2014 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference

Issues and Innovations

Thursday-Friday, October 23-24, 2014
Holiday Inn Chicago-Mart Plaza
Chicago, IL
2014 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference:
Issues and Innovations

is a collaboration of:

- The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
- Chicago Public Schools
- Heartland International
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- RefugeeOne
- World Relief Chicago

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**CPDU* Credit Available**

**Who?** CPDU credits are available for those who need them for required professional development hours, i.e., 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 Thursday’s form only on Thursday and Friday’s form only on Friday.

*Note: Only CPDUs; CE hours are not available for this conference.*

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**Reduced Parking Fee Coupons for Conference Commuters**

Tickets for the Holiday Inn parking lot can be validated for a discount rate of $15 at the Holiday Inn front desk on the 15th floor any time during the conference.
October 23, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2014 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations. Thanks to the funding support of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Illinois State Board of Education and the Chicago Public Schools, we are pleased that Illinois continues to be able to host this conference as an annual opportunity to learn and exchange ideas among policy makers and practitioners working to meet the needs for refugees and immigrants. Organizing a conference of this scale is never an easy task. We are grateful to the conference planning committee, keynote speakers and presenters who ensure that this conference will be a quality learning experience for everyone.

Immigrant and refugee admission policy continues to be a topic of great importance at the national level. Over the last few months, the plight of an unexpected high number of Central American children seeking asylum in the U.S. has generated even greater attention from the public and challenges for immigrant and refugee stakeholders.

At the state and local level, however, Illinois has demonstrated again and again that we are a welcoming community to immigrants and refugees. Both Governor Quinn and Mayor Emanuel have expressed their interest in assisting the federal government to meet the needs of immigrant children coming to the U.S. They have also supported initiatives to improve successful integration of immigrants and refugees who have made Illinois and Chicago their new home.

Illinois community organizations and public institutions continue to demonstrate innovations and sophistication in improving self-sufficiency and civic integration outcomes for immigrant and refugees. Most notable is the collaboration among multiple organizations willing to make the time necessary to leverage talents and resources through partnerships.

We are pleased that there will be an opportunity at this conference to honor Dr. Edwin Silverman who has served as the chief of the Illinois Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services over the last 38 years. Dr. Silverman has been the trail blazer who helped build many successful programs that consistently put Illinois in the national spotlight. We are grateful for his leadership and years of service to improve the lives of refugees and immigrants.

Thank you for making time from your busy schedule to attend this conference. Please make the most of this gathering. Share your knowledge and make new friends.

Sincerely,

Ngoan Le, Chief
Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services
Division of Family and Community Services
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

October 2014

For their work on planning this conference, 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
Heidi Dessecker, World Relief Chicago
Judith Diamond, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
Mary Lynn Everson, Heartland Alliance
Kongit Girma, Chicago Public Schools
Erin Hantke, Heartland Health Outreach
Rooshey Hasnain, University of Illinois at Chicago
Amy Hill, RefugeeOne
Sherry Johnson, Sherry Joseph Johnson Consulting Services
Nicola Lancki, Illinois Department of Public Health
Brigid McClelland, Chicago Public Schools
David González Nieto, Illinois State Board of Educations
Lynn Osheff, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center
Beth Robinson, Illinois State Board of Education
Helen Sweitzer, RefugeeOne
Jamie van Wagtendonk, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Implementation of the conference plan would not be possible without the fiscal support of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, administrator of the Illinois Refugee Social Services Consortium, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Chicago Public Schools. We appreciate the 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 Julie Koffend.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>Efficacy of Treatment for Survivors of Torture: Heartland Alliance</td>
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<td>Super ELL: Teaching ELL Students to Succeed through Social,</td>
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<td>Living in Cultural Diaspora: A Phenomenological Study of Cultural</td>
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<td>Professional Development and High-Skilled Immigrants and</td>
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**Thursday, October 23, 2014**

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**

**#20** Health Reach: Multi-Lingual, Multi-Cultural Health Information for Providers and Their Consumers ................................................................. *Lake House*

**#21** Breaking the Silence through Storytelling: Scenes from *Unbroken Glass,* a Documentary Work-in-Progress and Discussion .................................................. *Western Stage*

