



## COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT MENTAL HEALTH 2020-2021 CONVENING SERIES

### ***Supporting Refugee Children and Youth's Transition to School***

***June 24, 2022***

***Draft of brief description:*** This convening will focus on the experiences of refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth as they transition to school. The focus will be on understanding the experiences of different refugee and asylum seeking students and how we can support their academic and social inclusion in their new school communities. We are very grateful to the panel members who will lead this discussion:

#### **Agenda**

**9:50am-10am** Join the waiting room and greet each other

**10:00am-10:05am:** **Welcome:** **Ané Mariñez-Lora, PhD**  
Chair, Coalition Convening Planning Workgroup

**10:05am – 11:00am** **Panel Discussion**

**Nathan Sivak, BA**  
Youth Education Coordinator  
RefugeeOne

**Beata Arceo, BA, MA**  
Program Manager of Office of Foreign Student Services  
Chicago Public Schools

**Amy Hill, LCSW**  
Program Manager of the Kovler Center Child Trauma Program  
Heartland Alliance

**Stephanie Torres, PhD, Assistant Professor**  
Department of Educational Psychology  
University of Illinois at Chicago

#### ***Moderator***

**Ané Mariñez-Lora, PhD, Research Assistant Professor**  
University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and  
Practice, Coalition member



## A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

**Beata Ewa Arceo, BA, MA.,** was born, raised, and educated in Poland. She graduated from Catholic University of Lublin, Poland with a BA in Humanities and MA in Literature and Education. She received training in political studies and leadership at the John Abott College, Quebec, Canada. She studied abroad on Japanese language and culture at the Eurocentres, Kanazawa, Japan. She had an Internship (human rights, fundamental freedoms, leadership) at the Council of Europe, EYC, Strasbourg, France. She has been working in Chicago Public Schools since 1997, first in high school and then in central administration. She has been in charge of the Foreign Student Services unit since 2011. She is responsible for the enrollment process, placement, and programming of newcomer students. She creates guidelines and manages international programs. She also teaches cultural sensitivity, immigration trends, and on Chicago Public Schools procedures. In addition, she advises on global education and communication.

**Nathan Sivak, BA,** is the Youth Education Coordinator at RefugeeOne, a resettlement agency in Chicago. Born in Illinois, Sivak first encountered refugee work ten years ago in Tunisia and southern Italy. He graduated from the College of William and Mary with a BA in Religious and Mediterranean Studies. For the past five years Sivak has led after school programs, enrichment activities, and bridged the gap between schools and refugee families in Chicago. Sivak continues this work with a renewed passion after the events transpiring over the last year that have displaced thousands of people in Eurasia.

**Amy Hill, LCSW,** has worked with refugee and immigrant youth and families for over 15 years. She currently serves as the Program Manager for the Kovler Center Child Trauma Program, a program of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), where she oversees all clinical, case management, and complementary services for refugee and immigrant youth and their families. Additionally, Ms. Hill has served on the Board of Directors for the Chicago Burmese Community Association and CircEsteem and has volunteered abroad working with youth and/or refugees in Kenya, Guatemala, and Israel. She has a Masters degree in Child Development from the Erikson Institute and a Masters of Social Work from Loyola University.

**Stephanie Torres, PhD,** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Torres's research focuses on multisystemic risk and resilience factors among low-income, Latinx communities, particularly Latinx families impacted by immigration-related stress. She is interested in utilizing a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to develop, disseminate, and implement school- and community-based programs that promote well-being and mental health among immigrant communities. She is also interested in avenues for promoting psychologists' involvement in policy and advocacy efforts. Dr. Torres is a licensed clinical psychologist, and her clinical work focuses on addressing trauma exposure among Latinx immigrant families.