The Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare: 
Emerging Issues and Implications

Second National Forum
April 1-3, 2008

Conference Program

Club Quarters Central Loop Hotel
111 W. Adams St.
Chicago, IL 60603
Leadership and Sponsorship
The Second National Forum is conducted under the leadership of the Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN), which was created at the first roundtable.

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law
American Humane Association
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Casey Family Programs
Chicago Bar Association
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
Heartland Alliance
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Immigrant Children Lawyers Network
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
International Social Service – United States of America Branch
Loyola University Chicago
National Immigrant Justice Center
University of Illinois at Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work
Urban Institute

Planning Committee Members

Michelle Abarca
Bill Bettencourt
Ken Borelli
Lara Bruce
Jorge Cabrera
Randy Capps
Howard Davidson
Alan Dettlaff
Ilze Earner
Raquel Flores
Rowena Fong
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Laura Gardner
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Candy Larue
Deborah Lee
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Constance H.F. Miller
Robert Mindell
Lyn Morland
Felicity Northcott
Jean Ortega-Piron
Julie Rosicky
Aryah Somers
Richard Spiegelman
Krista Thomas
Gretchen Test
Amy Thompson
Claudia Valenzuela
Sonia Velázquez
Maria Vidal de Haymes
Thu Vo
Christina Wilkes
Maria Woltjen
Adrian Ysern
**National Forum Overview**

Currently, the exact number of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system is unknown. However, the dramatic growth in the number and complexity of immigrant communities in the United States over the past 20 years has increased the complexity of cases and challenges for agencies, professionals and families in achieving safety, permanency and well-being for the immigrant children and families reported to child welfare agencies. Most directly, these issues pose significant challenges regarding language, cultural differences, dislocation and adjustment of families, mixed legal status, transnational family constellations, existing and/or new legislation, and intergovernmental and interagency relations.

In July 2006, the American Humane Association and Loyola University Chicago convened leaders and practitioners from around the United States for the first roundtable of what would become the Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN). This roundtable identified key issues critical to effective child welfare practice with immigrant families.

*The Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare: Emerging Issues and Implications* National Forum presents an opportunity to further the existing discussions regarding the relationship between immigration and the child welfare system.

The structure of the **April 2, 2008, roundtable** is designed to provide current information on issues and trends in both child welfare and immigration and to encourage communication and relationship-building across disciplines. Professionals engaged in child welfare practice, research in child welfare and immigration, immigrant and refugee services, and legal practice, as well as policymakers and other social service providers, will be attending. Presentations will allow participants to engage in a rich dialogue regarding the current state of the issues and discover what can be done to create change within the participants’ organizations.

The roundtable is preceded by a **half-day of skills building sessions and intensive seminars** on April 1. The skills building sessions and intensive seminars are designed to provide participants with hands-on learning opportunities. Participants will gain knowledge relevant to working with immigrant children and families that are struggling with immigration issues and are involved in the child welfare system and/or the legal system.

The National Forum includes a **joint session** with the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Immigrant Children Lawyers Network on April 3, focusing on issues affecting both the legal community and child welfare agencies.
Child welfare workers and other service providers typically have foreign-born children or families on their caseloads but may be unaware of the factors that contributed to their clients’ decisions to leave their home countries. War, persecution, poverty and reunifying with family members are just some of the reasons why people migrate to the United States. It is important to understand each client’s unique migration experience in order to provide appropriate services. This session will explain the differences between immigrants, refugees, asylees and other types of foreign-born residents, and will discuss the implications of each status on child welfare service provision.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.        Break

1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.        Session A: How Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Impacts Immigrant Communities (Parts I and II)

Location: Adams/Clark Rooms

Presenters:
- Jean Ortega-Piron, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, Chicago
- Ioana Navarrete, Mexican Consulate, Chicago
- Jacqueline Herrera-Giron, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago
- Tim Bell, Chicago Workers Collaborative, Chicago
- Jessica Aranda, Latino Union of Chicago, Chicago
- Marilu Gonzalez, Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago
- Diego Bonesatti, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago
- Ana Guajardo, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago
Part I: This session will provide participants with knowledge gleaned from the last year and a half of increased ICE operations and these operations’ effect on immigrant families and their services providers (child welfare, custody, legal services, employment, housing, etc.).

