



The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN) is a [FREE membership](#) coalition targeted for individuals and agencies focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Have you missed a recent e-news? They are now [available online](#)! Follow the MCWNN on [Twitter](#).

[Call for Abstracts](#) – *The Intersection of Immigration, Child Welfare and Criminal Justice Systems* (DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT - Dec 15, 2011). EDITORS – Alan Dettlaff (Univ of Illinois), Yali Lincroft (First Focus), and Susan Phillips (Sentencing Project). Over the past several years, there have been notable increases in cases involving incarcerated parents who are referred to immigration detention after serving their criminal sentences. Increases in immigration enforcement activities have led to increases in children becoming involved in child welfare systems following the arrest or detention of their foreign-born parents. This has led to the introduction of federal legislation calling for mechanisms and policies to be developed to address these complex cases. Additional interactions with justice systems have led to increasing complexities for immigrant families and child welfare systems. This issue of the American Humane Association's *Protecting Children* will publish articles outlining policy issues, practices, and outcome data that are uniquely relevant to immigrant children and families with joint child welfare and justice system involvement.

#### Resources for Child Welfare Agencies

[National CASA Podcast on Immigration and Child Welfare Issue](#) (28 minutes) Interview with Ken Borelli, MSW, former deputy director for Santa Clara County.

*Note from the Co-Editors: There have been numerous articles recently in response to the Applied Research Center's recent report, "Shattered Families" focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Here is the link to the report, <http://arc.org/shatteredfamilies>*

#### News & Opinions

[Thousands immigrant kids ask Obama to Stop Deportations](#) (Fox Latino News, Nov 30, 2011).

[Dalton couple fights to regain custody of their five children](#) (Times Free Press.com, Nov 27, 2011). NOTE – the article includes quotes from MCWNN co-editor/First Focus consultant Yali Lincroft.

[Suffer the children](#) (by Ruben Navarrette, Daily Republic, Nov 25, 2011).

[Obama knows that families are shattered by deportation now what – reader forum](#) (Colorlines, Nov 21, 2011).

[Immigration Lawyers say enforcement of deportation memo falls short](#) (The Daily Beast, Nov 19, 2011).

[Deportation of Immigrant Parents Leaves 15000 Kids in Foster Care](#) (International Business Times, Nov 18, 2011).

[Detained parents, their children and immigration law](#) (Denver Post, Nov 18, 2011).

[Thousands of children of deported parents get stuck in foster care](#) (Denver Post, Nov 17, 2011).

[Children of deported immigrants languish in foster care as the Obama Administration fights Itself](#) (New York World, Nov 16, 2011).

[ICE policies leave overburdened foster care system in their wake](#) (San Antonio Current, Nov 16, 2011).

[Parents of Students Worry over South Carolina Immigration Law](#) (EFE/Fox News Latino, Nov 16, 2011). Though South Carolina's new immigration law does not demand that schools review the legal status of their students, the legislation has generated uncertainty among students and their parents.

[Top Ten Reasons Alabama's New Immigration Law is a Disaster for Families](#) (American Progress, Nov 15, 2011).

[The children left behind – Dad's deportation lands son in foster care](#) (Deseret News, Nov 15, 2011).

[Children pack South Texas foster care system after ICE deports parents](#) (Texas Independent, Nov 11, 2011). El Paso and parts of the Rio Grande Valley have some of the nation's highest numbers of children living in foster care because their parents were removed by immigration enforcement, according to new study by ARC.

[OPINION – Immigration Policy Orphans U.S. born children](#) (Highlander News.org)

[Thousands of U.S. Born Kids Languish in Foster Care as Immigrant parents Detained, Deported](#) (Democracy Now, Nov 10, 2011, Video of Interview with Seth Wessler, author of Applied Research Center report).

[Why It's Crucial to keep immigrant families together](#) (by Rinku Sen, MomsRising Blog, Nov 7, 2011).

[Immigration failures victimize children](#) (by Karen Finney, The Hill's Pundits Blog, Nov 7, 2011).

[An immigration policy that turns American kids into orphans proves absurdity of our laws](#) (New York Daily News, Nov 4, 2011).

[Stark introduces bill to strengthen protections for immigrant children in foster care](#) (Child Welfare League of America, Nov 3, 2011).

[Family ties: Immigration, Deportation and Child Welfare](#) (Feministing.com, Nov 3, 2011).

[Report: Over 1,000 Kids in L.A. County Foster Care Have Capable Parents Who've Been Detained/Deported](#) (LA Weekly, Nov 2011)

[Program helps U.S. students in Mexican schools – students face tough transition to Mexican schools](#) (SignOn San Diego, Nov 6, 2011).

