



Graduation and Outcomes for Success for OSY

GOSOSY Newsletter • Summer 2017

Volume 4, Issue 2

Member States:

Kansas
(Lead State)
Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Iowa
Kentucky
Massachusetts
Mississippi
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont

Partner States:

Alaska
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Idaho
Maryland
Minnesota
Missouri
Montana
Oregon
Washington
Wisconsin

Director's Message

Summer is here and we know it brings the busiest months for many of our OSY, and therefore many of you! This edition of the GOSOSY newsletter focuses on the importance of collaboration. Enjoy reading about what different state programs are doing to leverage resources and programs in order to stretch dollars and hours. All of this collaborating is done in an effort to maximize the benefits to the OSY we serve. We would love to hear more about what is happening in your state. Please reach out to me at tkalic@embarqmail.com with success stories, innovative ideas, or reflections on migrant education in general. Thank you!

~ Tracie Kalic, GOSOSY Director

Why It Makes Sense To Collaborate!

Third Sector Today published 6 Good Reasons for Nonprofit Collaboration:

- 1 Cut costs.**
Share expenses and maximize outcomes.
- 2 Efficiency.**
Increase the pace of achievement of goals.
- 3 New ideas.**
Find new and diverse answers to problems.
- 4 Leadership skills.**
Maximize the leadership abilities from different organizations.
- 5 Advocacy.**
Work alongside like-minded organizations to broaden your message.
- 6 Expand programs and services offered.**
Find better and faster response to complex issues.



GOSOSY is all about collaboration between state MEPs. This summer, GOSOSY members are extremely active gathering information as we launch into using our new Goal Setting and Learning Plan materials for OSY. Thank you for your efforts toward using these new resources to bring into focus even better the needs of our target population. Please remember that we need your timely data reports to ensure the value of these resources and to help direct us as we continue to develop new and revised materials for OSY. You can find the reporting form on the Data page of the GOSOSY website. The due date is September 22.

Mississippi MEP Collaborates with a Night of Science

The Mississippi chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) hosted a Noche de Ciencias (Night of Science) in December. Thanks to the participation of the state's Migrant Education Program, several migrant students and OSY were able to attend the event designed to get the students interested in STEM subjects through hands-on activities.

SHPE's mission aligns beautifully with the goal of helping OSY identify and achieve attainable goals. As stated on their website, SHPE changes lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize their fullest potential and impacts the world through STEM awareness, access, support and development. The Noche de Ciencias event also included important information about attending and financing college.



GOSOSY State Spotlight: IOWA

Geri McMahon • *Director* Alex Johnson • *ID&R Coordinator* April Dameron • *OSY Coordinator*



► PROGRAM HISTORY

The Iowa Migrant Education Program (MEP) has changed a great deal in the last four years. This program is administered at the state level with subgrants given to eight school districts that have a large percentage of migrant students. We have an ID&R coordinator and five regional recruiters. This recruitment structure has allowed Iowa to identify more students, particularly OSY. The Iowa MEP recently hired April Dameron to work primarily with our OSY students. Iowa is working to establish an infrastructure to provide migrant students not attending an MEP subgrant district with wrap-around services designed to help them overcome barriers to school success.

► DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2015-2016 CSP Iowa has:

- 1,821 migrant students
- 104 out-of-school youth
- 211 below kindergarten age
- 855 K-6
- 651 7-12
- 617 English Language Learners
- 816 had a QAD date during the performance period
- OSY Student Profiles are completed for each OSY in MIS2000

► ID&R

Iowa has the state separated into five regions: central, northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast. Each region covers between 17 and 23 counties. In addition, we have eight funded project areas with individual recruiters. We provide training opportunities on a yearly basis with the purpose of keeping in compliance with OME regulations. Each month we conduct group recruitment efforts

in the various areas of the state. This helps cross-train the recruiters and expand their knowledge on both rural and urban recruitment. The group efforts have helped recruiters customize their ID&R strategies to better fit individual areas. The state has assigned a migrant liaison to each of the 333 school districts in order to facilitate the share of information between recruiters and schools.