**#22** Lessons Learned Working with High-Skilled Immigrants and Refugees ................................................................. *The Bull’s Head*

**#23** ORR’s Discretionary Programs .................................................................... *Merchants*

**#24** Educational Technology Resources for English Language Learners ......................... *Steamboat*

**#25** Bringing Our Students’ Languages and Cultures to the Foreground .......................... *American House*

**#26** Rights-based Participation of Children in Issues that Affect Them ............................... *Shakespeare*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

**#27** The Journey North: Unaccompanied Immigrant Children and Advocacy for Best Interests......................................................... *Lake House*

**#28** Refugee Students with Interrupted Education: Programs to Help Them Achieve Success ................................................................. *Western Stage*

**#29** Orientation to U.S. Law: Most Common Questions from Newly Arrived Refugees ................................................................. *The Bull’s Head*

**#30** Promoting Health Among Migrants to the U.S. and Russia .................................................. *Merchants*

**#31** Marketing the Value of Your Services to Employers ................................................................. *Steamboat*

**#32** Newcomers Come with Stories to Share ................................................................... *American House*

**#33** Lost in Translation: Cross-Cultural Substance Abuse Communication with Refugee Communities ..... *Shakespeare*

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch ....................................................................................... *Sauganash Grand Ballroom*

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

**#34** Moving Iraqi Refugee Women through Identity, Empowerment and Trauma Recovery ......................................................... *Lake House*

**#35** It Makes Cents: Connecting Non-Profits and Minority-Owned Businesses to a Talented, Untapped Disabled Workforce ................................................................. *Western Stage*

**#36** Cultural Orientation for Refugees: Building Community Partnerships ................................................................. *The Bull’s Head*

**#37** Summer Learning Opportunities for Newcomer Families ............................................................................. *Merchants*

**#38** Integrating Music Helps Improve Literacy Skills of English Language Learners ............................................................................. *Steamboat*

**#39** A Toolkit for Educators to Support Refugees and Immigrants with Foreign Credentials ............................................................................. *Shakespeare*
Thursday, October 23, 2014

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Posters will be exhibited during both days of the conference.

TABLE 1  **If It Is Meant to Be, Let It Be**
*Huaibo Xin*, Assistant Professor  
*David Cluphf*, Professor  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL  
*Ajlina Karamalic-Muratovic*, Assistant Professor  
St. Louis University, St Louis, MO

This display details a qualitative study to explore and understand how Bosnian refugees, resettled in Greater St Louis, receive, process, and potentially respond to natural disaster warnings in order to identify a community-based participatory approach that can be implemented to improve risk communication among Bosnian refugees in preparation for a natural disaster.

TABLE 2  **Yale RULER Emotional Intelligences Programming for Refugee Youth**
*Sunny Jonas*, Youth Services Specialist  
World Relief Aurora/DuPage, Wheaton, IL

Utilizing the Illinois State Social-Emotional standards, Yale RULER is a curricular format that supports refugee youth at World Relief DuPage/Aurora for psychosocial development and leadership skills. Title I (low income) and Title III (minority language education) federal funding sources as well as public school K-12 partnerships for refugee youth are the target groups for this poster presentation.

TABLE 3  **Decreasing Health Care Disparities in a Pediatric Hospital**
*Clelia Dompe*, Ambulatory Services Manager  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, IL  
[cdompe@luriechildrens.org](mailto:cdompe@luriechildrens.org)

This poster will describe the comprehensive structure Lurie Children’s Hospital has developed to support their culturally diverse patient population; especially, their Latino patients and families.

TABLE 4  **Know Your Rights: Access to Health Care and Social Services**
*Abby Bonjean*, Investigator  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, Chicago, IL  
[Abby.Bonjean@hhs.gov](mailto:Abby.Bonjean@hhs.gov)

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enforces federal laws that prohibit discrimination by health care and human service providers. This exhibit will help participants learn about the specific laws which OCR enforces and how to file a complaint with OCR.
Posters will be exhibited during both days of the conference.

