

**Building a Community of Practice:
Creating a Culture of Social Equity for
Immigrant Women and Children**

**Westin Hotel-Denver, Colorado
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Design Team Introduction

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INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY *of* CHICAGO
a community health center

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NIWAP

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RMIAN
rocky mountain immigrant advocacy network

Introduction

- Welcome
- Overview of Agenda and Process

Goals of This Intensive Workshop

- Share assets, resources and work we are doing that benefits immigrant women and children
- Identify the opportunities we have to work together to forge change in laws, policies, practices with the goal of social equity
- Launch a Community of Practice among Kellogg Fellows

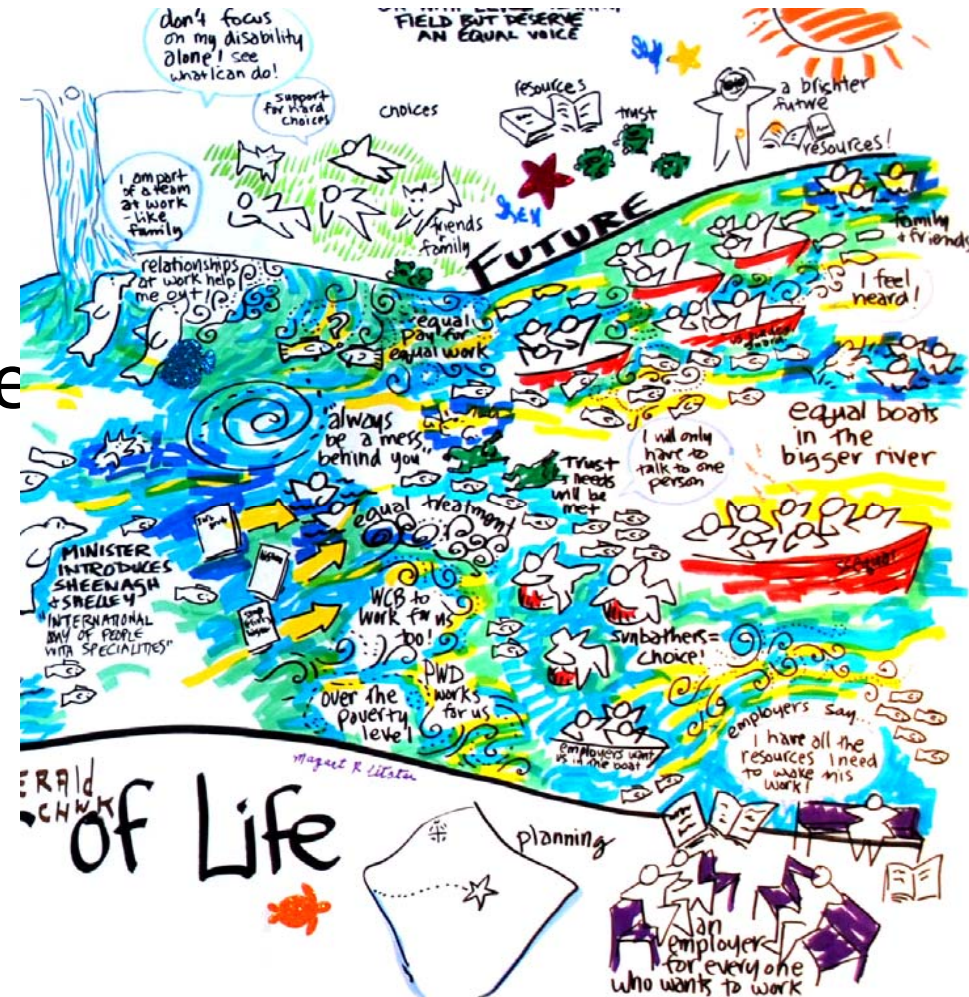
Module: 1

Community Assets and Resources

Community “River of Life”

Take 2 minutes to share:

- Your name/organization
- KFLA connection
- Challenges immigrant women and children face?
- What Assets/Resources do you use to counter challenges?
- What are the assets of the community?