► STAFF

We have five regional areas in Iowa. We currently have one local recruiter and four staffed regional recruiters and are hoping to fill the position for the fifth region soon. Among our staff, nine different languages are spoken, making it easier and more efficient to communicate with the families we serve. Our recruiters have participated in numerous out-of-state recruitment and re-interview processes to maintain their level of understanding and to experience how other states are handling ID&R.

► STATE SUPPORT

Gerri McMahon served as the Iowa Migrant Director in the late 90s as well as the last four-and-a-half years. After teaching on the Omaha Indian Reservation and completing her master's degree, she worked at the Nebraska Department of Education and then returned to her home state to work in Title I, Migrant Education, the Board of Educational Examiners, and with several other federal programs. She has worked diligently to hire a dynamic migrant staff who have a passion for finding and serving the needs of our migrant students and families.

Alex Johnson is our ID&R Coordinator and has worked with the migrant program for eight years. He spent six years as a state recruiter for the state of Kansas. He learned how to incorporate both urban and rural recruitment as well as to establish relationships with organizations and employers to better serve the migrant families. He has conducted recruiter trainings, re-interviews, and ID&R for various states. He has served as the ID&R Coordinator for the state of Iowa for the past two years. In this position, he has coordinated efforts with other agencies throughout the state to maximize the efforts and relationship between the two.

April Dameron is our OSY/PK-12 non-project Migrant Coordinator and has been with the program for nine months. She spent 16 years working at Des Moines Area

State Spotlight: IOWA (continued)

Community College, the largest college in the state. Much of her career has been spent working with 14- to 22-year-olds including working as an ESL advisor for out-of-school youth, helping them learn English and earn an alternative diploma.



► COLLABORATION

We are collaborating with local community colleges across the state to connect students with educational opportunities. We participate in the Iowa Migrant and Farm Workers Coalition working with the Department of Human Rights, Department of Public Health, Iowa Legal Aid, Iowa Workforce Development, United Healthcare, and Proteus (a non-profit providing job training, health-care and assistance to migrant farmworkers).

Collaborating with many programs and agencies across the state helps provide services to students and families including but not limited to: medical/dental/vision/hearing needs, clothing, shelter, and emergency help for utilities. The MEP also works with the Iowa Literacy Council, coordinating efforts to make literacy accessible to those in need. The council created a website making it easy for anyone to find local Adult Basic Education classes across the state.

► SUCCESS STORIES

The Iowa MEP has:

- provided two Goal Setting Workshops in the northeast region of the state serving eight total students.

- had one student pass all five HiSet tests and helped him enroll in college for the fall and apply for scholarships to help pay for his education.
- planned a Mentoring Program pilot in Des Moines, the capital city, the summer of 2017.
- connected an OSY with an alternative program so that she can continue her education toward a high school diploma and better provide for her family, including a young son.
- connected several OSY with dental services for major dental work to address issues threatening their overall health.
- connected a family with a program to get their two young children the hearing aids they needed.
- connected several families with programs to get eye exams and glasses at no cost.



CIG Collaboration – What’s In It For Us?

GOSOSY is currently collaborating with three other Office of Migrant Education-funded Consortium Incentive Grants: Identification & Recruitment Rapid Response (IRRC), Preschool Initiative (PI), and Migrant Reading Achievement: Comprehensive Online Reading Education (MiraCORE). It makes sense for these organizations to work together as our target audiences have many overlaps. In the first year of this collaboration, several important projects have begun:

- Barbie Patch (NH) serves as the CIG Coordinator and has attended most of the state directors’ leadership meetings, the technical support meetings, and conference calls for the four CIGs in order to avoid duplication of work, synthesize each group’s work, and as a way to transmit useful information between the groups.
- Together GOSOSY and IRRC developed a thorough assessment tool for states to use with both new and seasoned recruiters. The IRRC Competency Skills Assessment may be found on the websites of both CIGs.
- Introduction to Mapping with Global Platforms training was presented by IRRC member state recruiters to the GOSOSY Technical Support Team at its April meeting. An informative PowerPoint is available via the GOSOSY website’s ID&R page.
- A presentation was made by an IRRC state director to the GOSOSY state leadership team on using the Power BI and data analysis at the SST meeting in Washington D.C. on March 5, 2017.
- A presentation was made by the GOSOSY Coordinator to the IRRC TST on April 4, 2017.
- GOSOSY, IRRC, PI, and MiraCORE presented a joint session at the 2017 NASDME Conference. The session addressed why the CIG collaboration was launched, how each CIG contributes, and why being a member or partner state in a CIG is beneficial to the different MEPs.
- GOSOSY, IRRC, and PI are working together to plan the Dissemination Event in September 2018. The three-day event, to be held in Clearwater, FL, will involve joint sessions, individual breakouts with targeted topics, and collaborative networking.