[5,000 S-Comm Foster Kids – Intolerable and Outrageous](#) (La Opinion, Nov 5, 2011).

[Alabama Hispanic students not coming back](#) (Politico, Nov 3, 2011). Over a month after the nation's toughest immigration law took effect in Alabama, hundreds of Hispanic students are still missing from the state's public school system – and they are likely gone for good.

[Driving Undocumented Parents Underground Hurts Students](#) (Colorlines, Nov 4, 2011). Researchers examined how 4,780 adult children of Mexican and Asian immigrants in Southern California fared in school, and found that students whose parents were undocumented finished two fewer years of school than students whose parents had legal status.

[House member appalled at family separation statistics](#) (Press Release – Congressman Jose E. Serrano, Nov 2 2011). In response to a new report out today on families separated by deportation, Democrat Congressman José E. Serrano (NY) expressed his profound disgust with a system that has left more than 5000 citizen children in foster care because their parents were deported. Serrano called the policies 'un-American' and "deeply troubling.

[Why its so difficult to obtain legal status even through marriage and family](#) (89.3 KPCC Southern California Public Radio, Nov 25, 2011).

[The Allure of Secure](#) (Chicago Reporter, Nov 1, 2011). Secure Communities is a federal immigration initiative designed to find and deport dangerous criminals. But, in reality, the program ensnares many immigrants with no criminal charge or conviction. For full report, go to [http://www.chicagoreporter.com/sites/default/files/tcr\\_brief\\_novdec11.pdf](http://www.chicagoreporter.com/sites/default/files/tcr_brief_novdec11.pdf)

[Domestic Abuse Fears Grow in Immigrant Communities](#) (Women's Media Center, Oct 28, 2011)

[America has the worst child abuse record in the industrialized world.](#) (BBC News– VIDEO, Oct 17, 2011).

[Illegals seek others to take care of kids](#) (Deseret News, Oct 9, 2011).

[The Dialogue - Adapting Trauma Interventions for Refugee Families](#) (University of Minnesota, 2011). This article discusses how children may be impacted by the trauma faced by their refugee parents and describes a Minneapolis-St-Paul program that has been working with Somali and Oromo mothers.

<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/womeninthecourts/LMHT.pdf>  
[Lawyer's Manual on Human Trafficking – Pursuing Justice for Victims](#) (Supreme Court for the State of New York, 2011, 360 pages)

[Children in No Man's Land](#) (A Documentary Film by Anyansi Prado). This documentary that uncovers the current plight of the 100,000 unaccompanied minors entering the United States every year. This film gives this timely political debate about the U.S./Mexico border a human face by exploring the story of Maria de Jesus (13) and her cousin Rene (12) as they attempt to cross the U.S./Mexico border alone to reunite with their mothers in the Midwest.

[National Adoption Day](#) (Nov 19, 2011). National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 107,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This one day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care. In total, more than 35,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. A coalition of national partners - The Alliance for Children's Rights, Children's Action Network, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Freddie Mac Foundation - sponsor National Adoption Day to draw special attention to foster children waiting for permanent families and to celebrate all loving families that adopt. This year the National Adoption Day Coalition expects 4,500 foster care children to be adopted on National Adoption Day on November 19, 2011.

### New Network

[National Latin@Network for Healthy Families and Communities](#). The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities is a network of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of Latin@ communities. The National Latin@ Network is led by Casa de Esperanza, a national Latina organization whose mission is to mobilize Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities builds on Casa de Esperanza's experience working in local communities to support families, end domestic violence, and increase meaningful access to services for Latina@s and incorporates: a research center based in Atlanta, GA, a public policy initiative based in Washington, DC, and training and support. Casa de Esperanza is a Technical Assistance (TA) provider for the Office on Violence Against Women, US Dept. of Justice. Sign up to join the network and be among the first to receive a copy of the latest research statistics about domestic violence and Latin@ communities! Developed by researchers at Georgia State University, this comprehensive document is useful for grant proposals, flyers, and program materials!

### Reports

[The Changing Child Population of the United States: Analysis of Data from the 2010 Census](#) (Kids Count Working Paper, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Nov 2011). This report provides an overview of changes in the U.S. child population based on the first data released from the 2010 census. The census shows all the growth in the child population since 2000 has been among groups other than Non-Hispanic whites.

[Two Generations in Poverty: Status and Trends among Parents and Children in the United States, 2000-2010](#) (Child Trends, Nov 2011, 17 pages).

