



THE CENTER ON
IMMIGRATION
AND CHILD WELFARE



casey family programs

**IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON
CHILDREN & FAMILIES & PROVIDING
SUPPORT**

JUNE 9, 2022 | 9:00am – 11:00am
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INTRODUCTIONS



FIRST & LAST NAME



JOB TITLE/POSITION



DEPT/ORGANIZATION

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Help social workers, child welfare workers, and other service providers recognize the impact of immigration policies and processes on children and families, including child welfare system involvement.
- ✓ Identify strategies, models, and best practices that mitigate the traumatic impact of immigration policies on children and their families.
- ✓ Utilize case scenarios and discussion to apply workshop concepts to participants' experience.



REVIEW OF PREVIOUS WORKSHOP

IMMIGRATION 101 & LEGAL TRAINING

- ✓ Demographic overview of immigrant and refugee population in WA and US.
- ✓ Review of the current immigration system and legal relief options.
- ✓ Recent trends in migration, including influx of unaccompanied minors.
- ✓ Relevant immigration policies and procedures that impact family unity and child well-being.

CHAT →

**What initial question(s)
do you have that we
can address throughout
the workshop?**



THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA EXPOSURE BEFORE & DURING MIGRATION

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- **Homicide** rates in Honduras (1st), El Salvador (2nd), Venezuela (3rd), Guatemala (14th) and Mexico (18th) rank within top 20 in the world.
- Globally, 4 of 10 homicides occur in this region, with more than a quarter of victims under the age of 20 (UNICEF, 2014).
- High rates of **femicide** that often go unprosecuted.

MIGRATION JOURNEY

- Vulnerable to **human** and **drug trafficking**
- 60% of women and girls crossing the U.S.-Mexico border experience **sexual assault** (Amnesty International, 2010).
- About 20,000 migrants are **kidnapped** each year. Estimated ransom is \$50 million each year.

AT THE BORDER

- At least **1,544 cases of murder, rape, torture, kidnapping,** and other **violent assaults** against asylum seekers and migrants due to the Migration Protection Protocols
- At least **6,356 kidnappings, sexual assaults,** and other **violent attacks** due to Title 42

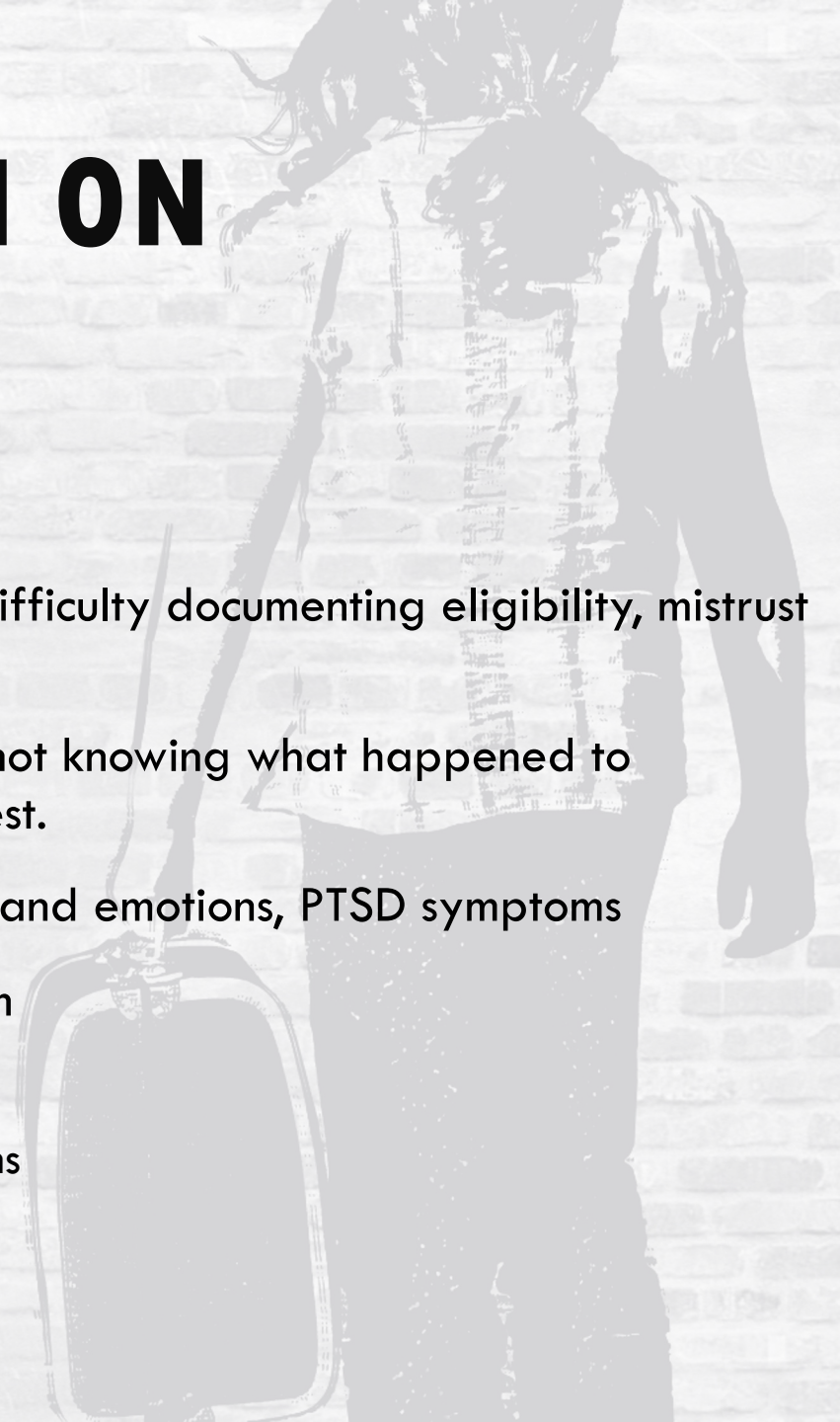
IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON PARENTS

