

2011 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference



Issues and Innovations

Monday-Tuesday, November 7-8, 2011
Holiday Inn Chicago-Mart Plaza
Chicago, IL

This conference is a collaboration of:

- The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
- Chicago Public Schools
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
- Heartland Health Outreach
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago



Pat Quinn, Governor

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

100 South Grand Avenue, East
401 South Clinton

Springfield, Illinois 62762
Chicago, Illinois 60607

November 2011

Dear Conferees:

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Human Services, I bid you welcome to the 2011 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: *Issues and Innovations*. It is the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 31st anniversary of the Refugee Act. It is a time to celebrate the time honored American tradition of providing welcome. Illinois has a rich tradition of refugee resettlement deriving from a strong public-private partnership, and it leads the nation in response to issues of immigrant integration. It is the appropriate site for this effort to enhance services for all New Americans.

In many ways what is now fully recognized as an era of globalization began 62 years ago with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, embodied 60 years ago in the United Nations commitment to the protection and resettlement of refugees. It was a prescient commitment to the equality of men and women internationally, to their rights to employment, education, healthcare, and safety. The establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has enabled millions of refugees to reclaim their lives. Its success and the welfare of the refugees is dependent on the extraordinary governmental/non-governmental collaboration that has developed. Those of you gathered here are critical to that collaboration and the effective integration of refugees into our communities. We commend you for your contributions.

At the core, this event is inspired by our work in refugee resettlement, and recognizes the comprehensive needs of new arrivals. Clearly, health, education, and family adjustment issues intertwine in our efforts to facilitate economic self-sufficiency and social self-reliance. Although the needs of refugees are in many ways most acute, the human service lessons learned in serving them have broad importance for all immigrants.

For the conference planning, we are indebted to:

Marc Adelman, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Jenny Aguirre, Illinois Department of Public Health
Sue Barauski, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
Deborah Covington, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Judith Diamond, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
Christine Hammond, Illinois Department of Human Services
Hannah Hoover, Heartland Health Outreach
Sherry Johnson, Sherry Joseph Johnson Consulting Services
Jenn Kons, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Audrey Lumley-Sapanski, Heartland Alliance
Lynn Osheff, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
Jonathan Tabor, Heartland Alliance
Shana Wills, DePaul University

The plan has been implemented through the fiscal support of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, administrator of the Illinois Refugee Social Services Consortium, and the Chicago Public Schools. We appreciate absolutely remarkable attention to detail by our Conference coordinators, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center. Special thanks go to Sue Barauski, Judith Diamond, Lynn Osheff, and Tatiana Davidson.

We have assembled a special group of presenters from across the country, and thank them for their time, energy, and willingness to share their expertise and experience.

Welcome. Confirm your wisdom. Learn new lessons. Communicate actively. Share your experience. Renew your professional commitment. Have some fun!

Sincerely,

Edwin B. Silverman, Chief
Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Monday, November 7, 2011

ROOM

9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast.....*Sauganash Grand Ballroom West Foyer*

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Welcome and Keynote Address*Sauganash Grand Ballroom*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #1 Bhutanese Refugees Three Years Post-Resettlement: A Discussion of Successes and Challenges*Lake House*
- #2 The Refugee School Impact Program: *More* Lessons Learned from Grantees*Western Stage House*
- #3 Refugee Groups and Orientation: Working with Group-Specific Videos *The Bull's Head*
- #4 The Impact of Health Care Reform on Immigrant and Refugee Populations.....*Merchants*
- #5 What Can an ESL Teacher Do? Feedback from Employers*Steamboat*
- #6 Making Meaningful Connections with ELL Parents*American House*
- #7 Creating Successful Community Partnerships to Expand and Improve Service *Shakespeare*
- #8 Community-Based Mental Health Services for Refugees: The International FACES Model..... *Edgewater*

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch.....*Sauganash Grand Ballroom*

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #9 Educational Support Services for Refugee and Immigrant Students through McKinney-Vento*Lake House*
- #10 Resettlement Starts Overseas: Where Do You Join the Flow?.....*Western Stage House*
- #11 Health Education Tools and Resources to Engage Refugees and Immigrants *The Bull's Head*
- #12 Giving Refugee Children a Head Start.....*Merchants*
- #13 Yin and Yang: The Fine Balance in Effective Refugee ~~Integration~~.....*Steamboat*
- #14 Hospitality Skills Training: A Path to Employment for Refugees*American House*
- #15 LGBT Refugees and Asylees: Responding to the Needs of a Hidden Population *Shakespeare*

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #16 In Our House: An African Story Video and Curriculum.....*Lake House*
- #17 Teaching *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know*: Essential, Practical Information*Western Stage House*
- #18 Culturally Relevant Risk Factors for Substance Abuse Among Asian Adolescents *The Bull's Head*
- #19 Emergent Reading, Emergent Writing, Emergency?*Merchants*
- #20 Integrating Services for Capacity Building in Refugee Populations*Steamboat*
- #21 Supporting Highly-Skilled Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees*American House*
- #22 Children in Care with Immigration Status Issues: Services and Challenges *Shakespeare*
- #23 Caring for Limited English Proficiency Older Adults..... *Edgewater*

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Reception.....*Wolf Point Ballroom*

Monday, November 7, 2011

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

ROOM

8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast.....Sauganash Grand Ballroom West Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome.....Sauganash Grand Ballroom

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #24 Documentary Screening – *TRUST: Second Acts in Young Lives**Lake House*
- #25 Systems Change Initiatives for Addressing Health and Disability Needs of Refugees.....*Western Stage House*
- #26 Sex Roles and Conflict among Refugee and Immigrant Families in the U.S..... *The Bull's Head*
- #27 WORLD: Working with Our Refugees to Learn with their Differences.....*Merchants*
- #28 Working with Funders from Start to Finish*Steamboat*
- #29 Chicago Refugee Employment Workforce (CREW): Collaboration Works!.....*American House*
- #30 Identifying and Training Leaders in Refugee and Immigrant Communities..... *Shakespeare*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #31 Facilitating Adjustment and Recognition: Using Refugee Families and Youth Videos.....*Lake House*
- #32 Building Program Capacity in Challenging Times*Western Stage House*
- #33 Got It! Creating an Internet Collaboration for Multilingual Health Information *The Bull's Head*
- #34 Engaging Refugee Parents in K-12 Youth Education*Merchants*
- #35 The Fresh Food Initiative: The First Four Seasons*Steamboat*
- #36 Reconnecting Families and Providing Disaster Education through Partnerships.....*American House*
- #37 Introducing Therapeutic Concepts into Refugee Case Management..... *Shakespeare*