**TABLE 5  FirstSteps Press: Resources for Refugees and Those Who Serve Them**  
*Jessica Jensen*, Program Director  
Exodus World Services, Bloomingdale, IL  

If you or your organization serves refugees, FirstSteps Press is for you. FirstSteps provides visually-unique, research-based materials that educate refugees and equip those who serve them. FirstSteps Press materials stand apart because they are specially designed to increase the speed and effectiveness of information absorption. Visit this display and learn more.

**TABLE 6  Refugee Populations in Contemporary United States: Perspective of an Educator**  
*Loveleen Sharma-Chopra*, ESOL Instructor  
Parma Adult Education Dept./International Services Center, Parma OH  
loveleensharmachopra@gmail.com  

Refugee families tread through several hardships as they adjust to their new culture. This exhibit deals with the perspective of an educator in an ESOL program and how all the challenges and hardships may interfere in the ability of gaining proficiency in a new language to assimilate in their host country.

**TABLE 7  2014 at the Global Garden Refugee Training Farm in Chicago**  
*Linda Seyler*, Farm Manager/Director  
Global Garden Refugee Training Farm, Montgomery, IL  

This poster session demonstrates how 100 refugee families have turned a vacant lot in Chicago into a garden where they grow fresh, organic vegetables for home consumption and sale. Participating farmers harvest fresh ingredients for traditional recipes, learn about urban commercial vegetable production in a cold climate, and earn supplemental income through sale of produce to local businesses.
This year’s National Refugee and Immigrant Conference occurs at a time of unprecedented division in the Congress over immigration policy and with many immigrants and refugees continuing to struggle to find their footing in state and local economies hit hard by the Great Recession. Despite the deadlock in national politics around immigration reform, plenary speaker—Margie McHugh, Director of the Migration Policy Institute’s National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy—sees new opportunities ahead for the rapidly evolving integration field. Her plenary address will focus on key policy issues at stake in the immigration debate, integration sub-fields that are ripe for progress, and ways in which lessons from local integration know-how and experiences can be leveraged to heal the bitter divide over immigration, leading to a system better adapted to today’s challenges and tomorrow’s needs.
#1 Here They Come! Syrian Refugees  
*Suzanne Ahkras Sahloul, Founder/Executive Director  
Syrian Resource Network, Burr Ridge, IL*

As Syrian Refugees and Asylees resettle and immigrate to the U.S., cultural awareness programs and orientation is deemed necessary to social service workers, resettlement agencies, educators and various community entities. In order to best serve the needs refugees and asylees, cultural understanding needs to be established. *This session is appropriate for both new and experienced staff.*

#2 Efficacy of Treatment for Survivors of Torture:  
*Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center  
Martin Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Research and Evaluation  
Mary Lynn Everson, Senior Director  
Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center, Chicago, IL*

Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center has been providing treatment to survivors of torture since 1987 and robustly tracking and measuring participant progress since 2010. By assessing participants’ functioning across several domains, we are able to demonstrate program efficacy and provide the best model of care possible. *This session is appropriate for both new and experienced staff.*

#3 Social Enterprise as an Employment Strategy  
*Peter Janssen, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer  
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO*

Social enterprises are the latest attempt in the nonprofit industry to diversify funding and find additional sources of revenue. The presenter looks at some social enterprise business models, how to write a business plan that attracts funders and investors, and how a social enterprise can benefit and support an organization’s mission beyond revenue generation. Presentation example: Spring Institute is working on a social enterprise as an employment strategy. *This session is appropriate for both new and experienced staff.*

#4 Super ELL: Teaching ELL Students to Succeed Through Social, Emotional Learning  
*Mawi Asgedom, Founder, Mawi Learning, Chicago, IL  
Sarah Quintenz, ELL Teacher, Sullivan High School, Chicago, IL*

In this session, the presenters (a former refugee and founder of Mawi Learning and a high school ELL teacher) will discuss the unique challenges confronting ELL students and how teaching social, emotional learning, and non-cognitive skill building can transform the academic and life-long outcomes for those students. The presenters will draw on personal experiences of working with schools to implement social, emotional learning and the classroom partnership with Mawi Learning. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff.*
#5 Rights of Immigrant Students  
**Irma Snopek,** Assistant General Council  
Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago, IL

