

TRIP REPORT

January 23-27, 1968

Collier County - Immokalee and Naples

Mildred Kaufman

PURPOSE:

To participate in State Board of Health investigation of malnutrition, parasitic infestation and other poor health conditions among migrant agricultural workers in Immokalee.

FINDINGS:

Because of recent newspaper publicity citing malnutrition and poor health conditions among migrant agriculture workers, Congressman Paul Rogers requested Dr. Sowder to have staff collect factual information. This visit was made with Dr. Emily Gates, Pediatric Consultant, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, and Mr. William Clarke, Migrant Project Coordinator. During the three day visit the group conferred with health, welfare and community action program workers and school staff, visited several camps, schools and a day care center and reviewed hospital and health department records. (See attached list of persons interviewed.) Relevant to nutrition status and availability of food, the following summary was prepared. A more complete overall report is being submitted by Dr. Emily Gates.

Observations, review of patient records and conversations would not indicate any unusual evidences of nutritional deficiency in Immokalee. From review of hospital and clinic records, there was some evidence of nutritional anemias but in about the same numbers as in most clinic populations. Another major nutrition problem observed by Dr. Peter Kroll, Acting Health Officer and Miss Geraldine McRae, Nutritionist, is obesity. Review of about 30 diet histories of prenatal patients, taken by Miss McRae, reflect insufficient intakes of food sources of important nutrients (calcium, iron, vitamins A and C). Most of these patients did eat two or more servings of meat each day, the most expensive food in the diet. This would suggest need for much more nutrition education. Children casually observed in schools and day care programs appeared to be appropriately developed for their size. Dr. Delmar Miller in quick observations of mouths of children did not note oral evidences of malnutrition. In conversations with Mr. William Newsome, Elementary Education Supervisor, he felt that health of children was generally good. Mrs. Eloise Lester described the school breakfast, lunch and special milk programs. Elementary school children participating are provided with about one-third or more of the National Research Council Recommended Dietary Allowances from the lunch and about one-fourth more from the breakfast for a total of almost 60 per cent of recommended nutrient allowances through school meals. All elementary school children participate in the lunch program and a large number in the breakfast program. Free meals are provided as needed and about 90-95 per cent of migrant children are considered to be in school. The summer Head Start program provided an educational, health and feeding program for about 100 four and five year olds. Two day care programs serve about 100 preschool children. Welfare workers indicated that emergency food supplies are made available to families in need through welfare funds, or local voluntary resources. However, storage facilities have not been made available for county participation in the federal donated commodity distribution program.

Miss Geraldine McRae, Nutrition Consultant from the Division of Nutrition, State Board of Health, was assigned to Immokalee Health Center from January to July, 1966,

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and to Collier and Lee County Health Departments from January 1967 to the present. She counsels all prenatal patients about diet, makes home visits to other patients and families upon request of the health officer and public health nurses, and has carried on nutrition programs in the schools, in adult education and for the migrant aides. She feels that she has helped to improve eating practices of some of the families but that others are not receptive.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (Nutrition related)

- 1) A carefully planned nutrition and health status study should be done on the population or representative sample to document existing problems and suggest directions for future health programming.
- 2) Interested and concerned agencies should plan as they are doing in other endeavors for an adequate and suitable program of day care for all preschool children. This should be planned to meet the needs of young children of all mothers who work. Such a program should include an adequate feeding program including serving two or more nutritious meals and snacks. An educational program for parents including nutrition education should be part of the day care program.
- 3) County health, welfare, school and community action program staff should reconsider with the County Commissioners the possibilities of implementing distribution of donated commodity foods to needy families. Adequate storage facilities and clerical help would be required by the State Department of Public Welfare.
- 4) Nutrition education efforts should be enlarged. More effective teaching aids and group teaching methods need to be developed and tested. Training of women in the migrant community who are interested and/or leaders in the group should be tried as a way to reach a wider audience and to provide realistic information. Employment by the county agriculture extension service of a home economist well prepared in nutrition and home management to cooperate with the nutritionist would be most helpful in conducting an effective far reaching educational program.