[The Crisis of Economic Insecurity for African American and Latino Seniors](#) (Demos and the Institute on Assets & Social Policy, Sept 2011). While the recession slammed most seniors, people of color were especially hard hit; with very limited assets and resources to cushion the blow, many are falling deeper and deeper into the well of financial insecurity. More than half (52 percent) of African-American and 56 percent of Latino seniors are economically insecure.

[Severe Financial Insecurity and African-American and Latino Seniors](#) (Institute on Assets & Social Policy, 2010, 17 pages).

### Africa

[The Way Forward Project](#) (Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Nov 2011). The Way Forward Project launched in the greater Washington, DC area, U.S.A. on February 9-11, 2011 and successfully brought together over 40 international experts from the legal, medical, social work, and development fields to discuss the ways in which six African nations - Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda, Ghana, Kenya, and Ethiopia - might build upon their current efforts to preserve and reunify families and when family preservation proves impossible, to connect children with families through adoption, kinship care and guardianship. The six countries were selected because over 2 million or 25 percent of their child population are considered orphaned or otherwise vulnerable. The summit included presentations by leaders of the working groups that were formed to address the four areas of concern.

[Investing in Those Who Care for Children: Social Welfare Source Strengthening Conference](#) (Conference Report, March 2011). National Association of Social Workers - US (NASW-US), Division for Human Rights & International Affairs; March 2011 (USAID/AIDSTAR-Two).

[Monthly Review No. 3-4 – Special Issue Devoted to Africa](#) (International Social Service and International Reference Center for the Rights of Children Deprived of their Family (ISS/IRC), March-April 2011).

### Court Ruling

[Ruling by Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in SF for Deported SIJS Youth](#) (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, Filed Nov 2, 2011). Youngsters who are brought to the United States illegally, and mistreated after they arrive, have gotten a boost from a federal appeals court in fighting deportation orders as adults. The ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco involves undocumented youths who are placed in long-term foster care because of abuse or neglect, based on a judge's findings that it would be harmful to return them to their home country. That classification, which allows the youngster to qualify for legal residency, was granted to about 1,500 youths nationwide last year, said attorney Kristen Jackson of the nonprofit Public Counsel, which represented the immigrant in this week's case. Her client, Jorge Raul Garcia, had been granted legal status as a teenager in 2000 but was deported to Mexico eight years later after being convicted of two minor thefts in the Los Angeles area. The ruling allows him to return and seek to regain legal residency.

### Announcements by Federal Agencies

[DOJ Letter to Alabama School Districts: Children Deserve Equal Access to Public Education](#) (Department of Justice, Nov 1, 2011). The Justice Department issued a letter to Alabama school districts reminding them of their obligation under federal law that a state may not deny a child equal access to public education based on his or her immigration status. The department also requested information regarding enrollment practices to determine whether each school district is in compliance with federal law and whether further action is warranted.

[Recommendations to Improve Transparency and Consistency in the USCIS Process for Deferred Action](#) (by January Contreras, CIS Ombudsman, Nov 3, 2011).

[Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking: A Resource Guide for Social Service Providers](#) (The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Sept 30, 2011). The resource guide provides information about the resources available for both pre-certified and certified victims, including children with letters of eligibility. It describes the many community and State-funded resources available for victims, including options for food, shelter, clothing, medical care, legal

assistance, and job training. In addition, the guide provides information on how adults and children can obtain Certification and Eligibility Letters.

### Internship Opportunity

[The Foster Youth Internship Program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute](#) (Application due JAN 6, 2012). This internships program is geared towards young adults who spent at least 24 consecutive months in foster care at any point in their life and who have completed at least 4 semesters of higher education by May 29, 2012. CCAI places these interns in Congressional offices in Washington, DC for a 9-week internship program in the summer.

### Call for Papers

[Call for Papers on Immigration and the Family Court](#). (DEADLINE June 1, 2012). The Family Court Review, an interdisciplinary journal of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, is seeking submissions for a special issue dedicated to immigration issues and the family court's obligation to serve families and children. Scholars, practitioners, judges, policymakers, and family and child experts are encouraged to contribute. Contributors must submit their entries by June 1, 2012. Articles should be 15-20 double-spaced pages, including citations, notes, references, tables, and figures. A symposium highlighting these issues will follow in November 2012. For more information about the article submission process, email Theo Liebmann at [lawtsl@hofstra.edu](mailto:lawtsl@hofstra.edu).

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this e-news does not represent the opinion or endorsement of MCWNN. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into consideration specific circumstances of the situation. Those seeking case consultation should seek the services of a competent professional. Much apologizes in advance for any typographical or grammatical errors. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, [Yali Lincroft](#), MBA, First Focus Policy Consultant, and [Lara Bruce](#), MSW, American Humane Association, Child Welfare Program Specialist.