Break

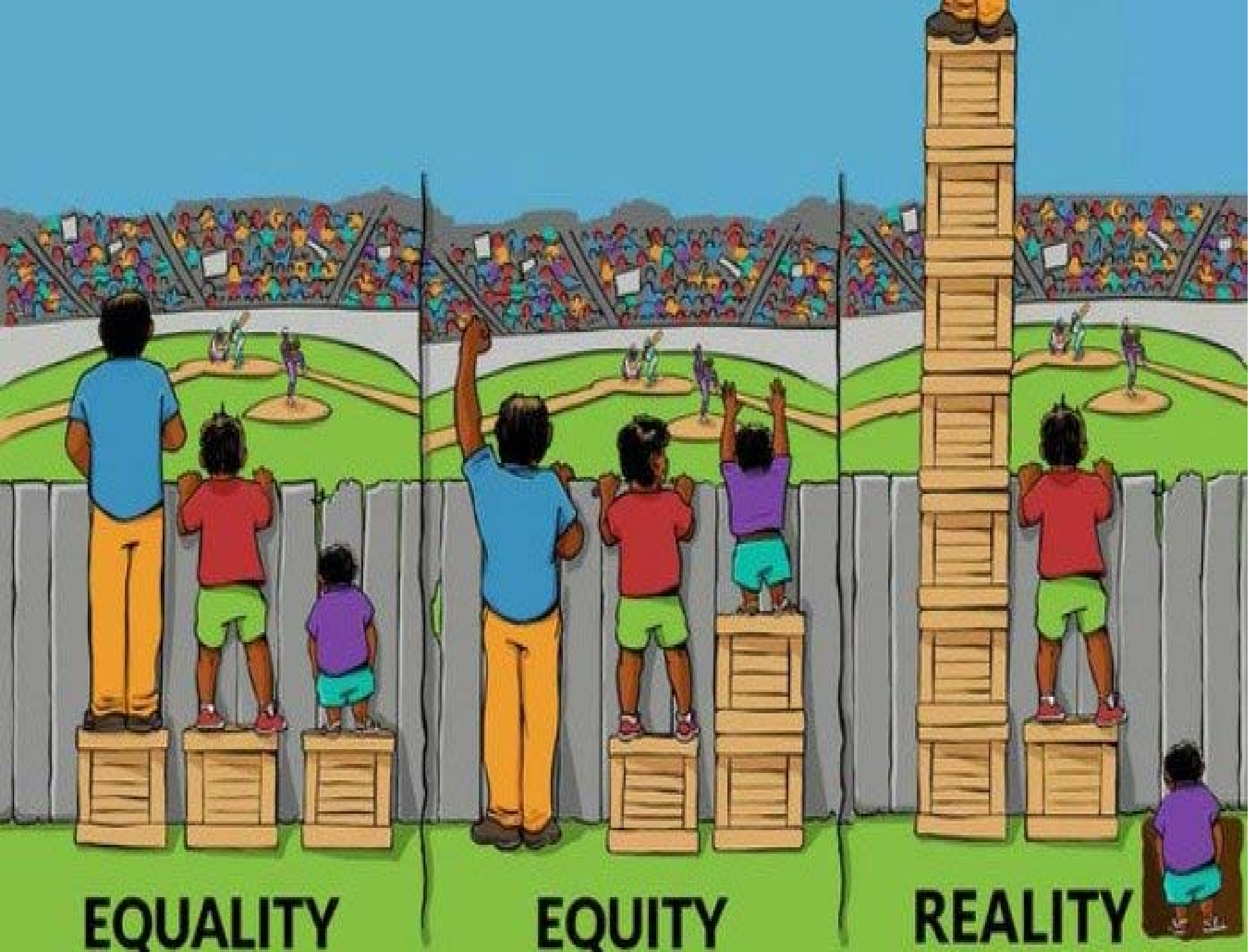
- Fellows welcome to add assets and resources

Module: 2

**Social Equity and Policy
Advocacy Opportunities**

La migración de la Mariposa Monarca





EQUALITY

EQUITY

REALITY

Immigration Policy vs. *Immigrant* Policy

Although the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over *immigration policy* (terms & conditions for entry into U.S.), states & localities have become responsible for *immigrant policy* (policies that help newcomers integrate into the country's economic, social and civic life).

— Source: Fix, M. & J. Passel; NCSL

National Public Policy Opportunities

- Legislation
 - SIJS reauthorization 2017
 - VAWA reauthorization 2018
- Regulations/Policies
 - HUD: Public and assisted housing for VAWA victims
 - USCIS: Access to work authorization within 6 months of filing for U visa victims
 - CBP: Customs and Border Patrol's proposed interpretation policy change
 - ICE: Advocacy RE: Detention Centers

State and Local Public Policy Opportunities

- Legislation
 - Expansion in access to health care exchanges and public benefits for lawfully present immigrants and for immigrant crime victims
 - Law mandating U visa certification practices by law enforcement
 - State DREAM acts – in state tuition

State and Local Public Policy Opportunities

- Policy & Regulations
 - Driver's licenses without regard to immigration status
 - 9th Circuit case on unaccompanied minors access to counsel

Lunch



Flickr: KayOne73

Module: 3

Changing the Narrative

Role of Changed Narrative in Policy Advocacy Success

- Lisa
 - Why Narrative Matters?
- Leslye
 - How we got bipartisan support for VAWA
- Michelle
 - “Undocumented immigrants”
- Ricardo
 - Local efforts to recruit volunteer attorneys for immigrant children

Narrative Matters....