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Address.....Sauganash Grand Ballroom

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- #38 Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) Initiatives: Assisting Burmese Refugees in Indianapolis.....*Lake House*
- #39 Providing Legal Advice to Refugees.....*Western Stage House*
- #40 Bridging the Gap Between Refugee Mental Health and Culture Adjustment *The Bull's Head*
- #41 Wipe the Tears, Erase the Fears, and Provide the Gears.....*Merchants*
- #42 From All Alone to Safely Home: Mitigating Risk Factors*Steamboat*
- #43 National Aging Network Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers*American House*
- #44 Working with Pre-Literate Populations: A Challenge or an Opportunity *Shakespeare*

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

CONFERENCE SESSIONS BY TOPIC

Adult Education

- #5 What Can an ESL Teacher Do? Feedback from EmployersSteamboat
#14 Hospitality Skills Training: A Path to Employment for RefugeesAmerican House
#17 Teaching *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know: Essential, Practical Information*Western Stage House
#21 Supporting Highly-Skilled Immigrants, Refugees, and AsyleesAmerican House
#34 Engaging Refugee Parents in K-12 Youth EducationMerchants
#44 Working with Pre-Literate Populations: A Challenge or an OpportunityShakespeare

Capacity Building

- #7 Creating Successful Community Partnerships to Expand and Improve ServiceShakespeare
#13 Yin and Yang: The Fine Balance in Effective Refugee **Integration**Steamboat
#28 Working with Funders from Start to FinishSteamboat
#32 Building Program Capacity in Challenging TimesWestern Stage House

Cultural Orientation

- #3 Refugee Groups and Orientation: Working with Group-Specific VideosThe Bull's Head
#10 Resettlement Starts Overseas: Where Do You Join the Flow?.....Western Stage House
#17 Teaching *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know: Essential, Practical Information*Western Stage House
#30 Identifying and Training Leaders in Refugee and Immigrant CommunitiesShakespeare
#31 Facilitating Adjustment and Recognition: Using Refugee Families and Youth Videos.....Lake House
#40 Bridging the Gap Between Refugee Mental Health and Culture AdjustmentThe Bull's Head

Education: Prek-12

- #2 The Refugee School Impact Program: *More Lessons Learned* from GranteesWestern Stage House
#9 Educational Support Services for Refugee and Immigrant Students through McKinney-VentoLake House
#12 Giving Refugee Children a Head Start.....Merchants
#19 Emergent Reading, Emergent Writing, Emergency?Merchants
#27 **WORLD: Working with Our Refugees to Learn with their Differences**.....Merchants
#34 Engaging Refugee Parents in K-12 Youth EducationMerchants
#41 Wipe the Tears, Erase the Fears, and Provide the Gears.....Merchants
Poster Session: One Square Block Project: Connecting People Through Environmental PrintMansion House

Employment

- #5 What Can an ESL Teacher Do? Feedback from EmployersSteamboat
#14 Hospitality Skills Training: A Path to Employment for RefugeesAmerican House
#29 Chicago Refugee Employment Workforce (CREW): Collaboration Works!.....American House
#35 The Fresh Food Initiative: The First Four SeasonsSteamboat

Family Support Services

- #6 Making Meaningful Connections with ELL ParentsAmerican House
#22 Children in Care with Immigration Status Issues: Services and ChallengesShakespeare
#34 Engaging Refugee Parents in K-12 Youth EducationMerchants
#42 From All Alone to Safely Home: Mitigating Risk FactorsSteamboat
Poster Session: BRYCS: Supporting Those who Work with Refugee Youth & FamiliesMansion House

CONFERENCE SESSIONS BY TOPIC

Health Care

#4	The Impact of Health Care Reform on Immigrant and Refugee Populations.....	<i>Merchants</i>
#11	Health Education Tools and Resources to Engage Refugees and Immigrants	<i>The Bull's Head</i>
#16	In Our House: An African Story Video and Curriculum.....	<i>Lake House</i>
#18	Culturally Relevant Risk Factors for Substance Abuse Among Asian Adolescents.....	<i>The Bull's Head</i>
#23	Caring for Limited English Proficiency Older Adults.....	<i>Edgewater</i>
#25	Systems Change Initiatives for Addressing Health and Disability Needs of Refugees.....	<i>Western Stage House</i>
#33	Got It! Creating an Internet Collaboration for Multilingual Health Information	<i>The Bull's Head</i>
#43	National Aging Network Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers	<i>American House</i>
	Poster Session: Healthy Children/Niños Saludable/ здоровые дети / enfants en bonne santé	<i>Mansion House</i>
	Poster Session: Contextualizing Post-resettlement Chronic Disease and Emergency Care Challenges through Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)	<i>Mansion House</i>
	Poster Session: Use and Perceptions of Preventive Health Services Among Somali and Burundian Refugee Women	<i>Mansion House</i>

Integrated Services

#6	Making Meaningful Connections with ELL Parents.....	<i>American House</i>
#13	Yin and Yang: The Fine Balance in Effective Refugee Integration.....	<i>Steamboat</i>
#20	Integrating Services for Capacity Building in Refugee Populations	<i>Steamboat</i>
#21	Supporting Highly-Skilled Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees.....	<i>American House</i>
#36	Reconnecting Families and Providing Disaster Education through Partnerships.....	<i>American House</i>
#37	Introducing Therapeutic Concepts into Refugee Case Management.....	<i>Shakespeare</i>

