on their practice and how to improve working relationships with OSY and high school students in your migrant programs. There are 10 best practices that have been identified as keys to strengthening engagement. In addition to providing information about these practices, and probably the more important part of this tool, is the suggested approach for how to implement these practices. These materials were designed around a reflective practice cycle and are quite adaptable for virtual professional development.

The ten chapters included are The Role We Play, Creating an Inviting Environment, Building Relationships with OSY, Cultural Competence + Unconscious Bias, Questioning Strategies, Effective Listening, Effective Communication with Out-of-School Youth, Effective Advocacy for Migrant Youth, Engaging Youth and Young Adults, and The Importance of Self-Care.

Success Stories in the Midst of COVID-19

Even in the middle of a pandemic, our member states have plenty of great things to say about the outstanding work their MEP service providers are doing on behalf of OSY. We know these students are considered essential workers and have continued to put themselves at risk of the disease in order to keep their jobs. Often, we are finding that MEP staff are a lifeline to them during this time of intense stress. Locating resources, providing supplies and connections, and simply being a sympathetic ear are all extremely important aspects of this job. Thank you for doing it so well.

“Our recruitment team was able to provide virtual services through Whatsapp to 27 OSY - lessons from GOSOSY including ESL lessons.”

“Due to the crisis, we have been able to engage several additional volunteers for virtual instruction and provide training for other local groups.”

“We’ve shared free resources within community, such as food and baby supplies.”

“We are Zooming using the GOSOSY COVID-19 Padlet.”

“The students are doing really well and even sending questions via WhatsApp to the teacher outside of the regularly scheduled teaching times, and those questions are coming from their daily interactions with the English-speaking bosses or the cashiers or other workers at local stores.”

“We continue to Skype OSY and use WhatsApp. We had an OSY give birth and were able to get 100% funding for hospital.”