New skills. New ideas.
New points of view. New progress.
When people move countries,
they bring a lot more than a suitcase.
And what they bring can benefit everyone.

A person is shown from the waist down, holding a large, black, rectangular sign with white text. The person is wearing a patterned skirt and dark sneakers. The background is a solid light blue color. The sign has a white wavy line above and below the text.

IT'S AMAZING WHAT
MIGRANTS BRING.

Changing the Narrative: Small Group Discussion-- All in the Wall Exercise

- What is the current narrative regarding immigrant women and children?
- What should the narrative be to
 - Improve social equity?
 - Change laws, policies and practices?

Module: 4

Community of Practice

Best Practices and Tools

What are the best practices, tools, and advocacy strategies for improving the following for immigrant women and children

- Access to justice
- Access to services
- Social equity

Why are we focusing on immigrant women and children?

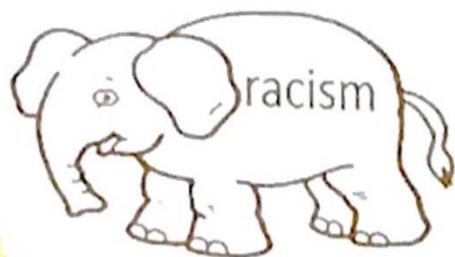
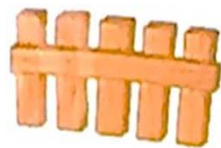
- Public policy advocacy wedge issue
- Focusing first on what is most achievable



Systematic variation in social advantage is an important underlying factor in generating wide inequalities in health of Americans and their poor health relative to other economically advanced countries...Thus, **there is an urgent need for policies to reduce social disadvantage through multi-dimensions and multi-level approaches.**”

•Source: Gostin, L. & Powers, M. What Does Social Justice Require For The Public's Health? Public Health Ethics And Policy Imperatives. Health Aff July 2006 vol. 25 no. 4 1053-1060

Upstream Strategies



Prevention Vehicles



Downstream Strategies



Policies Won for Women and Children

- Strategic tools used
 - Story collections
 - Targeted community based social science research
 - Surveys of service providers
 - Interviewing own clients
 - With and without formal funding
 - Building diverse network of
 - Community based professionals
 - National advocacy organizations

Policies Won for Women and Children

- VAWA immigration (1994)
- Benefits access for VAWA battered immigrants (1996)
- U visa and T visas(2000)
- U visa regulations (2007)
- T and U visa lawful permanent residency regulations (2008)

Policies Won for Women and Children

- Legal Services access for victims (1998, 2005)
- Legal Services anti-abuse regulations (2014) including SIJS children (2014, 2016)
- Access to transitional housing for immigrant victims, children, homeless (2016)
- Humanitarian release from detention (2007)
- Prosecutorial discretion and victim witness memos (2011, 2014)

Recruiting and Training Attorneys to Represent Immigrant Children

Small Group Discussions

- Small groups 20 minutes
- Best Practices
- Tools
- Advocacy Strategies
- Share examples
- Pick two as a group for report back

Report Back and Large Group Discussion

- Report Back
- Themes
- Assets/Resources
- Collaboration opportunities

Building a Community of Practice

Community of Practice

- Peer to Peer learning that tackles challenges and fosters change on common area of interest
- Expands expertise
- Builds knowledge
- Uncovers insights
- Accelerates the learning curve
- Fosters mentorship
- Gives work a boost
- Creates solutions

How Communities of Practice Work



Community of Practice: Examples

- Family Law and Immigrants Community of Practice
- Law Enforcement Roundtable on U and T visas and language access
- HHS funded COP among leadership of community health clinics

Developing Our Community of Practice

- Confirming our objectives
- What we will work on first
- Expectations

Topics for First Three Meetings

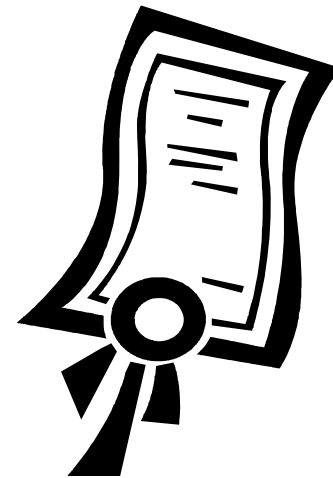
Developing Our Community of Practice

- Mechanics
 - Webinar interactive format
 - Frequency
 - Membership
 - Outreach plan
 - Leadership team

Resources

- Materials from this intensive will be posted at www.niwap.org/go/kfla 2016
- Please send materials you want to share to
 - info@niwap.org
 - With subject matter KFLA COP

Evaluation



Thank You!