- More likely to have experienced some form of trauma (physical or sexual assault, robbery, threats, extortion, witness to murder through process of immigration)
- Daily concerns about detection by authorities, deportation and separation from family members → “trust no one”
- Fear of retribution if voice concerns about unfair conditions
- Unmet needs for physical and mental health, lack of access to needed services
 - Avoid public benefits/supportive services for selves and children for fear of immigration consequences
- Acculturative stress, loss and adaptation



IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON CHILDREN

- Family economic hardship
- Difficulty accessing social services due to language barriers, difficulty documenting eligibility, mistrust and fear
- Significant levels of traumatic stress, due to witnessing arrest, not knowing what happened to detained parent, unstable caregiving in the aftermath of arrest.
- Psychological trauma, internalizing problems, negative moods and emotions, PTSD symptoms
- Higher risk of involvement or entering into child welfare system
- If in foster care, reunification may be compromised due to:
 - lack of coordination between immigration and child welfare systems
 - parent's inability to attend court hearings
 - policy misinterpretations and biases



SIGNS OF STRESS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Restlessness at bedtime or naptime
- Nightmares
- Fussiness or tantrums
- Themes of sadness and loss in drawings and play

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

- Withdrawn
- Distractible
- Sad
- Angry
- Poor school performance/less motivated in general
- Refusing to go to school
- Physical complaints
 - e.g., stomach aches, headaches, etc.
- Sleep problems, nightmares

ADOLESCENCE

- May feel burden of increasing responsibilities
- May not feel ready to take on parental roles
- Fear and overwhelm expressed as anger
- Change in behaviors at home and at school

CASE VIGNETTE 1

P is a three-year-old boy who is wetting the bed at home and refusing to sleep with the light off. The social worker gets a call from mom because his pre-school called and said he was calling himself *la migra* and was trying to round up all the other kids at school, shoot them with an imaginary gun and put them in “jail.”

- How did you feel hearing this?
- If you were P’s social worker/case worker, what would you suggest to mom? What would you say to P?

CASE VIGNETTE 2

○ is a 9-year-old girl. She was referred to the school social worker due to increasingly voicing anxiety and worries about her family. Parents reported that ○ started getting anxious after her father got a parking ticket and she learned that her father had to go to court. Parents and ○ worried about father being detained at court and deported. ○ has stated that she worried about having to move to Mexico because “I’m not Mexican”.

- Why do you think ○ didn’t identify as Mexican?
- How would you respond to ○? What would you suggest to the parents?



**PROVIDING
SUPPORT TO
CHILDREN IN
IMMIGRANT
FAMILIES**

MITIGATING IMPACTS OF TRAUMATIC STRESS

- Facilitating supportive adult-child relationships
- Building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control
- Providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities
- Mobilizing sources of faith, hope, and cultural traditions

Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child



BEYOND ACES

- Unique trauma challenges for immigrant children
- Under-identification of immigrant children's trauma experiences
- Trauma instruments like the ACEs inventory are less likely to identify the types of experiences that immigrant and refugee children have because they focus more on experiences within the household environment as opposed to external factors e.g., acculturation, resettlement, political environment
- Many mental health screening tools used to assess incoming migrants are not designed for young children

Source: Migration Policy Institute, 2019



EVIDENCE- BASED APPROACHES

Child-parent psychotherapy

- Narrative building
- Help the child use the parent as a stable and safe caretaker.
- Support the parent's own feelings and history