This session informs participants about the legal rights of immigrant students to receive a free public education. It will explain how Illinois has implemented this requirement to ensure school districts adhere to the law. The presenter will also discuss the rights of immigrant students under the McKinney-Vento Act. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff.*

#6 ACA 201: Reflections on Year One and Enrollment Lessons Learned  
**Nadeen Isreal,** Policy Director  
EverThrive Illinois, Chicago, IL  
**Laura Mendoza,** Refugee and Immigrant Community Services Counselor  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago, IL

In this session, the presenters will provide an updated look at the implementation of the Health Care Reform Law. They will also discuss the experiences and lessons learned relative to refugees and immigrants from year one of the Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment period in Illinois. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*

LUNCH  
Sauganash Grand Ballroom

**Lunchtime Networking Opportunity**

If you would like to sit at a lunch table with a topic for discussion, some tables will be marked with signs for the following topics:

1. Employment Best Practices and Job Retention  
2. Working with New Refugee Populations  
3. Unaccompanied Alien Children  
4. Housing/Recruiting Landlords  
5. Agency Advocacy  
6. Serving Preschool and Kindergarten  
7. School Readiness  
8. School Transitions  
9. Family Generation Gaps  
10. Best Practices in Mental Health  
11. Health Issues  
12. Youth and Gangs  
13. Refugee Women
#7 Alternative Approaches to Mental Health and Wellness for Refugees  
*Lake House*  
*Kelly Yotebieng*, Refugee Wellness Coordinator  
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS), Columbus, OH

In this session, the presenter details a project to address the mental health needs of newly arriving refugees over the first three months of their transition period. This program has integrated culturally appropriate wellness solutions in addition to screening and strengths-based case management as an opportunity to expand a community of wellness. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*

#8 It Takes a Community to Integrate an Immigrant: How San Francisco Welcomes Newcomers  
*Western Stage*  
*Clarisa Sanchez*, Associate Director of Policy and Legislation, City and County of San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, San Francisco, CA

The focus of this session will be on the collaborative efforts in San Francisco that help immigrants navigate services while highlighting the importance of stepping outside of our agency roles and into capacity building within our communities. By doing so, we can more effectively identify means by which we can best collaborate in assisting newcomers and immigrants rebuild their lives. The importance of applying for permanent residence and citizenship will also be discussed. *This session is appropriate for new staff.*

#9 Female Genital Cutting: Health and Psychosocial Consequences of a Cultural Practice  
*The Bull’s Head*  
*Joanna Vergoth*, Executive Director  
Forma, Chicago, IL

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is an ancient practice involving the full or partial removal of a girl’s external genitals. It serves no medical purpose and poses a global public health concern. Almost 140 million women in the world today, including the U.S., are living with the consequences of FGM/C. In this session, the presenter will introduce and discuss FGM/C, define the terms used, and describe the four types as delineated by the World Health Organization. The presenter will focus not only on the physical and medical aftereffects, but on the multiple traumatic psychological and psychosexual consequences that many women suffer from during their lifetimes. *This session is appropriate for new staff.*

#10 Parent-Kinder Family Literacy Workshop Program  
*Merchants*  
*Ilyse Leland*, Director of ELL  
*Grace Davila*, Kindergarten Educator  
Cicero School District 99, Cicero, IL

In this session, the presenters will demonstrate a supplemental program created by a kindergarten teacher to increase student literacy by teaching and demonstrating specific strategies/tools to parents. Program rationale, recruitment of families, sources of funding, and sample lessons will be shared. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*
#11 Marshaling Community Resources: Effective and Sustainable University-Refugee Community Partnerships
Amelia Armitage, Head Program Coordinator
Katya Barrett, Tutor
Brown University-B.R.Y.T.E., Providence, RI
Alan Flam, Director of Advising and Community Collaborations
Swearer Center for Public Service, Brown University, Providence, RI

Brown Refugee Youth Tutoring and Enrichment (B.R.Y.T.E.)—a one-on-one, in-home tutoring program run through the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University and in collaboration with Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island—pairs 135 Brown students with recently resettled refugee youth with the goal of promoting academic success and cultural literacy through long-term relationships between tutor and tutee. Learn about logistics of this model program, ways to sustainably replicate it, and successes of a partnership between Brown University and Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

#12 Cultural Literacy and Awareness Workshop
Filtod Walker, Educational Consultant
Chicago, IL

In this interactive session, the presenter will describe the stages of cultural understanding (often referred to as culture shock) along with the five key differences between cultures. Through discussing these important cultural touchstones, participants gain an increased awareness that helps improve their communication, ability to teach, and ability to learn from other cultures. This session is appropriate for new staff.