Mental Health

#8	Community-Based Mental Health Services for Refugees: The International FACES Model.....	<i>Edgewater</i>
#18	Culturally Relevant Risk Factors for Substance Abuse Among Asian Adolescents.....	<i>The Bull's Head</i>
#24	Documentary Screening – <i>TRUST: Second Acts in Young Lives</i>	<i>Lake House</i>
#37	Introducing Therapeutic Concepts into Refugee Case Management.....	<i>Shakespeare</i>
#40	Bridging the Gap Between Refugee Mental Health and Culture Adjustment.....	<i>The Bull's Head</i>

Refugee Populations

#1	Bhutanese Refugees Three Years Post-Resettlement: A Discussion of Successes and Challenges.....	<i>Lake House</i>
#15	LGBT Refugees and Asylees: Responding to the Needs of a Hidden Population	<i>Shakespeare</i>
#20	Integrating Services for Capacity Building in Refugee Populations	<i>Steamboat</i>
#26	Sex Roles and Conflict among Refugee and Immigrant Families in the U.S.....	<i>The Bull's Head</i>
#38	Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) Initiatives: Assisting Burmese Refugees in Indianapolis.....	<i>Lake House</i>
	Poster Session: Bosnian Refugees in St. Louis: Profiles of Cross-Cultural Adaptation Experience.....	<i>Mansion House</i>
	Poster Session: An Assessment of Iraqi Refugee Assessment with Agency Programming	<i>Mansion House</i>
	Poster Session: Pregnancy Support Group for Refugee Women: A Community-Based, Multi-Agency Collaborative Project	<i>Mansion House</i>

Legal Issues

#39	Providing Legal Advice to Refugees.....	<i>Western Stage House</i>
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*Posters will be exhibited during both days of the conference.
Presenters, however, will be available for discussion only at the times noted below.*

Poster Sessions

TABLE 1

Bosnian Refugees in St. Louis: Profiles of Cross-Cultural Adaptation Experience

Alma Poljarevic, School Counselor, Therapist, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Hisako Matsuo, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Wai Hsien Cheah, Department of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL
poljara@slu.edu

Monday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Monday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Monday, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This study used audience segmentation analysis to identify profiles of Bosnian refugees in St. Louis. Grounded theory method was used to further examine why some Bosnian refugees adapt and adjust to their host environment better than others. This study offers implications for service providers in assisting refugees with resettlement. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

Poster Sessions

TABLE 2

**Pregnancy Support Group for Refugee Women:
A Community-Based, Multi-Agency Collaborative Project**

Hannah Hoover, Associate Director, Heartland Health Outreach Refugee Health Programs, Chicago, IL
 Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

A group of Chicago-area resettlement agencies, observing low rates of prenatal care among pregnant clients, created a multicultural pregnancy support group providing workshops and social support for refugee women. Its purpose is to improve maternal health literacy, build capacity to navigate the healthcare system, and decrease social isolation among participants. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

Poster Sessions

TABLE 3

An Assessment of Iraqi Refugee Engagement with Agency Programming

Nilay Shah, Intern, Heartland Alliance Refugee Health Programs, Chicago, IL
 Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Refugee Health Programs at Heartland Alliance provide culturally appropriate health services for Chicago’s refugee populations, including Iraqis. This assessment aims to understand reasons why Iraqi refugees have been minimally engaged in agency programs and, further, in what events, programs, and topics the Iraqi population would be more likely to participate.

Poster Sessions

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Presenters, however, will be available for discussion only at the times noted below.*

TABLE 4

Contextualizing Post-Resettlement Chronic Disease and Emergency Care Challenges through Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

Sharon D. Morrison, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
John Brown, Graduate Student, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
Huaibo Xin, Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL
Susanna Brunner, Health Coordinator, Church World Service, Greensboro, NC
sdmorri2@uncg.edu

Monday, 11:15a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monday, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

A university-VOLAG-CBPR partnership project was created to enumerate and contextualize post-resettlement chronic disease and emergency care challenges among new refugee arrivals. The project structure, procedures, and findings regarding emergent resource allocation issues related to health care coordination are presented. Implications for targeted community intervention are discussed.

TABLE 5

Use and Perceptions of Preventive Health Services Among Somali and Burundian Refugee Women

Josie Burnley, Doctoral Student, Arizona State University, Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
 Goodyear, AZ
Josie.burnley@asu.edu

Monday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The purpose of this poster is to explore the range of refugee women’s health care experiences and examine their perceptions and use of preventive health services. For recently resettled refugee women, the importance of preventive health services such as cervical cancer and mammography screening is low to absent due to the lack of familiarity with the health care system, language barriers such as incomplete or unclear translation, and shyness about discussing such matters. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

TABLE 6

One Square Block Project: Connecting People Through Environmental Print

Margaret McGregor, Reading Coach, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL
memcgregor@cps.k12.il.us

Monday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This session presents the *One Square Block Project*. Participants took pictures of environmental print within one square block. Students presented the origin, morphology, history, and interesting facts about their words. Many students chose words from their own background and this became an entry point for culture, diversity, and acceptance. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

*Posters will be exhibited during both days of the conference.
Presenters, however, will be available for discussion only at the times noted below.*

TABLE 7

BRYCS: Supporting those who Work with Refugee Youth & Families

Jacqui Zubko, Information and Technical Support Specialist
Bridging Refugee Youth and Childrens’ Services (BRYCS), Washington, DC

Monday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monday, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come learn about BRYCS and its resources. BRYCS provides national technical assistance to organizations serving refugee and immigrant youth and families. Come and pick up publications, pens, and magnets and learn about resources in the clearinghouse. Staff will also be available for short consultations and to answer questions. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

TABLE 8

Healthy Children/Niños Saludable/ здоровые дети / enfants en bonne santé

Norma Martí, Public Health Consultant
North Carolina DHHS Division of Public Health – Children & Youth Branch, Raleigh, NC

Monday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Newcomers to North Carolina are guided through systems as part of the resettlement process; notwithstanding, many do not understand our healthcare systems. By collaborating with local agencies and NC’s Refugee Resettlement Agencies (Department of Social Services), the NC Division of Public Health, Children & Youth Branch, has created a set of Immigrant Fact Sheets in 12 languages about Health Check (Medicaid) / NC Health Choice (CHIP). Using photos of children from the communities and engaging members of the community to review translations have helped to create more awareness of and participation in NC’s public children’s health insurance programs. Ideally, other states can share what they have developed in enrolling families into their public programs as we look ahead to the Affordable Care Act’s 2014 implementation of health insurance exchanges. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

