A Collaborative Effort That Advances the Issues Identified at the Intersection of Migration and Child Welfare, and the Road Ahead

San Antonio, TX, January 2009

Immigration, Child Welfare and Borders

A Conference Hosted by the Migration and Child Welfare National Network

Catholic Charities of San Antonio

Casey Family Programs

The Office of Refugee Resettlement, Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services

SIMMON

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at San Antonio

THANKS TO OUR LOCAL HOSTS!
EL PASO, BROWNSVILLE, HARINGTON COUNTIES

What Brought Us Here?

Are Children of Immigrants Perhaps the Most Vulnerable of All American Children?

Children of Immigrants

In 2007, there were about <u>16 million children age 17 and under with at least one immigrant parent</u>. They accounted for 22.9 percent of the 69.9 million children age 17 and under in the United States.

The <u>13.5 million second-generation children</u> — those who were born in the United States to at least one foreign-born parent — accounted for 84.6 percent of all children with immigrant parents.

The remaining 15.4 percent (<u>2.5 million)</u> are children born outside the United States to foreign-born parents.

The Most Vulnerable:
Children of Unauthorized Immigrants

Parents have limited formal education

Parents often do not speak English

Parents subject to job exploitation

Parents ineligible for public benefits

    -- But 2/3 of the children are U.S. citizens, therefore eligible for public benefits and services

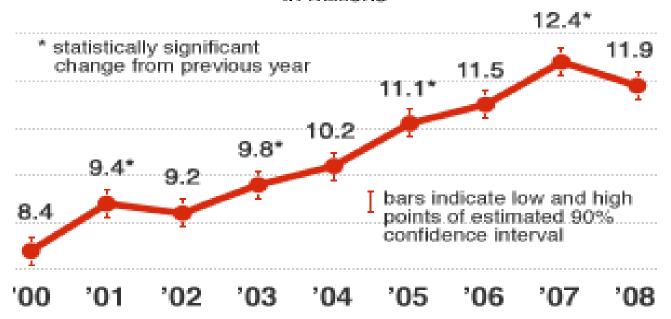States, localities restricting employment, drivers' licenses, housing, services, etc.

States, localities enforcing immigration laws

Some parents are picked up in raids

（National Conference of State Legislatures 2008; Passel 2006)

Estimates of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 2000-2008 in millions

* statistically significant change from previous year

bars indicate low and high points of estimated 90% confidence interval

8.4 9.4* 9.2 9.8* 10.2 11.1* 11.5 12.4* 11.9

'00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08

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"Child welfare services available to all children regardless of immigration status"

"Federal, state, and local policies encourage full integration of immigrant families into US society through an expanded delivery of child welfare services"

Statements by the participants at the Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare, 2006 Transnational Research and Policy Forum Convened by the American Humane Association and Loyola University, Chicago, July, 2006

The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN)

Leading a National Dialogue on the Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare Since 2006

- American Humane Association
- Loyola University Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams School of Social Work
- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Services
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Casey Family Programs

- International Social Services
- Hunter College School of Social Work
- Urban Institute – Migration Policy Institute
- American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law.
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Various Child Protection Agencies and Immigration Workers from Counties, States, Jurisdictions
- SIMMON

Network Focus

The Intersection of Child Welfare and Immigration

Knowledge Building and Dissemination
Promising Practices
Workforce Issues
Policies
Legislation
Research
Transnational Resources

Activities and Accomplishments of the Network

- **Publications**
- **Conferences**
- **Presentations**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Research and Knowledge Development Projects**
- **Blended Funding**
- **Advancing Critical Issues at the Core of the Intersection**
- **Legislative Language and Resources**
- **Dissemination of Available Data**
- **Networking and Professional Support**
- **Working Committees**

See Summary Activities MCWNN 2006-2008

2006: Identifying Emerging Issues at the Intersection – How Safety, Permanence and Well-being are Impacted by Gaps of Knowledge on Immigration

2008: Current State of Issues Identified at the Intersection and a Joint Session with Immigrant Law Community to Identify Solutions

2009: Immigration Challenges and Resources are Unique to Regions: Populations, History, Policy, Legislation, Culture, and Trends.

Migration and Child Welfare Roundtables 2006-2009

2009: Focus on Border Communities

Understanding the vision of well-being of children and families on both sides of the border, and looking for a common vision
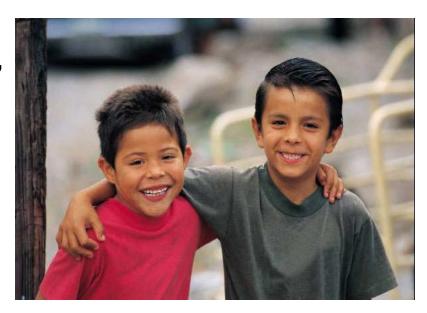
Addressing salient issues concerning practice and policy to ensure healthy and thriving children in our border communities

Enhancing our ability to serve families and children from border communities that struggle with child welfare issues

Roundtable Highlights

- Issue Sessions
- Project Updates
- Interaction of Judicial, Practice, Policy, and Advocacy
- Lived Experience Panel of Youth, Family, Practitioner, Agency
- Child Wellbeing in the USA
- Child Wellbeing in Mexico and Beyond
- Practice in Border States
- Programs of the Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Structured Discussions
- Visit to ORR Facilities
- Networking and Inter-disciplinary perspectives

What Other Factors Frame the 2009 Challenges and Opportunities?

- How is the immigration landscape changing?

- What are the opportunities for comprehensive immigration reform within the new Obama administration?

- What are new laws being enacted that address aspects of child protection for immigrants?

- 9/11 heightened security impacting immigrants… how is it changing?

- Immigration raids.. no longer?

- Current struggles of the economy in the US…. impacting the wellbeing of immigrant families?

- Less resources by child welfare agencies and other services?

What Will We Take Away ?

- Practice solutions
- Critical policy and practice issues
- Perspective of Courts
- Connections between peer border states, across the country, and beyond borders
- Renewed understanding of systems that serve immigrant families
- Informed vision of well-being on both sides of the border
- Personal commitment to new ways of advancing our work

Acknowledgements

- Local Hosts
- Planning Committee
- Special Dedication by MCWNN Members
- Committee Co-Chairs
- Supporters
- Staff