

AGENDA

“Addressing the Best Interests of Children in Immigrant and Refugee Families: Rising to the Challenge”

Hubert Humphrey Center/Cowles Auditorium

University of Minnesota

May 1, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. **Check-in**
- 9:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Esther Wattenberg, Professor, CASCW, CURA
University of Minnesota
- 9:45 a.m. **The Health and Well-being of Children in Immigrant Families: Confronting the Crisis**
Randy Capps, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate
The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.
- 10:30 a.m. **A Minnesota Perspective**
Tom Gillaspay, Minnesota State Demographer
- 10:45 a.m. **Recent Minnesota Policies: Addressing the Intersection of Immigrant Families and Child Welfare**
Erin Sullivan Sutton, Director, Child Safety and Permanency Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services
- 11:00 a.m. **Building the Capacity to Respond to Vulnerable Children in Immigrant, Southeast Asian Families: Community-Based Models**
Rowena Fong, Ed.D., MSW, Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor
University of Texas at Austin
- 11:30 a.m. **Audience Response**
- 11:45 a.m. **Break and Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. **Luncheon Speaker: Critical Issues for Child Welfare: The Search for Best Practices in Program and Policy**
Sonia C. Velazquez, Vice President, Children’s Division
American Humane Association, Colorado
- 1:30 p.m. **Life Circumstances of Immigrant Children in Rural Minnesota: Panel Respondents**
Hassan Ugas, MSW, Director, Center for Somali Family and Children Services
 Somali Parents and Children: The Intersection with Child Welfare
Katherine Fennelly, Professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
 Observations on Diversity Coalitions in Rural Minnesota
Susanne Schroeder, School Social Worker, Owatonna, Steele County
 Confronting the Challenge: The School System
John Keller, Executive Director, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
 The Harsh Reality: The Fate of Children in Immigration Enforcement
Dianne Kimm, Program Manager, Lutheran Social Service Refugee Program, Pelican Rapids
 An Indispensable Partner: The Non-Profit Agency
- 3:15 p.m. **Wrap-up**