Part II: This session will provide participants with different models to assist communities in developing emergency plans, including whom to call and what to do in the event of ICE enforcement.

Alternate Sessions

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  Session B: Interagency Cooperation: Collaboration as Best Practice

Location: Buckingham Room

Presenters:

• Julie Gilbert Rosicky, International Social Service – USA, Baltimore
• Laura Gardner, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services, Washington
• Cecilia Saco, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Special Immigrant Status Unit, Los Angeles

Participants will discuss case scenarios provided by International Social Service – USA and Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services that involve an essential interagency component. Case examples will include refugee or asylum applications, family reunification, inter-country custody and home-study issues. The cases will all involve individuals or families in need of a range of resources from a wide variety of agencies. Specific attention will be given to how agencies can collaborate with each other across disciplines to resolve complex cross-border issues.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  Session B: Advanced Legal Issues on the Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare Law

Location: Buckingham Room

Presenters:

• Howard Davidson, American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law, Washington
• Maria Woltjen, Immigrant Children’s Advocacy Project, Chicago

Safety, permanency and well-being are three conceptual measures built into today’s child welfare law and practice. How can these principles be applied on behalf of undocumented children in need of child welfare agency services and, if at all, to the immigration proceedings they face? How might child welfare agencies better identify and help address immigration issues affecting the abused, neglected and abandoned children they encounter? How can immigration attorneys and child welfare attorneys effectively collaborate in connection with juvenile court and immigration proceedings affecting the same children? This session will examine these and related issues and provide information on advanced resources useful to child welfare workers, lawyers and other advocates who work in both “systems.”
The Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Roundtable

Location: Adams/Clark Rooms (third floor)

Registration: Third Floor Foyer

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast: Adams/Clark Rooms

Welcome and Introductions: Sonia Velázquez, American Humane Association, Denver

Welcoming Remarks: Erwin McEwen, acting director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Opening Presentation: Family Engagement and Permanency Planning Across the Border: A Case Study

Presentation led by:
• Jorge Cabrera and Melissa Proctor, Casey Family Programs, San Diego

This case study will highlight important issues, lessons learned and key practices related to the case of a 15-year-old foster youth and the work resulting in reconnection and reunification prospects with his family in Mexico. The case study will also include reflections on the promising practices that are in place in San Diego County and agency collaborations between Casey Family Programs and the Child Welfare Services Office of the International Liaison. Participants will gain a broader understanding of some of the transnational, socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic considerations involved in this and other cases involving permanency planning across borders.


Facilitator:
• Alan Dettlaff, University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work, Chicago

Presenters:
• Ilze Earner, Hunter College School of Social Work, New York
• Richard Speiglman, Speiglman Norris Associates, Oakland, Calif.
• Tracy Vericker, Urban Institute, Washington

In this panel session, the leading national experts on the intersection of immigration and child welfare will discuss the current state of empirical knowledge concerning immigrant children and families who have come to the attention of child welfare systems. The panelists will present results from recent national, state and local studies, and discuss the needs and directions for future research. Implications for using research to inform practice will also be presented.
Emerging Issues and Implications

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  Panel Session: Legal and Child Welfare Practice
Facilitator:
• Lyn Morland, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services, Washington

Presenters:
• Jorge Cabrera, Casey Family Programs, San Diego
• Rowena Fong, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
• Ilze Earner, Hunter College School of Social Work, New York

During the past two years, the MCWNN developed the Promising Practices Committee in order to identify what is currently working across the country, resulting in a first draft of Principles and Guidelines for Practice With Immigrant Children and Families. This session’s panel members will discuss the key principles developed by this committee, and provide illustrative examples of promising practices. The draft document will be distributed for discussion and input from session participants, with the goals of refining these principles, identifying additional promising practices and focusing funding priorities for the MCWNN.