Poster Sessions

Poster Sessions

Poster Sessions

Poster Sessions

9:30 a.m.**REGISTRATION
and
Continental Breakfast***Sauganash Grand Ballroom
West Foyer***10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.****WELCOME***Sauganash Grand Ballroom*

*Edwin B. Silverman, Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services
Deborah Covington, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Sue Barauski, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS**Vincent Cochetel**

*60 Years and Looking Forward: Addressing the Challenges in the U.S. Refugee Program
in the Context of Global Resettlement Needs*

Vincent Cochetel is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Regional Representative for the United States and the Caribbean, based in Washington, DC. He has served in countries across the world from Central and Eastern Europe to the Middle East and has participated in emergency missions in Asia, West Africa, and Europe. He is presently involved in the United States response to the humanitarian disaster in Somalia where over 400,000 people are in refugee camps fleeing conflict, drought, and famine.

In his speech, Mr. Cochetel will delineate the goals of the U.S. Refugee Program and the challenges it faces.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**CONCURRENT SESSIONS****#1 Bhutanese Refugees Three Years Post-Resettlement:
A Discussion of Successes and Challenges***Lake House*

*Uma Devi Mishra, Health Promoter
Heartland Health Outreach Refugee Health Programs, Chicago, IL
umishra@heartlandalliance.org*

It has been three years since Bhutanese refugees first began being resettled into Chicago. In this session, the presenter discusses some of the successes and challenges facing Bhutanese refugee communities several years post-resettlement from the perspective of a Bhutanese refugee working as a community health worker. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (cont.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**#2 The Refugee School Impact Program:
More Lessons Learned from Grantees***Western Stage House*

Laura Gardner, Education Technical Assistance Specialist
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS), Washington, DC
lgardner@uscgb.org
Skip Cleavinger, ESL Coordinator, Warren County Schools, Bowling Green, KY
Anna-Marie DiPasquale, School Social Worker
Lutheran Social Services/Concord School District, Concord, NH
Rebecca Jones, Coordinator, Russian Community Assn. New American Center, Lynn, MA
Sarita Rasaily, Community Outreach Worker
Russian Community Assn. New American Center, Lynn, MA
Jillian McGilvery, ELL Coordinator, Upper Darby Schools, Upper Darby, PA
Kate Walker, Refugee Parenting Services Coordinator
Catholic Charities, Atlanta, GA

The Refugee School Impact Program has helped refugee children integrate into schools since 1998. Building on last year's session, a new group of featured grantees shares lessons learned on working with new populations, interpretation, working with families, ELL/SPED crossover, serving older youth, student adjustment, teacher training, and more. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#3 Refugee Groups and Orientation:
Working with Group-Specific Videos***The Bull's Head*

Dani Abrams, Director, Training & Curriculum Development Specialist
Cultural Orientation Resource Center, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC
dabrams@cal.org

In this session, the presenter provides information on refugee experiences and perspectives of Iraqis, refugees from Burma, Bhutanese, Darfuris from Sudan, and refugee seniors in general. The presenter also shows filmed refugee interviews to highlight various points, and addresses how participants can use those films as an orientation tool. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#4 The Impact of Health Care Reform on
Immigrant and Refugee Populations***Merchants*

Stephanie F. Altman, Programs & Policy Director
Health & Disability Advocates, Chicago, IL
saltman@hdadvocates.org

In this session, the presenter provides an overview and general understanding of the *Affordable Care Act* and health care reform for immigrant and refugee populations. Learn how your clients will be affected by the expansion of Medicaid and insurance reform after 2014 and how they can access public and private health insurance. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (cont.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#5 What Can an ESL Teacher Do? Feedback from Employers***Steamboat***

Burna L. Dunn, Director, Workforce Services
Peter Janssen, COO/CFO
Myrna Ann Adkins, CEO/President
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO
bdunn@springinstitute.org

ESL programs serving refugees are directly or indirectly involved with preparation for employment. In this session, the presenters look at classroom activities that directly link to feedback employers are providing about what makes, particularly a limited English speaker, employable. Exercises using technology that may be required on the job are also included. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#6 Making Meaningful Connections with ELL Parents***American House***

Corrie Wallace, Director
Niles Township Schools ELL Parent Center, Skokie, IL
cwallace@skokie68.org

The Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center addresses the needs of the largest growing population of immigrants and refugees outside of Chicago. In this session, participants are given the foundation to effectively communicate, build meaningful partnerships, and teach parents of Pre-K-12th graders to successfully navigate the American school system and access community resources. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#7 Creating Successful Community Partnerships
to Expand and Improve Service*****Shakespeare***

Diane Pecoraro, Education Consultant
St. Louis Park, MN
depecoraro@aol.com

In this session, presenter and participants consider ideas for making connections in the community with other refugee-specific and mainstream agencies and define common shared missions that suit all players. Formalizing partnerships in memos of understanding and keeping the partnership on track are also discussed. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

11:45 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. (cont.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS****#8 Community-Based Mental Health Services for Refugees:
The International FACES Model*****Edgewater
15th Floor***

Thad Rydberg, Associate Director
International FACES Program, Heartland Health Outreach, Chicago, IL
Dina Birman, Associate Professor
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Trydberg@heartlandalliance.org

In this session, the presenters demonstrate the effectiveness of the International Family, Adult and Child Enhancement Services (FACES) model as a community-based mental health program providing services for traumatized refugees. Data on the implementation and adaptation of Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), an evidence-based practice, is discussed.

