

Working with Immigrant Families in CWS

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CWDA Panel Presentation Topics

1. Refugee, Immigrant, Asylee, Undocumented

- What are the definitions?

2. Established agreements

- As a County we established MOUs, working agreements, and miscellaneous orders through court Have you seen a difference now that these are in place?

3. Toolkit for Working with Immigrant Families

- The County of Orange has developed an online Toolkit to assist with immigrants Please provide history and benefits

4. Best Practices

- Besides the Toolkit, can you identify other Best Practices in Orange County?

5. Child Welfare Success Stories or Challenges

- Share success stories or challenges faced

6. Unaccompanied minors

- As a Federal issue, how does it relates to Child Welfare Services?

7. Relationship with Social Services Agency (SSA)

- Describe how your relationship with SSA has evolved

Gary Taylor, MS

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**Consul Loreta Ruiz,
Gary Taylor, and
Raquel Amezcua
at the
Consulate of Mexico
in Santa Ana**



Consulate of Mexico in Santa Ana



2100 E. 4th St.
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Duties of the Consulate

Vienna Convention

- Consular functions
- Notification
 - detentions
 - deaths
 - people at risk

MOU - USA & Mexico

- Interest of both governments
- Prevent situations that affect...
 - physical safety
 - dignity
 - human rights

Examples of Services Provided by the Consulate of Mexico

Protection/Legal Assistance

- TDM partner
- DIF liaison
- Visitation at San Ysidro
- Repatriation of minors
- Assist in search for parents/relatives
- Victims of crime
- Jail/Immigration interviews

Documents

- Passports
- Matriculas (Consular ID Registration Card)
- Dual nationality
- Power of Attorney
- International school transfer notice





Established in 1998, Access California Services (AccessCal) is a culturally and linguistically sensitive health and human services organization.

We provide economic and social resources to local Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees and immigrants, yet we are non-sectarian, serving families and individuals of any faith or ethnicity.



Topic #1:

Refugee, Immigrant, Asylee, Undocumented – What are the definitions?

Refugees are individuals who are unable to return to their country of origin because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

The term “*refugee*” is intended to include all eligible populations described in this overview.

Asylees

- Individuals who are in the U.S. and fear that they will be persecuted if they return to their home country. To become classified as an asylee, the person must go through an immigration hearing or court process.

Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrants

- Displaced persons from Afghanistan and Iraq admitted to the U.S. with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs).
- These Afghans and Iraqis were employed by or assisted the U.S. government with translation and other services.



Cuban and Haitian Entrants

- Nationals of Cuba and Haiti who are in the United States (U.S.) and are granted a special status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Human Trafficking Victims*

- Individuals subjected to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor and have a certification or eligibility letter from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

*California also has the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP)

Amerasians

- Persons born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and before January 1, 1976, fathered by a U.S. citizen. The Amerasian's mother, her spouse, her other children or someone who has acted as the Amerasian's mother, father or next of kin (and the spouse and children of that person) are also included in this category.

California's Refugee Population

California has received over 700,000 refugees* since 1975. The largest refugee groups are currently coming from Iran, Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union, Iraq and Africa.

- Prior to 1990, refugees were primarily from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in connection with the Vietnam Conflict.
- Over the last several years, the number of Asylees and trafficking victims eligible for services has increased.
- During Federal Fiscal Years 2011-12 and 2012-13, California served:
 - over 5,600 Asylees,
 - 210 federally-certified trafficking victims, and
 - 1,057 SIVs

*The term “refugees” in this paragraph is limited to refugees and does not include other groups, such as Asylees, SIVs, and certified trafficking victims.

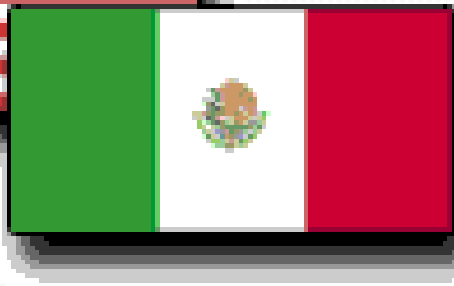
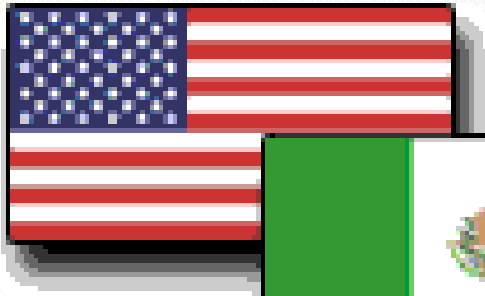
Topic #2:

Established agreements

As a County we established MOUs, working agreements, and miscellaneous orders through court.

