Trauma-Informed Services and Policies to Support Immigrant and Mixed Status Families in Early Care and Education:

An Overview of Immigration Policy and Trauma

April 24, 2019
An Overview of Immigration Policy and Trauma

1. Immigrant Families and Immigration Context in the US
2. Impact of Policy Changes on Children
3. What can ECE stakeholders do?
4. Overview of Diversity Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children, and Families
5. Questions?
6. What’s Next
Poll: Who is on the call?

My work is primarily:

• Legislative
• State agency
• Advocacy
• Philanthropy
• Program for families and children
• Direct service provider (home visitor, early education, early intervention, child care....)
• Other (please enter into chat box)
Overview of Children in Immigrant Families and Immigration Context in the U.S.

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Overview of Children in Immigrant Families and Immigration Context in the U.S.
1 in 4 Young Children are Members of Immigrant Families

• 5.6 million young children under age 6 have one or more parents who were born outside of the U.S.
  – 94% of them are U.S. citizens
Children in Immigrant Families are Racially and Ethnically Diverse

Overall young child population

- 26% Latinx
- 50% White
- 13% Black
- 5% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 9% Asian
- 17% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 5% Other
- 5% Multiracial

Young children with immigrant parents

- 50% Latinx
- 17% White
- 9% Black
- 17% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 5% Asian
- 5% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 5% Other
- 5% Multiracial
Children in Immigrant Families Live All Over the Country

Source: CLASP analysis of data compiled by the Urban Institute
Shift in Immigration Policy Priorities

1. Increasing enforcement
2. Removing legal protections
3. Reducing access to public benefits
Shift in Immigration Policy Priorities

- Increased number of ICE and CBP enforcement officers
- All undocumented immigrants prioritized for deportation
- Heightened arrests in communities
- Revival of large-scale worksite raids
- Increased collaboration between federal immigration agents and state and local police
Shift in Immigration Policy Priorities

• Attempted to:
  – Terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
  – Revoke Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for immigrants from 7 countries
Shift in Immigration Policy Priorities

• Proposed **public charge rule**
  – If finalized, would impact lawfully present immigrants seeking permanent status by:
    • Making it more difficult for certain immigrants, particularly parents with low incomes, to overcome the “**totality of circumstances**” test
    • Penalizing those who use **SNAP, Medicaid, or housing assistance**
  – Effects extend far beyond immigrants directly subject to the rule

Reducing access to public benefits
Poll: What resources/information would be helpful to you in your work? (Choose all that apply)

Information about:

- children in immigrant families
- immigration lawyers in my area
- immigrant-serving organizations in my area
- public charge
- DACA, TPS
- protecting programs from immigration enforcement
- helping families prepare for possibility of deportation
Anti-immigrant Policies are Undermining Young Children’s Health and Development
Young Children Fear Their Parents Will Be Taken Away

“The stress is so high they’re biting their fingers.”

— Preschool director in GA
Children Are Losing Access to Early Childhood, Health, Nutrition Services

• Providers report that parents are...
  – Reluctant to enroll/maintain children’s enrollment in WIC, SNAP, Medicaid
  – Refusing prenatal care
  – Keeping children home from school, child care

“We don’t feel safe even taking the kids to child care.”
  – Mother in California
Parents Need Resources and Support

“I’m not going to tell [my children] that we can be deported at any moment.”

– Mother in NM
Providers Are Under Increased Professional and Personal Stress

It’s been a rough year... for them on a personal level it’s been hard, and then to go in the homes and hear these stories and help families navigate these really stressful times...