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**LUNCH*****Sauganash Grand Ballroom*****1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.****CONCURRENT SESSIONS****#9 Educational Support Services for Refugee and Immigrant Students
through McKinney-Vento*****Lake House***

Patricia Rivera, Consultant,
Opening Doors Technical Assistance Project, Illinois State Board of Education
Park Ridge, IL
Pat.c.rivera@gmail.com

In this session, the presenter outlines how immigrant and refugee families may be eligible for school enrollment, support, and services through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which provides school stability for students in temporary living situations. Come and learn how McKinney-Vento can help refugee and immigrant families with whom you are working. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#10 Resettlement Starts Overseas: Where Do You Join the Flow?***Western Stage House***

Burna L. Dunn, Director, Workforce Services
Myrna Ann Adkins, CEO/President
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO
Dina Birman, Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
bdunn@springinstitute.org

A panel representing the continuum of the refugee resettlement process, starting in the camps, discusses the immediate and longer term challenges at each stage of the journey, and what service providers should take into consideration as they work with refugees on that journey. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (cont.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#11 Health Education Tools and Resources to Engage Refugees and Immigrants*The Bull's Head*

Jessica A. Barrett, Refugee and Immigrant Health Program Case Coordinator
Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, FQHC, Hammonton, NJ

In this session, the presenter provides various tools and strategies used to promote preventive practices for good health in order to engage and facilitate refugees' active participation in adjusting to a new culture. The presenter also outlines strategies and resources used to create the existing program in the Southern New Jersey area. Topics covered include: dental care, nutrition and diabetes, and child development/vaccinations. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#12 Giving Refugee Children a Head Start*Merchants*

Lyn Morland, BRYCS Director
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS)/US Conference
of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC
Tarima Levine, National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness
Bank Street College of Education, New York, NY
lmorland@uscce.org

Virtually all refugee families are eligible for Head Start services upon arrival; however, too few access them. In this session, the presenters highlight "how to" examples of collaboration between resettlement and Head Start that resulted in improved school readiness for refugee children and increased access to a range of services for families. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#13 Yin and Yang: The Fine Balance in Effective Refugee Integration*Steamboat*

Shana Wills, Adjunct Faculty
DePaul University – School for New Learning, Chicago, IL
Curt Franzmann, Vocational Trainer/ESL Instructor
Heartland Alliance, Chicago, IL
Kristen Huffman-Gottschling, Doctoral Student
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
shanawills@aol.com

How do we, as providers, address rapid turnover of staff, organizational restructuring, and funding cuts? What are both the consequences and advantages of change when working with refugee newcomers? This session aims to dismantle providers' preoccupation with peripheral details and encourage them to tune in to the important goal of embracing refugee newcomers. Come prepared to share knowledge and brainstorm new approaches to perennial issues. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (cont.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#14 Hospitality Skills Training: A Path to Employment for Refugees*American House*

Nancy Joyce Callahan, Coordinator

Heartland Alliance Hospitality Skills Training for Refugees

Heartland Alliance Refugees and Immigrant Community Services (RICS), Chicago, IL

ncallahan@heartlandalliance.org

In this session, the presenter explores best practices for vocational training of refugees interested in entering the hospitality industry and discusses the course outline, the most effective tactics for teaching the customer service culture of hotel life, and the challenges in readying students for employment in a hotel. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#15 LGBT Refugees and Asylees:
Responding to the Needs of a Hidden Population***Shakespeare*

Daniel Weyl, International Programs Associate

Heather Markey, International Programs Intern

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, Chicago, IL

In this interactive workshop, the presenters explore best practices for refugee resettlement agencies when responding to the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender refugees and asylees. The presenters also offer practical guidance to resettlement staff and spark dialogue on an emerging refugee issue identified as an Office of Refugee Resettlement priority. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**BREAK**

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#16 In Our House: An African Story Video and Curriculum*Lake House*

Chioma Nnaji, Program Director

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Jamaica Plain, MA

cnnaji@mac-boston.org

In Our House: An African Story addresses HIV stigma among African immigrants. Built on the African art of storytelling, this 25-minute video depicts an African family's journey in dealing with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. Complimented by a 12-part curriculum, this video increases HIV skills and knowledge and shifts attitudes. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (con't.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**#17 Teaching What Every Immigrant Needs to Know:
Essential, Practical Information****Western Stage House***Rachel Fuchs, Academic Director**Shawn Camden, Director of Program Expansion and Co-founder
Intercambio Uniting Communities, Boulder, CO*rachel@intercambioweb.org

In this interactive session, the presenter provides staff and volunteers who work with refugees ideas for teaching and discussing U.S. laws, health, finances, education, cultural norms, and other practical information in a respectful, interactive, and fun way. Participants walk away from this session with user-friendly materials, ideas, and activities. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#18 Culturally Relevant Risk Factors for
Substance Abuse Among Asian Adolescents****The Bull's Head***Meme Wang, Manager, Substance Abuse Prevention Program**Edwin Chandrasekar, Executive Director**Asian Health Coalition, Chicago, IL**Frederick Kviz, Professor of Community Health Sciences**University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, Chicago, IL*lwang33@uic.eduedwin@asianhealth.orgfkviz@uic.edu

In this session, the presenters explore the association between intergenerational conflict and risk for alcohol and tobacco use among Asian adolescents; how parenting styles can decrease risk through promoting parent-child bonding; and approaches to targeting culturally relevant risk factors among racial/ethnic minority and immigrant groups for developing preventive interventions. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#19 Emergent Reading, Emergent Writing, Emergency?**Merchants***Kristin Wagner, ELL Teacher (K-5)**Jo Turner, ELL Teacher (K-5)**Community Unit School District 200, Park Ridge, IL*kwagner@cusd200.orgjturner@cusd200.org

Do you work with students who can't read or write in English? Where do you start? This session is for teachers who work with refugee and immigrant students in an educational (elementary) setting. It includes strategies, activities, and useful websites that will help with emergent reading and writing skills. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (con't.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#20 Integrating Services for Capacity Building in Refugee Populations*Steamboat*

Amy Richardson, Program Manager
Institute for Global Health, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
amy.k.richardson@vanderbilt.edu

In this session, the presenter addresses integrating services to build capacity among refugees and shares a case study of an academic/service partnership to understand and address needs of Karenni Burmese refugees. Participants discuss challenges related to their own collaborations and leadership trainings and collectively brainstorm ways to address them. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#21 Supporting Highly-Skilled Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees*American House*