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- Identify a child's distortions i.e. *"It's my fault,"*
- Support children to have a realistic appreciation of the situation
- Identify and build coping skills

Mindfulness and Somatic-based approaches

- Creating awareness of thoughts and feeling without acting on them
- Meditation, body-centered practices such as yoga, dance

IMMIGRANT- FOCUSED CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS

Family/Parenting Issues

- ✓ Attachment, Regulation, Competency (ARC) Trauma Treatment (Client-Level Interventions [Child & Adolescent])
- ✓ Bridging Cultures
- ✓ GenerationPMTO
- ✓ Kovler Center Child Trauma Program
- ✓ Parenting Journey
- ✓ Strengthening Families Program
- ✓ Terra Firma

Adult and Child Mental Health Issues

- ✓ Refugee Well-Being Project
- ✓ Modulo de Salud Mental

Child Mental Health Issues

- ✓ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- ✓ Acknowledge reactions → yours and theirs
- ✓ Regulate your fears, anxieties, wishes, disappointments etc.
- ✓ Provide a space to talk about these things
- ✓ Create a positive story that competes with the negative, hateful messaging.
- ✓ Identify allies, supports, and positives in immigration.
- ✓ Support safety plans → coping mechanisms, contingency planning, protections for children

Be aware of:

- Reading level
- Language spoken
- Cultural style of communication
- Race, ethnicity of provider

BEST PRACTICES IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN



CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS



PREPARING FOR ICE RAIDS

Agencies should...

- ✓ Be informed about the **Detained Parents Directive**
- ✓ Establish relationships with **point of contact** at respective **ICE Field Office**.
- ✓ Use **ICE Online Detainee Locator** to locate parents or family members in ICE detention.
- ✓ Assist immigrant parents and students in **knowing their rights**.
- ✓ Help families locate **legal resources** and navigate immigration system if apprehended.
- ✓ Connect parents/relatives with legal providers to prepare **family safety/contingency plans/powers of attorney**.
- ✓ Partner with other local organizations to establish **triage and rapid response** teams.
- ✓ Assist in **locating relatives/kin** to act as caregivers to prevent entry into child welfare custody.

CREATING SAFETY PLANS

Good plans include:

- ✓ Designated, safe emergency contact
- ✓ File of important documents and contacts
- ✓ Power of attorney for care of children, prior discussion with children, and immediate plan for child pick-up
- ✓ Power of attorney for assets and businesses
- ✓ Designated “sponsor” and assets for bond
- ✓ Prior consultation with immigration attorney re possible remedies/options
- ✓ Prior preparation of travel documents and/or dual citizenship for US born children
- ✓ Caregiver's affidavit for health and educational decisions



CHAT

What do you know about what immigrants should do if they are approached or apprehended by ICE?

ADVICE FOR PARENTS IF APPREHENDED:

- Exercise right to **remain silent**. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to make a phone call.
- To prevent immediate removal, **do not sign removal or voluntary departure** (which waives right to fight case in Immigration Court), and if you have a prior removal order express fear of return to country of origin.
- Contact your designated **emergency contact** to set your safety plan into motion.
- Contact your **consulate** to ask for assistance.



ICE PROTECTED AREAS POLICY

Directs ICE to avoid arrests at certain “**protected areas**”

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Medical and mental health facilities
- ✓ Places of worship/religious study
- ✓ Places where children gather
- ✓ Social services establishments
- ✓ Disaster and emergency response sites
- ✓ Places where religious or civil ceremonies are taking place
- ✓ Sites of public demonstration and celebration



ADVOCACY

- Encourage civic participation → vote!
- Public comment
- Writing/calling local officials
- Social media
- Letters to the editor
- Op-Eds
- Hold press accountable
- Frame issue as one of children's rights, humanitarian versus border control issue
- Volunteer/partner with local groups





CASE SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 1

Casey is supporting a single mother of 4 boys originally from Guatemala. The family is recently reunified after being separated for a few years. The oldest youth moved to Seattle with his father, the middle 2 sons were held at the United States-Mexico border, and the youngest son remained with the mother. This mother worked alongside a Guatemalan Consulate, Mexican Consulate, and an immigration worker to reunify with all of her children in Seattle.

The oldest son was in Department care until he could be reunified with his mother. There were no safety concerns over the course of a Trial Return Home. There are however concerns about the family income in a high-cost city, establishing legal custody of the 2 middle sons, and accessing financial resources to support the family long term.

DISCUSS:

What immigration-related factors might cause additional stress for this family?

What would be critical for building rapport, advocating, and supporting this family?

SCENARIO 2

The Department is working with a 12-year-old youth. The youth has lived in the U.S. for three years and been in foster care for nearly one year. The youth is from Honduras, and her mother lives in Honduras. Father brought youth to the U.S. without mother's permission. Youth was removed from father's care due to allegations of sexual abuse.