Attachment

cc Dr. Sowder
Dr. Gates
Mr. Clarke
Mr. Williams
Miss McRae
Collier County Health Department

Mildred Kaufman

TABLE 1
PERSONS AND PLACES VISITED - JANUARY 24-26, 1968

I Local Physicians

- A. Ethel H. Trygstad, M.D., Board Certified Pediatrician, Naples
Collier County Medical Society
- B. Forrest Hinton, M.D., General Practice, Immokalee
Collier County Medical Society

II Dentist

- A. Delmar R. Miller, D.D.S., Dental Director
Bureau of Dental Health, Florida State Board of Health

III Collier County Health Department

A. Immokalee

1. Peter G. Kroll, M.D., Acting Director
2. Mrs. Johnnie Smith, PHN, Director of Nurses
3. Miss Edna Keener, PHN, Assistant Director of Nurses
4. Mrs. G. Blake Palmer, PHN II
5. Mrs. Katherine Cannon, PHN
6. Mrs. Rivers Ahlefeldt, Clerk
7. Mr. A. B. Tanner, Sanitarian
8. Miss Geraldine McRae, Nutritionist

B. Naples

1. Mrs. Mona Jegerski, Head Start Nurse Coordinator

IV Lee County Health Department

- A. Joseph W. Lawrence, M.D., Director
- B. Mrs. Helen Meston, PHN
- C. Mrs. Dorothy Hudson, PHN (Spanish speaking)
- D. Mrs. Virginia Stewart, Secretary to Director
- E. Mrs. Lalai Perry, Migrant Project Clerk

V Venereal Disease Investigation, Region II

- A. Mr. Jack Hornsby, Public Health Advisor

VI Hospital Personnel

A. Naples Community Hospital

1. Mrs. Connie Zimmerman, Medical Records Librarian
2. Mrs. Helen Schmidt, Secretary to Administrator (Mr. Krohn)

VII Collier County Welfare Department

- A. Mrs. Hazel P. Griffin, Director (Social Worker)

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VIII Collier County Department of Education

- A. Mr. William Newsome, County Primary (Elementary) Supervisor
(Formerly principal, Highlands Elementary School, Immokalee)
- B. Mr. Fred Drake, Principal, Highlands Elementary School, Immokalee
- C. Mr. Eugene C. Williams, Principal of Bethune School, Immokalee
- D. Mrs. Eloise Lester, School Lunch Supervisor
- F. Mrs. Marian Fether, School Social Worker

IX Legal

- A. Judge O. W. Hancock - 4th District, Collier County, Criminal
Court of Justice of the Peace - Immokalee
Also: Salvation Army head, Immokalee
Coroner, Immokalee

X Community Action Fund

- A. Mr. Reuben Mitchell, CAF Region II, Director, Fort Myers
(Tri County - Hardee, Lee, Collier)
- B. Mr. Paul L. Morrissey, CAF Educational Aide - Fort Myers
- C. Miss Teresa Conales, CAF Worker
- D. Miss Dorothy Tankersley, CAF Worker
- E. Miss Godfrey, Secretary to Mr. Mitchell

XI Day Care Center

A. Immokalee Child Care Center

1. Mrs. Chesseborough, Director (not interviewed)

XII Camps Observed (Partial list)

A. Immokalee

1. Bethune
2. Roberts
3. Bob Jackson
4. H. L. Hunt Trailer Camp

B. Lee County (camp and clinic)

1. Johnson's Camp (Teeter Road)

XIII Subdivision visited

- A. Eden Park (Immokalee)

XIV OTHERS CONSULTED

- Florida State Board of Health
- A. E. Charlton Prather, M.D., Associate Director
Bureau of Preventable Diseases
Director, Division of Epidemiology
- B. Dwight Wharton, M.D., Director, Division of Tuberculosis Control
- C. Mr. Robert Graves, Director, Miami Regional Laboratory
- D. Mrs. Beth Yawn, Microbiologist, Miami Regional Laboratory

2/2/68