#13 The Bundled Service Model: An Innovative Approach to Immigrant Job Readiness
Matthew Maronick, Adjunct Professor/PhD Candidate
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

The presenter will discuss innovative approaches developed by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and supported by the Anne E. Casey Foundation to alleviate financial dislocations and employment destabilizations within the immigrant and minority community. The presenter discusses this bundled service model and highlights its potential effectiveness within the Latino immigrant community. In terms of learning objectives, participants will get a window into the accumulated outcomes of the research in its current state. Learning opportunities will also include knowledge drawn from the examination of case studies and comparative work in the field.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. BREAK
### #14 Conflict and Peacemaking Across Cultures

Issam Smeir, Clinical Director  
World Relief, Chicago, IL

In this session, the presenter will share case studies that will shed a light on the different approaches used by different cultures of people who live in the United States and aim to raise awareness about one’s own values, communication style and patterns in handling conflicts. This insight might be essential for counselors, caseworkers, health care providers, administrators, employment counselors and others who work with clients from different cultures. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*

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### #15 Living in Cultural Diaspora: A Phenomenological Study of Cultural Loss

Anne Slanina, PreDoctoral Intern  
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Hazard, KY

In this session, the presenter illustrates culturally responsible research done within the refugee community, specifically Iraqi refugees. The mental health implications of cultural loss for Iraqis will be identified, with the aim of depathologizing the refugee experience. Recommendations are provided for mental health professionals on providing culturally competent clinical care to Iraqi refugees.

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### #16 Professional Development and High-Skilled Immigrants and Refugees: Developing the Skills to Compete

Benjamin Harris, Educational Case Manager for Colorado Welcome Back  
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO

Highly educated immigrants and refugees have the added hurdle of being expected to know how to compete for higher-level jobs. This session will discuss methods to cultivate resume writing, interview, and professional communication skills with highly-trained immigrants and refugees to better prepare them for competitive jobs. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*

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### #17 Newcomer Programs: Supports for New Arrivals

Brenda Custodio, Consultant  
Newcomer and ELL Services, Reynoldsburg, OH

This session will focus on the process of creating a program for new arrivals for students at the middle and high school level. The session will look at the history of newcomer programs and how to create a program that best meets the needs of your school/district. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff.*
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (cont.) CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#18 Advocate from Within: From Refugee Resettlement to a Board of Education

Laura Gardner, ELL Family & Community Outreach Manager
Jaclyn Muñoz, Bilingual Family & Community Outreach Facilitator
Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis, MD

Many service providers spend their careers working with refugee or immigrant families through non-profits, while others work with such families exclusively in the public schools. The two systems often try to collaborate, but fail to understand each other’s priorities, funding streams, and jargon. Come and discuss this topic with a social worker who has worked with both systems. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

#19 Adult Basic Education for English Language Learners

Katie Neginskiy, Supervisor of English Language Training
Stephen Rodgers, Supervisor of Refugee English Language Training
Heartland Alliance-Refugee and Immigrant Community Services, Chicago, IL

This presentation will offer insight into Adult Basic Education for English Language Learners. We will discuss why such classes are needed, how they can best be implemented, and what the challenges are. We will also demonstrate some effective teaching tools and lesson ideas for the ABE classroom. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

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

Join your colleagues for beverages, refreshments and networking!
CELEBRATING
EDWIN SILVERMAN

To honor his years of dedicated services, join us for a tribute and celebration of Edwin Silverman’s 38 years of guiding and shaping the refugee resettlement program and immigrant integration in Illinois.