The Department case plan was reunification with mother in Honduras. The Honduras Consulate was contacted to assist with the home study process. The Honduras Consulate shared that the Home Study is a long process because they have few staff to do them. The youth is placed in a foster home where foster mom can and does communicate with youth and the mother in their primary language. The mother, youth, and foster mother have frequent visits via WhatsApp.

DISCUSS:

What was critical to building rapport, advocating, helping and healing for this youth?

STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

We plan to offer one more short session like this one:

→ **June 16, 2022 (9:00am-11am PT):**
Child Welfare System Challenges & Best Practice



RESOURCES & WRAP UP



**THE CENTER ON
IMMIGRATION
AND CHILD WELFARE**

Go to: www.cimmcw.org

PRACTICE

Resources for
Social Workers

Resources for
Legal
Professionals

Resources for
Youth & Families

LAW & POLICY

Federal Policy

State Policy

RESEARCH

Child Welfare
System

Immigrant Families

Unaccompanied
Minors

TRAINING & TOOLS

CICW Workshops

Toolkits,
Handbooks,
Guides & Books

Presentations

Trainings

CICW PUBLICATIONS

Conferences

Fact Sheets

Policy Briefs &
Analyses

Presentations

Journal
Publications

Reports

Research Briefs

Strengthening
Border Families
Research Project

Toolkits,
Handbooks,
Guides & Books

STATE-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

AL - GA

HI - MD

MA - NJ

NM - SC

SD - WY

FOREIGN CONSULATE CONTACTS

China

Cuba

El Salvador

Guatemala

Honduras

India

Mexico

Philippines

Venezuela

The CICW website provides the most relevant news, practice, policy, and research resources related to the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE MODEL FOR IMMIGRANT HISPANIC AND LATINO CLIENTS

The cover features a photograph of a smiling Latino family: a woman, a man, and two children. The background is a gradient of yellow and orange. Text on the cover includes:

TOOLKIT
LATINO GRANDFAMILIES:
HELPING LATINO CHILDREN THRIVE THROUGH
CONNECTION TO CULTURE AND FAMILY

generations
united
Because we're stronger together.



Psychological First Aid for Unaccompanied Children



SAMPLE RESOURCES

FOR MORE GO TO:

[HTTPS://CIMMCW.ORG/CATEGORY/TOPICS/
TRAUMA](https://cimmcw.org/category/topics/trauma)

CICW IMMIGRATION & CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE NETWORK

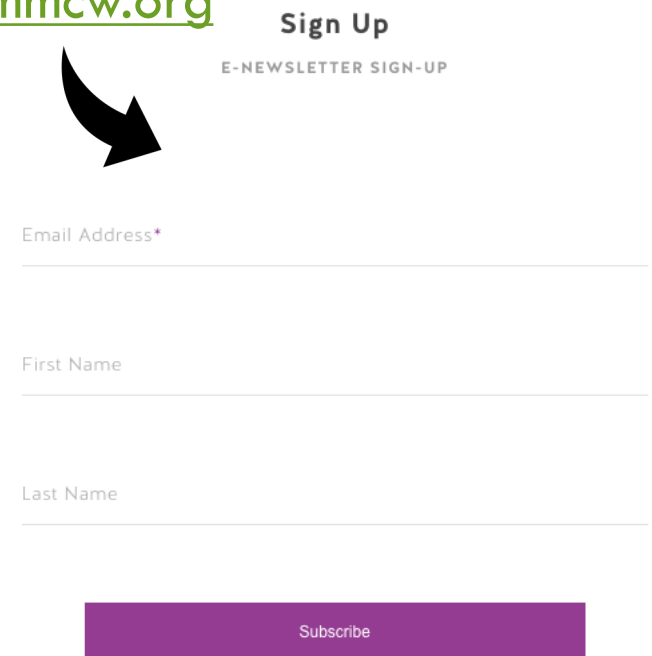
Platform for ongoing communications among child welfare agency representatives who work with families around immigration issues across the country.

If you work directly with immigrants or on immigration issues/policies in child welfare, please join our network.

Email: ssepp@nmsu.edu to be added to the listserv!

CICW MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

- Sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter for news and resources on immigration and child welfare issues
- Go to www.cimmcw.org



The screenshot shows a sign-up form for the e-newsletter. At the top right, there is a button labeled "Sign Up" with the text "E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP" below it. A large black arrow points from this button down to the "Email Address*" input field. Below the email field are two more input fields labeled "First Name" and "Last Name". At the bottom of the form is a purple button labeled "Subscribe".



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

Please go to the link posted in the chat to complete the post-workshop survey.