



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](#).

Radio Show - Resources for Direct Service Providers

[Providing Therapy Across Different Cultures](#) (Talk of the Nation, NPR Radio Show, Feb 15, 2012) Mental health professionals believe that many of those most in need are among the most difficult to reach. According to census data, 40 million immigrants live in the United States. Almost all come from different cultural traditions, and many speak English as a second language. Relatively few practitioners are trained to work through the barriers of tradition, culture and language. When immigrants face depression, therapy may not be the first option they explore for relief. When they do seek counseling, they often encounter a cross-cultural struggle to understand and be understood by American practitioners.

News & Opinions

[Deported dad begs North Carolina not put kids into adoption](#) (Colorlines, Feb 2012). Deported father Montes and his children, all three of whom are U.S. citizens, are among a growing number of families separated, sometimes permanently, at the intersection of immigration enforcement and the child welfare system. The trend is a growing one that's emerging across the country, and often strikes small jurisdictions far from the border, like the 2,000-person town of Sparta, North Carolina. Montes's attorney, Donna Shumate, who was appointed to represent him when the children were removed from their mother's custody, says that she thinks the department has a kneejerk reaction against placing U.S.-citizen children in Mexico.

[Policies Tear Immigrant Families Apart](#) (Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb 5, 2012). Letter addressed to Michelle Obama to address US policies affecting thousands of immigrant families.

[What About the Kids – What Can Happen When Parents are Deported](#) (89.3 KPCC, Feb 2012).

[Record Deportations Leave Children in Foster Care](#) (News Journal, Feb 6, 2012).

[Kidnapped by the State](#) (American Daily Herald, Feb 6, 2012). Article about problems with immigration detention and child welfare.

[Custody Battles](#) (In These Times, Feb 13, 2012). The fate of children whose undocumented immigrant parents are swept into an unyielding immigration dragnet has largely escaped the attention of mainstream media, which is precisely why the recent [ABC News investigation](#) on this subject does well to bring the story into American living rooms.

[State funds urged for Prenatal Care](#) (World Herald Bureau, Feb 8, 2012). Saying Nebraska was playing "Russian roulette" with the health of unborn babies, a coalition of religious, anti-abortion and health groups called on state lawmakers Tuesday to restore government-funded prenatal coverage for poor women, including illegal immigrants. The coalition, which included Nebraska Right to Life, the March of Dimes and representatives of the Catholic and Methodist Churches, held a press conference in hopes of

breathing new life into a bill introduced last year to address the end of prenatal services for 1,600 low-income women in 2010. Half of the women were illegal immigrants. The issue arose in 2009, when the federal government told Nebraska it had to end its decades-long practice of financing prenatal care for low-income women based on the eligibility of the unborn children. It had to be based on the eligibility of the mother, the state was told.

[For battered immigrant women, fear of deportation becomes abusers weapon](#) (Washington Post, Feb 8, 2012). Many battered immigrant women in the Washington area suffered abuse in silence, fearful that if they went to the police they could lose their right to remain in the United States, their children, and their source of economic support.

[Alabama's Immigration Law May Get A Second Look](#) (NPR, Feb 7, 2012). While it's not likely that the law will be repealed, there is mounting pressure to tweak it. Among other things, the law requires schools to record the legal status of all students, and requires proof of citizenship to renew a driver's license or enter into any government contract. It's the law of unintended consequences. Now there are long lines at the courthouse to renew car license tags, while farmers complain of vegetable crops rotting in the fields since workers fled.

[Every Child Deserves a Family on Valentine's Day and Every Other Day as Well](#) (Children's Monitor, Feb 17, 2012). On Valentine's Day, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) read a resolution on the Senate Floor expressing the sense of the Senate that children should have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family and that it is the policy of the United States that family reunification, kinship care, or domestic and intercountry adoption promotes permanency and stability to a greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, continually disrupted foster care. During her floor speech, she spoke of the 100,000 in the U.S. alone who are in need and waiting for permanent families. She also called on her colleagues to join her in her efforts to do more for all children in need, both in this country and abroad. The following day, the Senate passed S.RES.378 by unanimous consent.

[Juarez children shelter finds Mexican donors as Americans stop giving](#) (Borderzine.com, Feb 2012). Shelter Home Bethel is located in the border city of Juarez, helping children abused, abandoned or neglected. The shelter was built by American churches, who use to come every two years to help. But now, the help received from Americans have almost all dried up due to the violence in Juarez. Thankfully, the aid is now coming from Mexican donors.

[Federal Immigration Agency turns to El Paso Migrants Shelter for Help](#) (Catholic News Services, Feb 2012). Necessity often results in unexpected relationships, and that's one way to describe the connection between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Annunciation House in El Paso, a shelter for undocumented immigrants. Ruben Garcia, the shelter's director, said that as the federal government's El Paso-area detention center swells with immigrants, particularly those seeking asylum, there is a desperate need to house those whom officials have decided not to detain but who still must navigate what can be a daunting bureaucracy until their plight is determined.

[DREAM or Nightmare – Why Congress Should Reject a Military Only version of the DREAM Act](#)(Guest Blog– Nation of Immigrants, Feb 2012). The problems with a military-only DREAM Act range from the practical to the philosophical.

[How Lakireddy Case Spurred California Sex Trafficking Laws](#) (New America Media, Feb 16, 2012). The media circus that resulted as the Berkeley CA sex trafficking case broke in early 2000, with daily outraged headlines about Lakireddy's "sex slaves," started a statewide conversation that led directly to the passage in 2005 of Assembly Bill 22, California's first law setting higher criminal penalties for human trafficking.

[US officials denying citizenship to children of Americans born abroad](#) (HAARETZ.com, Feb 13, 2012).