Edwin Silverman received his bachelor's degree from Purdue University and his doctorate from Northwestern University. He has been employed by the State of Illinois since 1973 and administered the Illinois Refugee Resettlement Program as the State Refugee Coordinator. The program most recently has been part of the Illinois Department of Human Services, where he administered it as the Chief of the Bureau of Refugee & Immigrant Services, and in 2010 was a recipient of the Department’s Platinum Gem Service Award which recognizes employees who provide platinum customer service by going the extra mile.

He actively participated in the development of program and policy at the federal level, and contributed to the drafting of the Refugee Act. He was President Emeritus and on the Executive Board for SCORR, the national affiliation of State Coordinators of Refugee Resettlement. In 2010 he received a Lifetime Commitment Award from the Office of Refugee Resettlement for his life-long commitment to the field and many contributions in shaping refugee resettlement programs and professionals over the years. He also received the Assistant Secretary's Public Service Award from DHHS and was one of five national recipients in 1995 of the American Society for Public Administration's National Public Service Award, and received an award from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Numerous local organizations have recognized him for his contributions to their specific communities and refugees as a whole.

In addition, he contributed to the development of Immigrant Integration programs in Illinois. Under his leadership, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights was formed in 1986; the first state-funded citizenship initiative was established in 1995; and a network of multi-lingual case management services was formed in 1999. From 2003 until 2011, he chaired the Advisory Council for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, appointed by Mayor Daley.
While the nation debates how to reform its immigration policies, Midwest leaders in all fields are recognizing the immigration impact in their local communities and the role they must play in shaping policy. These leaders are launching new initiatives that leverage immigrant contributions to economic competitiveness, social diversity, and community renewal. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs’ immigration initiative is providing public education and shaping discussions on the impact of immigration in the Midwest.

ORR Updates
ORR/DRS Director Ron Munia provides an update on ORR’s discretionary programs.

Health Reach (formally Refugee Health Information Network, RHIN) is a national collaboration that enables health care providers access to information that is linguistically and culturally appropriate for their work with non English speaking consumers. Participants in this session will learn how to navigate the website to find information as well as learn how to share quality health information for inclusion on Health Reach. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#21  Breaking the Silence through Storytelling: Scenes from Unbroken Glass, a Documentary Work-in-Progress and Discussion
Western Stage
Rooshey Hasanain, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor
Jae Jin Pak, Visiting Research Associate
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Dinesh Sabu, Filmmaker, Producer and Director
Aruna Jha, Social Work Clinical Administrator
Hines Veterans Administration Hospital, Hines, IL

Mental health issues in South Asian communities have received only sporadic attention and public discussion. This session uses a real-life narrative so that participants can examine critical family and cultural factors faced by South Asians living with mental illness. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

#22  Lessons Learned Working with High-Skilled Immigrants and Refugees
The Bull’s Head
Benjamin Harris, Educational Case Manager for Colorado Welcome Back
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO

In this session, the presenter will discuss strategies on how to work with internationally educated immigrants and refugees, including common pitfalls and problems in researching and navigating licensing/certification procedures. He will also look at methods on how to create individual career plans and through case studies talk about the determinates of success. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

#23  ORR’s Discretionary Programs
Merchants
Ronald Munia, Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement, Division of Refugee Services, Washington DC

Director Munia will provide an update on ORR’s discretionary programs including: Microenterprise Development, Home Based Child Care, Preferred Communities, Individual Development Accounts, Ethnic Self-Help and the Matching Grant programs. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

#24  Educational Technology Resources for English Language Learners
Steamboat
Korah Winn, ELL Coach Teacher
Rock Island School District #41, Moline, IL

This session will demonstrate a variety of educational technology resources available to help you teach your students. Smart phones, laptops, and tablets are welcomed in this session. The presenter will also discuss how to incorporate into your lessons many of the resources found on her web page: tizmos.com/ellclass. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.
#25 Bringing Our Students’ Languages and Cultures to the Foreground

Olivia Mulcahy, Education Specialist
Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights, IL

Honoring our students’ linguistic and cultural assets can have a powerful impact on their social-emotional development and academic success. Participants in this session will explore strategic ways to maximize the linguistic and cultural resources that our students bring to the ESL, multilingual and/or general education classroom. This session is appropriate for new staff.