Have you seen a difference now that these are in place?

Memorandum of Understanding



MOU between SSA and the Consulate of Mexico in Santa Ana 2008

- The MOU sets the tone and template for collaboration and dialogue between SSA and the Consulate
- The MOU address confidentiality of information that is shared during the collaborative process

Topic #3:

Toolkit for Working with Immigrant Families

The County of Orange has developed an online toolkit to assist with immigrants.

Please provide history and benefits.

TOOLKIT for WORKING with IMMIGRANT FAMILIES



- Orange County Social Services Agency
Children and Family Services
- Consulate of Mexico in Santa Ana, CA

Relative Search / Naming System



- Obtain all relative/NREFM contact information from every person involved in the investigation. **Write full name of relative/NREFM – first, middle, paternal and maternal surnames.**
 - Typical Mexican *apellidos* (last names) are different from the system used by most families in the US
 - In addition to the first name(s), a person is given two last names
 - One other important aspect of the Mexican naming system is the way in which last names are exchanged through marriage
- Obtain complete DOB's, telephone numbers, addresses



Topic #4:

Best Practices

- Besides the Toolkit, can you identify other Best Practices in Orange County?

ERDD – Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality

TDM – Team Decision-Making

NREFMs- Non-Related Extended Family Members

Cultural Brokers

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Father Engagement

TDM Talking Points

Faith in Motion

Connections with Major Stakeholders:

Law Enforcement, School District, Mental Health

San Ysidro Visitation Center

Shared the Toolkit with other states

SIJS – Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (Specialized staff: Immigration Liaisons)

MCAC – Multicultural Advisory Committee and its subcommittees:

- African-American Roundtable
- Asian- American Forum
- The LGBT League
- Middle Eastern Multicultural Association
- Spanish Speaking Workers' Forum

Collaborative Trainings – examples listed on next slide

Some of our Collaborative Trainings include:

CFS, Consulate of Mexico, SSWF, and Training and Career Development:

- “DIF and the Mexican Consulate”, “Journey Through the Juvenile Dependency Process”
- “Mexican Consulate – Juvenile Court”,
- “Mexican Consulate Presentation for Managers and Supervisors”
- “Toolkit for Working with Immigrant Families”
- “Toolkit for Working with Immigrant Families - eLearn”
- “International Adoptions Panel Presentation with the Consulate of Mexico”
- Dependency Court Processes with CFS training for DIF Social Workers and their Directors in Mexico (being developed by County Counsel, the Consulate, CFS, and TCD)

CFS, Access California, MEMA, and Training and Career Development:

- “Refugees the Journey and the Challenge”
- “Jewish Cultural Competency and Sensitivity Training”
- “Muslim Women and Domestic Violence – Tour of Interval House”
- “Understanding & Engaging Muslim Families”
- “Understanding & Engaging Muslim Families for FSS/ASAP”



Topic #5:

Child Welfare Success Stories or Challenges

- Share success stories or challenges faced

Topic #6: Unaccompanied minors

- As a Federal issue, how does it relate to Child Welfare Services?

Topic #7: Relationship with Social Services Agency (SSA)

- **Describe how your relationship with SSA has evolved**

Best Practice Tips

- Emergency Response workers should determine if the parent or child is a Mexican national and whether or not to involve the Consulate at this time
- Refer to community resources
 - Consulate of Mexico (or appropriate foreign consulate)
 - Immigrant Services Agencies
- When a TDM is scheduled and although a Petition has not been filed at this point, the Consulate of Mexico should be notified w/out delay by phone or preferably by fax (*use Notification to the Consulate form*)
- Don't forget to inquire about American Indian heritage (ICWA)

Best Practice Tips

- The Consulate should be notified without delay by telephone or preferably by fax
(use *Notification to the Consulate of Mexico* form).
- Verify that the Consulate has been notified of the Detention Hearing date
- Confirm full legal names
- Confirm correct spelling – alias (i.e. Gonzalez / Gonzales)
- Verify names through birth certificates or Consular ID
- Interview parents ASAP



Best Practice Tips

The Consulate can assist you at anytime of the process with:

- Searches of relatives for possible placement
- Requirements for dual nationality
- Referrals for services for parents who live in Mexico
- Obtaining progress reports from DIF
- Arrange visits with deported parents at the San Ysidro Port of Entry
- Provide you with information of airports near the home of the parents in Mexico.
- DIF is the equivalent of SSA
- Reunification vs. Repatriation