



FYI from the MCWNN (APRIL 22, 2011)

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. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, [Yali Lincroft](#), MBA, Policy & Program Consultant or [Lara Bruce](#), MSW, American Humane Association Child Welfare Specialist. Join MCWNN by filling out this [simple form](#).

Resources for Child Welfare Agencies

[From Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman Recommendations - Special Immigrant Juvenile Adjudications: An Opportunity for Adoption of Best Practices](#) (April 15, 2011, 9 pages). This memo from the USCIS Ombudsman office includes recommendations to USCISC to strengthen the SIJ program and reasons for the recommendations.

[Family Team Decision-Making \(FTDM\): Does it Reduce Racial Disproportionality in Washington's Child Welfare System?](#) (March 2011, 20 pages). In 2008, the Washington State Department of Human Services convening 6,600 FTDM meetings regarding 8,000 children. Three positive results were found for FTDM: (1) Latino children experienced decreased rates of placement; (2) Asian children achieved permanency more quickly than those in non-FTDM offices; (3) Black children exiting to permanency were less likely to be the alleged victims of new accepted CPS referrals.

Rabin, Nina, [Disappearing Parents: Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System](#) (March 24, 2011, 78 pages). Connecticut Law Review, Vol. 44, No. 1, 2011. This article presents original empirical research that documents systemic failures of the federal immigration enforcement and state child welfare systems when immigrant parents in detention and deportation proceedings have children in state custody. The intertwined but uncoordinated workings of the federal and state systems result in severe family disruptions and raise concerns regarding parental rights of constitutional magnitude.

[Learning the Language by EdWeek](#) – This EdWeek website includes the latest news about English language learners including archives, commentary, blog and special reports. For example, the site includes an interactive map which includes [school district graduation/ethnicity information](#).

[Office of Child Support Launches Hispanic Outreach Toolkit](#) – U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Child Support Enforcement announced the launch of its Hispanic Outreach Toolkit, an addition to its online Hispanic Child Support Resource Center.

[Future Care Planning – A Road Map for Family Caregivers](#) (Feb 2010, 72 Pages) - By University of Arizona – Dept of Family and Community Medicine.

Policy and Research Reports

[2010 County Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) – U.S. Department of State (April 8, 2011). 2010 marks the 35th year that the State Department has produced this report. This year's report covers human rights conditions in 194 countries that are members of the United Nations.

[New Website Launched - HumanRights.gov](#) is the official United States Government (USG) website for human rights related information. The site's search function links users directly with news, reports and explanatory information from the State Department, USG agencies and other resources, allowing for easy access to publicly available documents.

[Latino Access to Preschool Stalls after Earlier Gains - Certain to harden achievement gaps, erode workforce quality](#) (2011, 2 pages) – This study by the New Journalism on Latino Children/Berkeley's Institute of Human Development found that newly available data available on preschool enrollment rates – already low for Latino youngsters – have stalled after climbing steadily since the 1980s.

[The Cost of Failure: The Burden of Immigration Enforcement in America's Cities](#) (April 2011). This paper by the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy explores the fiscal, administrative, public safety and civic costs that cities incur when they assume increased responsibilities for immigration enforcement and documents how amidst cutbacks to education, street repairs, even fire protection, the growing burden to local communities for enforcement federal immigration costs on impacting city budgets and local economies.

News and Opinions

[Immigration is Lead Topic as Leaders Are Gathered](#) (New York Times, April 19, 2011). President Obama told a gathering of business, labor, religious and political leaders at the White House on Tuesday that he remains committed to an overhaul of the nation's immigration laws and wants to try again in the coming months to push Congress to pass a bill.

[How Immigration Activities Are Fighting Deportation Policy with Social Media](#) (April 19, 2011). Article explains how a few dozen young, undocumented immigrants have avoided deportation and are now able to temporarily remain in the U.S. as a result of campaigns in which social media played a critical role.

[Immigrants are Subject of Tough Bill in Georgia](#) (New York Times, April 15, 2011). Georgia legislation passed a tough new immigration bill that puts Georgia in league with Arizona. In all, 30 state have considered anti-immigration legislation, most of which are styled after Arizona's. Many measures died

in the legislative sessions, though similar bills have passed at least one chamber of state legislatures in Alabama, Indiana, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

22 Senate Democrats, Sign [Letter](#) Asking President Obama to use his executive authority to prevent deportation of young people who would have benefited from the DREAM Act (April 13, 2011).