Mapping With Google Earth

- Demonstrate basics of Google Earth:
 - Why maps?
 - How they can appear
 - Practical applications
- Hands-on Mapping Points of Interest and Importing Data
 - Break out 1: practice in groups
- Converting maps onto a GPS
- Discuss other platforms for maps
- Review of resources

GOSOSY Introduces Mental Health Lessons After Yearlong Collaboration

GOSOSY is very excited to unveil four new life skills lessons centered around mental health issues for out-of-school youth (OSY). Service providers have known for years that OSY face unique and intense challenges that can affect mental health. Developing appropriate and effective lessons on topics that help students begin to think about and talk about mental health took many months of collaboration with experts.

Our appreciation goes to the National PASS Center and the National Center for Farmworker Justice, Inc., and Lora Thomas, Executive Director of NAMI Illinois (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for their help in developing these important lessons.

Ms. Thomas shared her experience with collaborating with the process in an interview:

Q: How did you get involved with GOSOSY's Mental Health Lessons project?

I've known Brenda Pessin (IL) and other Illinois Migrant Council staff as friends and colleagues for some time, and when Brenda shared GOSOSY's work with me, I was very excited to get involved. Mental illnesses are physical illnesses like any other - they simply involve the brain. One common element for successful coping is a willingness to learn about brain disorders and then using that knowledge to fight for treatments that are needed. Mental illnesses are common disorders; it's estimated that one person in five will have a mental health challenge at some point in their lifetime. That means it's time to talk! GOSOSY's initiative is bringing that conversation to an entirely new population.

Q: What did you bring to the process that GOSOSY needed?

I hope I brought a practical voice to the process, along with a sense of urgency that mental health is a topic that need to be addressed on an on-going basis. We need to learn as much as possible, be as forthright as possible, and bust stigma wherever possible so there is no shame associated with a mental health challenge. Keys to living successfully with mental health challenges are early intervention and treatment. Treatment works and recovery is possible. For those who are diagnosed today, not only is recovery possible, but probable.

Q: How do you think collaboration benefits all organizations (in this instance and any others)?

I'm a huge fan of collaboration, and support the concept that "it takes a village to raise a child". Throughout my career working with non-profit organizations, I have found that mobilizing all community resources (organizations and individuals alike) broadens our base, builds strength and understanding, and brings unique perspectives to challenges at hand. The overall impact becomes much larger, reaching many more populations and communities than one organization working alone could ever hope to reach.

Mental health challenges don't discriminate. They affect every race, ethnicity, age, and socio-economic group in every corner of the country. The need to collaborate is a given; we all win by working together.

Q: Any additional thoughts about this project?

It's been a pleasure to work with this project. I encourage everyone to use the new resources as tools to start the conversation. It can be a challenging conversation, but one that can change lives. Learning about mental illnesses has the potential to instill knowledge, eliminate fears, and sometimes create an "Aha" moment when someone realizes he/she is not alone, either as an individual who struggles with an illness or has a family member who is ill. I look forward to supporting the project in any way possible, and welcome feedback at any time. If something about the lessons doesn't work, let's make sure they're modified to create phenomenal outcomes!



GOSOSY Success Story: Franklin

Franklin, an OSY living in Kansas, was featured in our newsletter as a success story in 2015 after he worked hard to receive his GED. At that time, he stated that his goal was to continue his education in community college. We are pleased to share Franklin's graduation from Highland County Community College in May 2017 with an associate's degree in general studies. Kansas MEP service provider Mayte Fuentes worked with Franklin from the beginning and was front and center at his graduation.

"I admit I cried a little," she said. "It was such a great day."

