

Policy Workgroup Notes: CIMH General Meeting Updates 8/21/20

1-Public Charge (Sarah)

- NY District Court ruling—injunction against public charge rule during Covid-19 pandemic but Public charge rule remains active in IL; ICIRR Virtual Town Hall hosted on Aug 19th (any ICIRR updates?); Aug 12 another judge limited it to NY, CT, & VT; to be reviewed again by 3 judge panel (stay tuned)
- Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT application ends 8/31): \$300 per child retro for Mar-June; not yet known if this will be available for future

2-Census 2020 (Sarah)

- Shortened the period by 1-month (until end of Sept from end of Oct)
- Update on response rates from LPF summary (68.7% IL; 63.8% national; 57.2% for Chicago)

3-DACA (Dana)

- Despite SCOTUS June ruling, July 28th exec order stated that DACA program will be reviewed but all new applications will be rejected and returned with app fee; renewals only for 1-year and no travel authorization

4-Overview of Covid-19 pandemic and burden and risk placed on immigrants/asylum seekers/refugees (Dana & Sarah)

- Mention NPNA report on the role of CBOs in Covid-19 relief efforts (share link in chat box; Dana)
- Racial disparities (top 10 of top 15 zip codes in Chicago were Latinx majority); front-line and essential workers (e.g., 70% in IL are estimated to be undocumented)
- Lack of stimulus relief for undocumented/mixed status (Sarah's data & share resources to chat box)
- State level Welcoming Centers COVID-19 programs: 4 ways that funds can be used by Dec 31 (RFPs to organizations due Monday)
- Any updates on refugee Resettlement and Covid-19 travel bans (Aimee)
- Immigration detention centers and transmission risk

5-ICE Citizens Academy in Chicago (Dana)

- Recent notices on social media from ICIRR and OCAD about ICE raids-- unmarked vans (ICIRR updates?)
- Announced on July 13th that ICE Citizens Academy will begin in Chicago on Sept 15
- Maybe screen share IFMHA Program Update on ICE Academy; link to racial justice and immigration (can send to listserv after meeting)

5-Visa Applications/Procedural changes (Dana & Sarah; to review if time permits)

- Student visa July 6th ICE announced that international students with F-1 visas would be ineligible to enroll in online classes (national faculty petition, APA statement in opposition)
- Lawsuit filed by Harvard University and the MIT; Another lawsuit by IL Attorney General and 17 other states' attorneys general, both supported with legal filings by the U of I System and its three universities
- DHS/ICE rescinded the rule on Jul 14
- Green card and temporary foreign worker visa freeze for those applying outside U.S. (Sarah)

6-Asylum System in the U.S.: 2 proposed rule changes posted to federal registrar (Dana; to review if time permits)

- June 2020: procedural and substantive changes to asylum; reminders sent to CIMH listserv to guide public comments (30-day public comment period ended July 15)
 - Both the procedural and substantive changes are **contrary to established law** since the Refugee Act of 1980
 - **The proposed rule is silent about retroactivity** raising the concern about pending cases, if the rule was to go into effect, would be subject to these changes
 - **The proposed rule has no language specific to children or unaccompanied minors**
- July 2020: ban with broad applications that would unjustly deem asylum seekers as a threat to public health (public comment ended Aug 10)
 - those who have "symptoms consistent with" COVID-19 or another disease (without confirmed test or diagnosis), who have "come into contact with" disease, or who have recently passed through a country or area affected by disease

- Even though COVID-19 was explicitly stated as the rationale, this proposed rule would give DHS & DOJ expansive authority to declare other treatable diseases as national security threats (e.g., cholera, pandemic influenza, tuberculosis, syphilis) to deny asylum even after the Covid-19 threat abates
- Would apply both to those seeking asylum and those seeking “withholding of removal”-- determinations would be made by border officials and not by an immigration judge or person with public health expertise