Paul Feltman, Director
Katherine Gebremedhin, Manager
Community Engagement Program, World Education Services, New York, NY
Pfeltman@wes.org

Many refugees and asylees are not only literate in their own languages but also come with educational attainments including post-secondary and advanced degrees from their own countries. In this session, the presenters address the systemic issues facing immigrants who are skilled professionals seeking to integrate into academic and professional settings. Participants come away with an understanding of how to effectively help skilled clients navigate complex educational and career pathways. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#22 Children in Care with Immigration Status Issues: Services and Challenges*Shakespeare*

Francis Hare, Director
MA Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University
Ronal Ibarra, Child Protection Immigration Specialist
Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Services, Catholic Children's Aid Society
Toronto, Ontario
francis.hare@ryerson.ca

Children in the welfare system with immigration status issues share needs and challenges that differentiate them from other children in care. Immigration status profoundly affects permanency, educational attainment, housing, and employment opportunities for these children and youth. Child protection agencies are attempting to understand the issues and advocate for appropriate policies. In this session, the presenters describe a coordinated project among service providers in Ontario and the set of policy recommendations that will emerge from the work. Also discussed are ways in which international conventions can be used as advocacy tools on behalf of the young and vulnerable immigrant populations. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (cont.)**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#23 Caring for Limited English Proficiency Older Adults*Marta Pereyra*, Executive Director

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly (CLESE), Chicago, IL

Naoko Muramatsu, Associate Professor of Public Health

University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

*Edgewater**15th Floor*

CLESE is a unique coalition of agencies serving immigrant, refugee, and migrant older adults. In this session, the presenters discuss a study jointly conducted by CLESE and UIC School of Public Health which identifies unique challenges that ethnic providers face during the economic downturn. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**RECEPTION***Wolf Point Ballroom*

Entertainment provided by:

UJIMA Youth Drumming Ensemble

Ujima, the Pan-African Association's Youth Drumming Ensemble, is comprised entirely by refugee youth between the ages of 8 – 18. Ujima is led by Donald Dorcilus, a Master Drummer and singer from Haiti. Donald's talent as a professional musician is well known locally and internationally.

and

Yaasha Abraham

Yaasha Abraham has been teaching and performing traditional Ethiopian dance in public schools and venues throughout Chicago for five years. Yaasha educates her students and audiences about the diversity, richness, and beauty of Ethiopian culture through music and dance. She has worked to further understand other cultures of the African Diaspora in her role as Director of Educational Programming/Youth Outreach with "Planeta Azul Brazilian Entertainment Group."

8:30 a.m.

**REGISTRATION
and
Continental Breakfast**

Sauganash Grand Ballroom

West Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME

Sauganash Grand Ballroom

*Edwin B. Silverman, Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services
Sue Barauski, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center*

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#24 Documentary Screening – *Trust: Second Acts in Young Lives*

Lake House

*Joseph Lenti, MSW Student
Chicago State University, Chicago, IL
Shea Anderson, Mental Health Clinical Practitioner
Heartland Allinace, International FACES, Chicago, IL
jlenti@csu.edu*

TRUST tells the story of Marlin, an 18-year-old *Hondureña* who shares the oft-traumatic story of her life with peers at Chicago’s Albany Park Theater Project. Together, they transform the story into a daring, original play. *TRUST* engages immigration, child sexual abuse, and the transformative power of art. A brief discussion/Q & A follows this film. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#25 Systems Change Initiatives for Addressing
Health and Disability Needs of Refugees**

Western Stage House

*Mansha Mizra, Institute for Healthcare Studies
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
mansha-mizra@u.northwestern.edu
Rene David Luna, Access Living, Chicago, IL
Steve Brunton, Chinese Mutual Aid, Chicago, IL
Rooshey Hasnain, Department of Disability and Human Development
Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
Jae Jin Pak, Community Council Centers/Quetzal Center, Chicago, IL
Edwin B. Silverman, Refugee and Immigrant Services
Illinois Department of Health and Human Services, Chicago, IL
Jing Zhang, Community Health Programs, Asian Health Services, Chicago, IL*

In response to a growing number of refugees with disabilities, mental health issues, and chronic health conditions, a panel of presenters in this session address refugees’ access to health/disability services and relevant policy and systems-change initiatives. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#26 Sex Roles and Conflict among Refugee and Immigrant Families in the U.S.*The Bull's Head*

Fonkem Achankeng I, Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, WI

Increasing numbers of refugee and immigrant families experience break up in the early years of arrival in America. Many members of these families become very needy and vulnerable. In this session, the presenter explores cultural values and sex role-related conflict experiences within some immigrant families from a traditional society as the immigrant families experience mainstream American culture. The session also sheds light on an indigenous culture and argues that a feminist consciousness and reversal of sex roles in the new host culture are not necessarily incompatible with marriage. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#27 WORLD: Working with Our Refugees to Learn with their Differences*Merchants*

Kerry Haupt, *Mark Keenum*
Northside Independent School District
San Antonio, TX
hopykl@hotmail.com
Mark.keenum@nisd.net

In this session, the presenters offer a variety of ideas and skills to help staff working with refugee students and families gain a better understanding of how to assist children acclimate to their newly-adopted homeland. Included in the presentation are ways to help students successfully acquire English along with easing the transition into an American school setting. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#28 Working with Funders from Start to Finish*Steamboat*

Diane Pecoraro, Independent Consultant/ESL and Adult Education
St. Louis Park, MN
depecoraro@aol.com

In this session, the presenter, a long-time grant maker, discusses strategies for grant writing; responding to Requests for Proposals (RFPs); communicating with program monitors; keeping budgets on track; and handling reporting requirements. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (cont.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#29 Chicago Refugee Employment Workforce (CREW): Collaborative Works!*American House**Michael Hornbaker*, Employment Coordinator

World Relief Chicago, Chicago, IL

Mahendra Kafle, Job Developer

Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Stacey Tsubulsky, Job Developer, RefugeeOne, Chicago, IL

