

# BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS



2020

## **Award: Public Health and Primary Care**

Delhi FHT

### **Achievement: Created inter-county Primary Care Response Team to address COVID-19 cases among seasonal agricultural workers**



An interdisciplinary, mobile Primary Care Response Team (PCRT) created to assist the area's migrant farm workers took shape in Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant counties this summer, based on the June 2020 COVID-19 experiences of Delhi FHT, Public Health, EMS, Norfolk General Hospital (NGH) and farm owners.

Migrant workers constitute a large portion of the workforce in these three rural counties. Farm owners are charged with ensuring all workers are isolated on arrival for the 14-day period prior to initiation onto the farm setting. Living conditions are set up in congregate settings, mostly in the form of bunkhouses.

The purpose of the FHT's involvement was to provide high level care, medical assessments, triage, and treatment to the workers in need. The hope was to provide early intervention and reduce hospital admissions. This response involved physical screening, testing, assessment, and treatment of workers when an outbreak had been declared by Public Health. Additionally, identification, treatment and follow up of comorbidities or non-pandemic illness were treated or referred as appropriate by the PCRT.

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The lesser known, but equally important components of the response, such as the compassion, advocacy, respect, and the provider-patient relationships -- the human and emotional component of health care -- was also prioritized.

From May 30 to June 30, the PRCT completed 673 “in the field” in person visits (256 initial assessments and 417 follow-ups), an amazing accomplishment in so short a timeframe.

Delhi FHT is currently preparing a document addressing how a PRCT should work for the tri-county (Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant) response for seasonal agricultural workers. Since the summer, the PRCT has also worked closely and collaborated with Grand River Community Health Centre as they have started a Seasonal Workers Committee which has workers, community members, farm leads and farmers to discuss the challenges and barriers for seasonal workers coming from abroad.

#### Key Facts:

- An interdisciplinary, mobile primary care response team (PRCT) helped rural Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant counties address COVID-19 outbreaks among seasonal agricultural workers.
- The PRCT’s goal was to provide early intervention and reduce hospital admissions for migrant farm workers.
- The team’s work highlighted the value of the human and emotional component of health care.
- From May 30 to June 30, the PRCT completed an amazing 673 “in the field” in person visits: 256 initial assessments and 417 follow-ups.
- The FHT is preparing a document for use in creating a PRCT, based on lessons learned.

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