The U.S. State Department is withholding American citizenship from the children of American parents who were born abroad and never lived in the States, according to an American-Israeli immigration lawyer currently fighting dozens of such cases. Until 2007, the children of two U.S. citizen parents were granted citizenship even if they had never lived in America, so long as one parent visited the country. But since then, U.S. authorities in Israel have rejected the applications of dozens, if not hundreds, of such cases, saying that U.S. immigration law stipulates that at least one parent needs to have lived permanently in the States to be able to get citizenship. Earlier this year, the State Department even revoked the citizenship of two Israeli-born children because officials found after a review that the parents never permanently lived in America. After an appeal, a legal adviser to the Jerusalem consulate issued an opinion stating that the children should be eligible for citizenship, but the State Department has yet to grant it to them. A State Department spokesperson said the case was pending and they could not comment.

[The Southern Poverty Law Center accuses Alabama Dept of Human Resources of discrimination](#)

(WSFA.com, Feb 13, 2012). SPLC accuses DHR of denying the children's parents access to food stamps and other government assistance for the youngsters who were born in the U.S.

[Now Obama wants to cut funds to jail illegal alien criminals](#) (Feb 14, 2012, Examiner.com). On Monday, the White House presented their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013 which cuts reimbursements to states for the costs of imprisoning criminal aliens by nearly two-thirds. Obama has proposed slashing the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) from \$240 million to only \$70 million. California would be particularly hard-hit under Obama's plan.

[Miss Minnesota 2012 – A Laotian-American](#) (Lexus-Nexus Communities, Feb 12, 2012) Nitaya Peanemalaythong, the 2012 Miss Minnesota, was born in a Thai refugee camp, after her large family fled the war in Laos. Living in a home she helped purchase to house nine other relatives, Nitaya reports that she entered the contest in order to get a shot at the \$45,000 scholarship money that is granted to the winner, enabling her to resume the college education she was forced to put on hold. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that Nitaya experienced a life familiar to so many immigrant kids - acting as the family translator and working hard to support a large brood of extended relatives.

Immigration Policy

[Q&A Guide to State Immigration Laws: What You Need to Know if Your State is Considering Anti-Immigrant Legislation](#)

(Immigration Policy Council, Special Report, Updated February, 2012, 20 pages) This updated guide provides key answers to basic questions about state immigration-related laws—from the substance of the legislation and myths surrounding the debate to the legal and fiscal implications. As other states contemplate legislation, knowing the answers to these basic questions is critically important in furthering a rational discussion.

[Bad for Business: How Harsh Anti-Immigration Legislation Drains Budgets and Damages States' Economies](#)

(Immigration Policy Council Fact Check, February, 2012). This paper outlines some of the economic and fiscal lessons from states that have passed harsh immigration-control legislation.

[CLINIC Launches State and Local Immigration Policy Map](#) (Press Release, Feb 10, 2012).

In 2007, CLINIC created a project to support advocates working to address the growing number of restrictionist immigration measures proposed and enacted at the state and local levels. After the collapse of comprehensive immigration reform in 2007, approximately 500 immigration-related bills were introduced by state legislators. By 2008, the number of proposed immigration-related bills had tripled to 1,562. In 2011, legislatures in all 50 states considered at least one measure related to immigrants, the

most notably being the legislation enacted in Arizona. CLINIC'S online resource provides practitioners, advocates, and the general public with legal and policy analyses, technical assistance, and advocacy tools such as statements from U.S. Catholic bishops, Q&As, talking points, and issue briefs.

Child Welfare Policy

[Home Study Requirements for Prospective Foster parents](#) (Child Welfare Information Exchange, Oct 2010, 174 pages). General overview, including information about who can apply (7 states require that applicants be either U.S. citizens or legal residents of the US and that at least one adult in the household must be able to speak English, etc)

Videos

[Hollywood Director Chris Weitz creates video against Alabama Immigration Law](#) (UK Guardian, Feb 15, 2012). The Hollywood film director Chris Weitz has joined the campaign to repeal Alabama's harsh new laws targeting undocumented Hispanics, creating a series of four short videos that seek to expose the cruelty and racial prejudice that he suggests are inherent in the act. Weitz, whose movie credits include such commercial hits as Golden Compass, About a Boy and one of the Twilight series New Moon, devised the videos as the equivalent of political attack ads against HB56 – Alabama's anti illegal-immigration law, which passed last June and requires the police to check on the legal status of anyone they suspect of lacking papers. The legislation is the toughest of its kind in America, and has led to many Hispanic families fleeing the state for fear of being rounded up, separated from their children and deported.

Scholarship & Education

[Que Lluvea Café Scholarship for undocumented immigrant scholars](#) (DUE Feb 24, 2012). This scholarship is open to all states in the U.S. including Puerto Rico and scholarships range from \$7-\$15,000.

[Helping Newcomer Students Succeed in Secondary Schools and Beyond](#) (Carnegie Corporation of New York) This toolkit is for educators and policymakers to focus attention on newcomer adolescent English language learners at the middle and high school grades and to communicate promising practices for serving their educational and social needs.

[2012 Educator Conference](#) (Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC) Website, Jan 25, 2012). Nearly 350 educators and allies participated in an all day conference in Northern California focused on support undocumented students in their pursuit of college, career and contributions. Presentation materials and handouts are posted on the website. The website also includes a list of [student resources](#) (such as scholarships for undocumented immigrants), [educators resources](#) (such as a resource guide on how educators can help undocumented immigrants) and [parent resources](#), (available in English/Spanish).

[Tuition Equity Bills Continue to Build Momentum in State Legislatures](#) (Immigration Impact, Feb 10, 2012). Across the country, a growing and diverse number of state legislatures are advancing tuition equity policies.

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 Specialist.