[Despite Latest Ruling, Immigrants Still Besieged in Arizona](#) (New American Media, April 13, 2011). In Arizona, a new court ruling is being celebrated by pro-immigration groups, but it offers little relief to immigrants themselves.

[Response by ISS-USA](#) to New York Times article about a four-year-old child deported to Guatemala (April 2011).

[BLOG - Violence Against Women is on the Rise](#) (By Voices from El Salvador, March 3, 2011)

[One Undocumented Teen's Tale](#) - Rejected by his parents, accepted by 13 colleges, a Missi on High wrestling star defies deportation (Mother Jones, April 20, 2011)

[Black Legislators on the Frontline of Battle Against AZ-style immigration bills](#) (New American Media, April 20, 2011)

[Washington State Law Helps Avoid Aggravated Felony Classification](#) – SSB 5168 Signed into Law: Redefines the Maximum Sentence for a Gross Misdemeanor to 364 days (April 19, 2010). This bill is important for immigrants since crimes which a person is sentenced for more than 364 days results in deportation for non-citizen residents as “aggravated felons.” By reducing the maximum sentence for a gross misdemeanor to 364 days, they do not trigger the automatic deportation for aggravated felons.

[Fall out felt from airlift of Haitian Orphans](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 12, 2011)

[Year After Airlift to PA, Haitian Children Thrive](#) (Boston.com, January 19, 2011)

... LOCAL NEWS (BRAVO to immigration attorney and MCWNN member Linda Brandmiller)

Catholic Charities San Antonio Wins Protection for Victim of Human Trafficking

Newsletter – LegalFront – State Bar of Texas Newsletter (March 25, 2011)

Last month, after two years of legal struggle, Catholic Charities attorney Linda Brandmiller finally won protection for her client as a victim of human trafficking. “For two years, this case has highlighted the failures in the T-visa system. Now, I use this case as a powerful example of how a victim can overcome all of the governmental hurdles if people are willing to fight hard enough,” Brandmiller said. One of those governmental hurdles was an initial denial of the client’s trafficking victim certification: Although the captors had sexually abused the client and smuggled her in a locked trunk, authorities denied her certification because she had previously wanted to come to the US. The denial due to ‘consent’ infuriated Brandmiller. “That is like telling a woman suffering domestic violence that she is not a victim because she ‘wanted’ to get married!” she said. Brandmiller hopes her client’s case will help improve protections for human trafficking victims. “There is a huge disconnect between the intent of the T-visa program and its implementation: To combat a billion dollar trafficking industry, the US granted only 1,200 T-visas in the past ten years.”

To inform others about the abuse that trafficking victims suffer, Brandmiller forwarded this translated account from her client:

I was nineteen years old when US immigration officials discovered me in the trunk of a car at a random immigration stop in Hidalgo, Texas. And I thank God that they found me because if they had not rescued me, I am sure that I would be dead by now. I had suffered for three long months at the hands of brutal men and women who used me for sex and tortured me for fun.

Three months before, at a train station in Mexico, a woman had approached me and said she could make arrangements for me to get a job in the US, so I went with her. After a few weeks, three men came to the house, and I heard the woman say, "I have one for you," and I saw them give her money for me. I tried to ask who they were and where they were taking me but they hit me and told me to just shut up and do what I was told.

They drove me to a house out in the country with nothing else around. They took all my identification documents from me, and they locked me in a room. For the next three months, I was repeatedly sold for sex, beaten, threatened, drugged and starved.

One night several of the men took me outside to a car and locked me in the trunk. I was scared and it was difficult to breath. I was in that trunk until the next day driving to Hidalgo. Immigration officials stopped the car in the US, and finally, someone found me in the trunk.

They could see I was hurt, bruised and with bite marks all over my body, but they took me to immigration detention. After I had been detained for nearly six months, Sophia, another inmate in Pearsall, called the Catholic Charities Immigration Department in San Antonio. Linda, the Director of Immigration, came to see me.

That was two years ago. Last month, Linda called me with the news that the government recognized that I was a trafficking victim. I was so relieved and we both cried. Now, I want to be a voice for other trafficking victims who do not understand this system, who do not find Linda or someone like her who will fight for them, especially when the experts turn them down and do not believe they meet the requirements to be considered a trafficking victim. There are many, many victims like me out there, and they all need help

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. Please contact larab@AmericanHumane.org if you would like to be removed from this listserv.