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.  Lunch and Facilitated Roundtable Dialogues on funding and legal priorities related to research, legal and child welfare practices
Facilitator:
• Randy Capps, Urban Institute, Washington

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  Panel Session: The Future Federal Policy Landscape and State Child Welfare Law Changes
Facilitator:
• Howard Davidson, American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law, Washington

Presenters:
• Kristen Jackson, Immigrants’ Rights Project, Public Counsel, Los Angeles
• Cecilia Saco, Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles
• Tricia Swartz, National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, Washington

This panel session will explore possible federal immigration and child welfare legislative developments that could occur between mid-2008 and the end of 2009 and might positively affect immigrant children and families in need of child protection and child welfare services. It will also examine an agenda for potential changes of state child welfare laws and regulations that would enhance service provision to immigrant children and families.
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Presentation: Keeping Our Families Together: Developing Community-Based Transnational Leadership and Advocacy Around Issues Affecting Immigrant Children and Families

Facilitators:
• Robert Mindell and Maria Vidal de Haymes, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago

Presenter:
• Oscar Chacon, National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, Chicago

This presentation will address current issues that affect migrant children and their families in their countries of origin, in transit, and in the United States. This presentation will cover community-based organizing efforts in the United States to build transnational leadership capacity, services and funding streams, and to develop effective advocacy for immigration reform and for economic and social policies affecting immigrants and the people of Latin America. The presentation will include a discussion of immigrant-led efforts in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Chicago, New York, Boston and Miami to organize immigration advocacy and self-help projects, including the Familias Unidas campaign.

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Facilitated Roundtable Dialogues on funding and legal priorities related to federal and state policies and transnational issues; statements from forum participants will also be discussed

Facilitator:
• Yali Lincroft, consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Family to Family, San Francisco

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks: Bill Bettencourt, Family to Family, Annie E. Casey Foundation

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Networking Reception

Location: Buckingham Room

Take the opportunity to network with conference participants and meet some representatives from the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Immigrant Children Lawyers Network. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available.
Thursday, April 3, 2008

Joining Forces: Ensuring the Safety and Well-Being of Immigrant Children

Joint Session hosted by the Migration and Child Welfare National Network, National Immigrant Justice Center and the Immigrant Children Lawyers Network

Location: Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago
Please check in at the registration area in the building foyer.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions: Sonia Velázquez, American Humane, Denver; Mary Meg McCarthy, National Immigration Justice Center, Chicago; Yali Lincroft, Annie E. Casey Foundation, San Francisco

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on America's Children, a report by the Urban Institute for the National Council of La Raza

Presenters: • Randy Capps, Urban Institute, Washington
• Joseph Hammell, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, Minneapolis, Minn.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Socratic Dialogue
Moderator:
• Yali Lincroft, consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Family to Family, San Francisco

Panelists from Illinois:
• Julie Gerber-Sallinger, Illinois Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago
• Mony Ruiz-Velasco, National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago
• Theresa Matthews, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Chicago
Panelists from California:
- Ken Borelli, consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, San José
- Kristen Jackson, public counsel, Los Angeles
- Cecilia Saco, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles

The Socratic dialogue format uses a hypothetical case history and a cross-disciplinary team of panelists who discuss how they would act in complicated situations when the “right” choices are not clear. The role of the moderator is to bring up interwoven ethical, legal and public policy issues and to encourage the panelists to explore with each other (and the audience) complex, vital issues, including: the quality of representation in the juvenile system; the value of collaborative courts; and the ethical obligations of defense counsel, prosecutors, judges and child welfare workers to provide services to a vulnerable population. This panel presentation will review a case scenario to demonstrate the various perspectives and issues that come into play when an immigrant child enters the child welfare system.

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Closing: Howard Davidson, American Bar Association, Washington

12:00 p.m.  Adjournment
ON THEIR OWN: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

APRIL 3-5, 2008

CHICAGO

The National Immigrant Justice Center will host the Third Annual Conference on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children, April 3-5. This conference will focus on cutting-edge issues involving legal representation of unaccompanied immigrant children. Hosted at the Chicago Bar Association and The John Marshall Law School, these events will bring together lawyers, government representatives and policymakers from across the country to examine challenges, best practices and policies that impact this vulnerable population. A special joint session is being organized for the morning of April 3. For more information about this exciting opportunity, please visit www.immigrantjustice.org.
# Schedule at a Glance

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<th>Tuesday, April 1:</th>
<th>Preparing to Meet the Needs: Skills Building Sessions and Intensive Seminars</th>
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<td>10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>General Session: Refugee and Immigrant 101</td>
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| 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Registration |

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