#26 Rights-based Participation of Children in Issues that Affect Them

Celine Woznica, Director
Child-to-Child of the Americas, Oak Park, IL

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that children have a right to be heard and their opinions considered. This session reviews child participation as a fundamental human right and how organizations can examine structures and policies to assure that children’s voices are heard. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#27 The Journey North:
Unaccompanied Immigrant Children and Advocacy for Best Interests
Marisa Chumil, Social Worker
The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, Chicago, IL

This year the government projects more than 70,000 unaccompanied children will arrive in the U.S. All of these children are in deportation proceedings; most appear in court without an attorney. The Young Center is appointed to advocate for their best interests despite the absence of a best interests standard in immigration law. Participants will learn about unaccompanied immigrant children, the current trends, and their need for services in the community; the role of Child Advocates and the framework for best interests (in the absence of a best interests standard in the law); international home studies; and best interests recommendations developed pursuant to UNHCR guidelines. This session is appropriate for new staff.
Friday, October 24, 2014

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

#28 Refugee Students with Interrupted Education: Programs to Help Them Achieve Success
Jean D’Andrea, Language Acquisition Specialist
Tsuru Bailey-Jones, Director, Asian Pacific American Student Services
Tucson Unified School District, Tucson, AZ

This session will provide information on two programs to help students with interrupted education have success in school. The first program prepares high school students to take the state mandated tests for graduation, and the second is a reading and math program for 1st–3rd grade students and their parents. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

#29 Orientation to U.S. Law: The Most Common Questions from Newly Arrived Refugees
Peter Janssen, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver, CO

Newly arrived refugees in Colorado receive a centralized cultural orientation program, called “Road to Success.” In that program, some of the laws that most directly impact newly arrived refugees are presented and discussed. In this session, the presenter will review the most common questions and misconceptions encountered in these discussions. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

#30 Promoting Health Among Migrants to the U.S. and Russia
Donald Ziegler, Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor
School of Public Health & Center for Global Health
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

The U.S. and Russia receive the largest number of migrants. Experts from both countries collaborated to review 50 articles on migrant farmworkers in the U.S. and 42 articles on economic migrants in Russia to form strategies and practical recommendations focusing on social determinants, health issues and behaviors, and health systems. Participants in this session will be able to recognize, from a public health approach, the challenges of these migrants. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

#31 Marketing the Value of Your Services to Employers
Alex Ziskind, Program Associate
Chicago Jobs Council, Chicago, IL
Lisa Meyer, Business Services Representative
Inspiration Corporation, Chicago

Selling yourself and your clients to employers involves several steps and takes special skill. You have to be able to articulate the assets of your job seekers, quantify the value of your services, and respond to employer objections. The goal of this interactive session is to help job developers more effectively market themselves and their clients to employers. The presenters will discuss the difference between an asset versus deficit based pitch, quantify the value of job development services to an employer, and practice responding to employer objections. This session is appropriate for new staff.


CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (cont.)

#32 Newcomers Come with Stories to Share  
*American House*

_Elisabeth Trost-Shahata_, Bilingual-ESL Specialist  
Chicago Public Schools Office of Language and Cultural Education, Chicago, IL

This session will explore an understanding of ELL students who come to schools as newcomers. Student profiles will be used to introduce factors that help us identify academic as well as socio-emotional strengths and needs among newcomer students. _This session is appropriate for experienced staff._

#33 Lost in Translation: Cross-cultural Substance Abuse  
*Shakespeare*

_Communication with Refugee Communities_

_Mansha Mirza_, Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy  
_Hui-Ching Chang_, Associate Professor/Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of Communication  
_Elizabeth Harrison_, Doctoral Student  
_Corrina Simon_, Doctoral Student  
_University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL_

_Dina Birman_, Associate Professor of Educational and Psychological Studies  
_Director of the Community Well-Being PhD Program, University of Miami, Miami, FL_