For the past two years, CREW worked to increase employment opportunities for refugees in Chicago. In this session, CREW members lead a discussion on the advantages of inter-agency collaboration, applied to job development and successfully building and maintaining employer relations. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#30 Identifying and Training Leaders in Refugee and Immigrant Communities*Shakespeare**Maya Gumirov*, Coordinator, Family Strengthening and Mentoring Project

Jewish Child and Family Services, Arlington Heights, IL

In this session, the presenter shares her expertise on how identifying and training leaders who have demonstrated culturally appropriate leadership abilities can benefit the community at large. The presenter explores the cultural aspects of mentoring and provides tools for identifying and training refugee and immigrant community leaders along with how to measure the mentoring relationship outcome. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#31 Facilitating Adjustment and Recognition: Using Refugee Families and Youth Videos*Lake House**Dani Abrams*, Training & Curriculum Development Specialist

Cultural Orientation Resource (COR) Center

Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC

dabrams@cal.org

This video theater presentation allows attendees to view *A New Day* and *Be Who You Are*, the COR Center's videos on refugee families and youth. Featuring vignettes of the experience of refugee families and youth, topics include family adjustment, discipline, school and home life, and learning English. The videos are excellent for both refugee orientation and for building community awareness, particularly within schools. The presentation also includes a discussion of how to use *Connecting Diverse Cultures*, a teachers' companion guide to the videos. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#32 Building Program Capacity in Challenging Times*Western Stage House**Burna L. Dunn, Director, Workforce Services**Myrna Ann Adkins, CEO/President**Peter Janssen, COO/CFO*

Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO

bdunn@springinstitute.org

Many organizations are moving away from their comfort zone and usual mode of business for economic survival. In this session, the presenters examine how an analytical tool, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats), can assist nonprofit organizations to refocus or redefine strategic partnerships and directions that might be pursued and the changes in organizational culture that might be required. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#33 Got It! Creating an Internet Collaboration for Multilingual Health Information*The Bull's Head**Celine V. Woznica, Director of Programs*

Asian Health Coalition, Chicago, IL

Lisa Massengale, Medical Librarian

University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

In this session, the presenters feature two innovative collaborations to research and share multilingual health information: the *Asian Partnership Against Pandemic Flu* and the *Touch Technology Multilingual Health Information Project*. Participants become acquainted with these entities and learn how to evaluate health information available over the Internet. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#34 Engaging Refugee Parents in K-12 Youth Education*Merchants**Lisa Bright, Community Education Coordinator**Bhuwan Pyakurel, Refugee Community Navigator*

Colorado African Organization (CAO), Denver, CO

lisab@caoden.org

CAO presents a community-based practice model in which refugee community members are empowered to take leadership roles within their communities as “Community Navigators” in order to strengthen partnerships between schools and refugee parents, to engage refugee parents in youth education, and to strengthen student and family welfare within the U.S. public education system. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#35 The Fresh Food Initiative: The First Four Seasons*Steamboat*

Holly A. Chaille, Director
Catherine Casper Place, Fort Wayne, IN
Amy Phillips, Assistant Professor of Social Work
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
amy.phillips@email.und.edu

For thousands of refugees living in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the ability to grow, consume, and sell fresh produce is critical for quality of life. Learn how this initiative is structured, funded, and addresses chronic health issues, poverty, joblessness, and ethnic integration, and puts food on the table. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

#36 Reconnecting Families and Providing Disaster Education through Partnerships*American House*

Emma Ratajczak, Coordinator
Disaster and International Services, American Red Cross, Chicago, IL
RatajczakE@usa.redcross.org

The confusion and chaos surrounding armed conflict and disasters often separates families just when they need each other most. To compound the situation, refugees and immigrants may experience difficulty in understanding their new community. The American Red Cross' Restoring Family Links and Community Disaster Education programs can help them overcome these obstacles. In this session, participants gain the information and tools needed to cultivate partnerships between their local American Red Cross and refugee resettlement agencies. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#37 Introducing Therapeutic Concepts into Refugee Case Management*Shakespeare*

Joan Hodges, Lead Case Manager
Program of Survivors of Torture and Severe Trauma
Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS)-Multicultural Human Services
Falls Church, VA
jhodges@nvfs.org

In this session, the presenter offers service providers practical ways to introduce therapeutic concepts into refugee case management. Utilizing a psychosocial perspective, participants discuss the benefit of an integrated approach and learn specific ideas in which case managers can address refugee mental health needs at the intrapsychic, interpersonal, and socio-political levels. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

LUNCH

*Sauganash Ballroom***KEYNOTE ADDRESS***Poet Fbm Fidel M. Nshombo*

Boise, Idaho

Make Ignorance A Crime

Fidel Nshombo spent his adolescence embroiled in the conflict of the Congo. He arrived in the United States as a refugee three years ago. Now he is trying to educate others on the psychological toll of life in a war-torn country, how uncertainty and prejudice make refugees struggle and lose faith. In his address, Fidel will describe his “path from a loyal citizen of a peaceful Congo to a refugee in several camps and cities in countries around the world.”

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**#38 Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) Initiatives:
Assisting Burmese Refugees in Indianapolis***Lake House**Elaisa Vahnje, Executive Director*

BACI, Indianapolis, IN

velaisa@umail.iu.edu

In this session, participants learn how a collaborative effort between leaders of the Burmese community, local organizations, and community partners have pooled their expertise and resources to develop and sustain programs that will provide the potential to contribute not only to their own community growth, but also to Indiana’s long-term economic growth. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#39 Legal Issues Facing Refugees*Western Stage House**Jonathan Tabor, Resource Development Specialist*

Heartland Alliance, Chicago, IL

Newly arrived refugees face a complex legal system upon their arrival in the United States. Non-lawyer service providers frequently must advise refugees regarding their legal rights and responsibilities. In this session, the presenter discusses how and when to provide legal advice to refugees and what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#40 Bridging the Gap between Refugee Mental Health and Culture Adjustment*The Bull's Head*

Justin Nsenga, Refugee Mental Health Program Specialist
Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
jnsenga@ccdofw.org