– Home visitor in New Mexico
Immigration Policy is a Children’s Issue

- trusted caregivers
- safe and stable housing
- quality child care and early education
- economically stable families
- nutritious foods
- mental and physical health care
What Early Childhood Stakeholders Can Do
Defend Against Threats to Immigrant Families

• Speak out on harmful federal and state policies
  – Public charge
  – Interior enforcement, including worksite raids
  – Relief for DACA and TPS recipients

• Document the impact

https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
Advance a Positive Agenda at the State Level

- Issue guidance on immigrant eligibility for ECE and public assistance programs
- Proactively communicate about policy changes
- Advance legislation that supports immigrants’ safety, health, economic security, and educational opportunities
Create an Intentional Focus on Children in Immigrant Families

- Reevaluate application and enrollment procedures
- Develop partnerships with immigrant-serving organizations, legal service providers
- Make resources available and accessible
- Offer Know Your Rights, family safety planning trainings
Early Childhood Programs are Safe Spaces

• Programs can implement “safe space” policies
  – Protect programs against enforcement
  – Safeguard families’ private information
Contact Information

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Questions?
Poll

Do you use a resource, guidelines, or framework for supporting diverse children, families, and the providers that serve them?

• No
• Yes (If yes, please share the resource in chat box)
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Introduction to Diversity-Informed Practice and the Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children and Families

April 24, 2019
2:00pm ET
Hello!

Kandace Thomas
Senior Program Officer
Irving Harris Foundation
What guides your practice?

- Racial equity framework
- Cultural competence
- Cultural humility
- National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- NAEYC Code of Ethics
Diversity-informed practice is a **dynamic system of beliefs and values** that shapes interactions between individuals, organizations and systems of care. Diversity-informed practice **recognizes the historic and contemporary salience** of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, ableism, xenophobia, and homophobia and **works to strive for the highest possible standard of inclusivity in all spheres of practice**: teaching and training, research and writing, policy and advocacy, as well as direct service.

What are the Tenets?

- Aspirational principles that support our work toward diversity, equity and inclusion
- Way of thinking and being; a stance
- Rooted in awareness of self, of organizations, of policies and of systems of care
- Navigational tool for diversity-informed practice
- Benchmark
- Beginning of a conversation
The Tenets are a reminder to encourage the examination of privilege more intentionally and consistently, and also the exploration on non-dominant bodies of knowledge as we delicately explore possible useful interventions with families.

Tenets Workshop Participant
Tenets Mission & Core Values

**Mission:**
We strive to empower individuals, programs, organizations, and systems to work for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Our How:**
We facilitate spaces and provide tools for people to engage in diversity-informed practice through self-transformation.

**Values:**
- Self-reflection and curiosity
- The inseparability of intentionality, accountability, and responsibility
- Wielding privilege for justice
- Continual learning about how systems of oppression impact us all
- Equitable access and leadership
- Social justice as our compass and destination
Building a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization starts with aspiration, intentional practice, and individual and collective commitment.

Tenets Proverb
Tenet #1

Self-Awareness
Leads to Better Services for Families
Diversity, equity and inclusion is not about “the other”; it begins with us.
Tenets Create Change...

- Offer a framework, navigational tool or benchcard to help navigate your work with families
- Remind you of some of individual, programmatic and organizational changes to make to provide and prioritize diversity-informed practice
- Acknowledge how systems of oppression impact us all
- Make explicit connections between your work and sociocultural context
- Empower you to explicitly work toward social justice
“After participating in the Tenets workshop, I practice more sound self-awareness when interacting with clients and I carefully choose my words so that they are used to heal and not hurt.”

Tenets Workshop Participant
“I am now talking with my social work interns and staff much more often and directly about implicit bias and systems of oppression in a global sense, and as they relate to us as practitioners with children and their families.

Tenets Workshop Participant”
Want to Learn More?

- Visit our website: [DiversityInformedTenets.org](http://DiversityInformedTenets.org)
  - Download the Tenets
  - Read about the Tenets Initiative
  - Request a workshop

- Join Webinar #2

- Contact Amanda Hwu, Program Coordinator
  ([ahwu@irvingharrisd.org](mailto:ahwu@irvingharrisd.org)) for more information

Carmen Rosa Noroña
Boston Medical Center
Questions?
What’s next?
Trauma-Informed Services and Policies to Support Immigrant and Mixed Status Families in Early Care and Education:

Impacts of Immigration Trauma on the Health and Development of Young Children

May 23, 2019
“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.”

Dalai Lama