_Sabah Almdehati_, Medical Interpreter, Chicago, IL  
_Chitra Gurung_, Disability and Human Development Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Many refugees in the U.S. experience mental health concerns that place them at high risk of substance abuse and dependence. This presentation addresses cross-cultural substance abuse communication with refugee communities. The session encompasses findings from focus group research with Iraqi and Bhutanese refugees and a participatory panel discussion with mental health professionals, interpreters, and a communication expert. _This session is appropriate for new staff._

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  
**LUNCH**  
_Sauganash Ballroom_

_Deborah Covington_

_Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago_

Introduction

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Dr. Zaher Sahloul**  
_President, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)_

_The Role of Diaspora:_  
_A Syrian American Immigrant Story_

Dr. Sahloul will discuss the role of the diaspora community in connecting their homeland with their adopted land, and the importance of civic engagement for immigrants and refugees._
#34 Moving Iraqi Refugee Women through Identity Empowerment and Trauma Recovery
*Rihab Yako,* Mental Health Clinician  
*Ashley Fargnoli,* Mental Health Clinician  
Heartland Health Outreach-International FACES, Chicago, IL

The goal of this presentation is to illuminate effective techniques to address trauma among Iraqi refugee women. The presenters will explore healthy coping strategies, mental and physical health practices; developing support systems; and processes for releasing fear, anxiety, and stress. The session will also include a movement-based experiential to demonstrate interventions utilized to foster safety and empowerment. *This session is appropriate for experienced staff.*

#35 It Makes Cents: Connecting Non-Profits and Minority-Owned Businesses to a Talented, Untapped Disabled Workforce
*Rooshey Hasnain,* Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor  
*Jae Jin Pak,* Visiting Research Assistant  
*Mansha Mirza,* Assistant Professor  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Francisco Alvarado,* Assistant Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Illinois Department of Human Services, Springfield, IL  
*Jamie Taradash,* Rehabilitation Services Project Developer  
Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago, IL  
*Christopher Huc-Tran,* Visiting Research Associate  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Jonathan Lopez,* Program Director, Visiting Research Associate  
*John Capua,* Research Assistant  
*Manako Yabe,* Research Assistant  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Utilizing a *pecha kucha* technique, participants will view 20 slides that highlight the collaborative efforts of the Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think-tank (ADOPT) to reach out to and engage with business owners (mainstream and minority), and connect them to a pool of talented and skilled job seekers with disabilities. *This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.*

#36 Cultural Orientation for Refugees: Building Community Partnerships
*Danielle Drake,* Resettlement Specialist  
*Helen Tarkhanova,* Resettlement Director  
Us Together, Inc., Cleveland Heights, OH

This presentation will give detailed information on how to build community partnerships with non-profits, community groups, civic leaders and others to assist in the delivery of cultural orientation lessons. The presenters will also explain how to alleviate some of the stress of the resettlement agency staff by engaging volunteers, mentors and others to present on the various cultural orientation topics.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#37  Summer Learning Opportunities for Newcomer Families
     Lauren Leitao, Bilingual Coordinator
     Manuel Alemán, Bilingual Parent Liaison
     Huong Banh, ESL Teacher
     Evanston Skokie School District 65, Evanston, IL

In this session, the presenters will share information about a summer learning program that was designed specifically for newcomer students and their families. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.

#38  Integrating Music Helps Improve Literacy Skills of English Language Learners
     Karyn Israel, K-5 General Music Teacher
     Fairview South School District 72, Skokie, IL

Common Core State Standards emphasize the importance of literacy skills. Musical and literacy connections are made through children’s literature, songs, and poems. Educational (and fun) “musical” teaching strategies help improve literacy skills of English language learners. Come to this session to learn about these teaching strategies. No musical knowledge is necessary. This session is appropriate for new and experienced staff.

#39  A Toolkit for Educators to Support Refugees and Immigrants with Foreign Credentials
     Paul Feltman, Director
     WES Global Talent Bridge, New York, NY
     Maureen Lopez Fitzpatrick, Community Relations Liaison
     City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Attend this session to better understand how you can help your skilled immigrant and refugee clients with foreign credentials navigate community college systems and create educational and career pathways that build on their educational background. The presenter will share his brand new toolkit featuring self-guided exercises, promising practices, and strategies for success. This session is appropriate for experienced staff.
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2014 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations

Holiday Inn Chicago, Mart Plaza

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