The Refugee Mental Health and Culture Adjustment program is a pilot project initiated by Catholic Charities of Fort Worth to help refugees adjust to the American culture. This program uses natural leaders from the communities to train community support groups. The Cultural Ambassadors (natural community leaders) are trained by a Catholic Charities mental health professional. In this session, the presenter outlines the objectives and the outcomes of this program, its sustainability, and how it can be replicated. Also, the presenter underlines how this program aims at resolving common issues within refugee communities. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#41 Wipe the Tears, Erase the Fears, and Provide the Gears*Merchants*

Hanan Matari, Bilingual Educator
Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL

In this session, the presenter teaches strategies to reach the whole refugee child using best practices that meet and promote the educational, emotional, and social needs of these students. The presentation focuses on strategies that develop reading and writing skills using differentiated instruction and mini lessons, as well as techniques to increase parental involvement. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

#42 From All Alone to Safely Home: Mitigating Risk Factors*Steamboat*

Dawnya Underwood, Assistant Director for Family Reunification
Julia Prickett, Child Specialist
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, MD

Children migrating alone, with or without immigration status, are vulnerable. Many have experienced maltreatment, homelessness, civil war, and witnessed severe forms of violence in their home countries. How does a community care for a child likely to have significant trauma history, mental health issues, and behavioral problems? How does our nation cope with this responsibility? This presentation describes risk factors threatening child well-being throughout the migration and acculturation processes. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*

**#43 National Aging Network Services
for Older Adults and Family Caregivers**

American House

*Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration on Aging, Chicago, IL*

Do you work with persons over age 60? Grandparents raising their grandchildren? Family members who are helping their elderly parents or other older family members? Come to this session to learn about the National Aging Network and how you can connect older people and family caregivers to available nutrition, health promotion, in-home, and other assistance. *This session is appropriate for new staff, as indicated by the presenters.*

**#44 Working with Pre-Literate Populations:
A Challenge or an Opportunity?**

Shakespeare

*Brant R. Dykehouse, Coordinator
Illinois Refugee Life Skills Project, Jewish Child and Family Services
Chicago, IL*

Drawing from his co-authored work, *Life-Skills Education for Pre-Literate Populations: A Facilitator's Toolkit*, the presenter shares fundamental theory and possible pitfalls in working with pre-literate populations, then leads the group through a relevant exercise that will apply to the populations with which participant learners work. *This session is appropriate for new or experienced staff, as indicated by the presenter.*



CPDU Credit Available

- Who?** CPDU credits are applicable to Illinois K-12 certified teachers who have a current professional development plan.
- How?** Stop by the registration desk at the end of the day and pick up the forms. Please note that there is a separate form for each day; you will be given Monday's form on Monday and Tuesday's form on Tuesday.

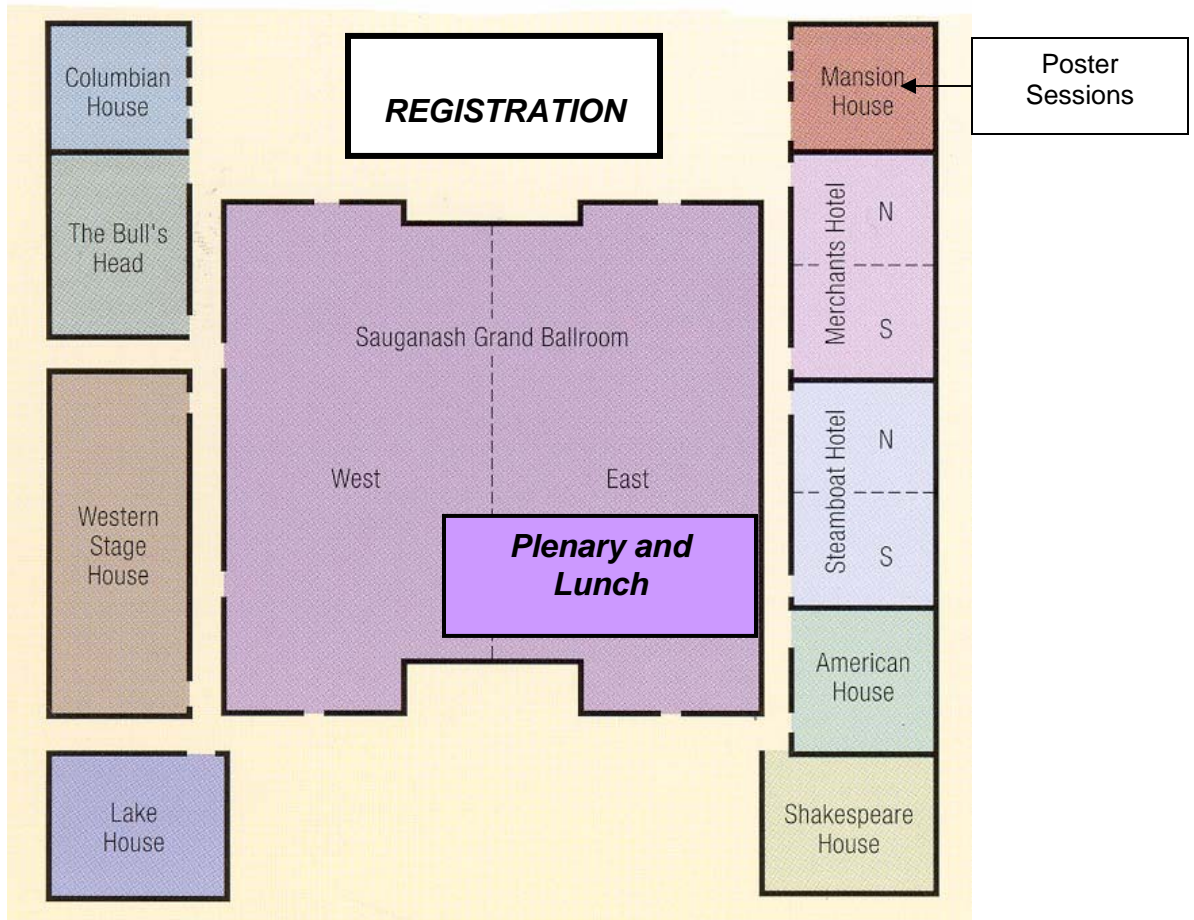
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