

Promoting Safety with our Clients

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Overview

- Safety Themes across the country
 - Fear of Re-traumatizing Clients
 - Fear of Deportation
 - Immigration Bans
 - Misinformation
 - Safe Spaces
- Client cases

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Theme 1: Fear of Re-traumatizing Clients

- Agency Interviews
- Taking a Trauma History
- Immigration Preparation
 - Asylum interview, immigration court
 - Family reunification, green card, naturalization
- Clinical Responses?

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Theme 2: Fear of Deportation (“Removal”)

- Stated intention to deport millions of undocumented immigrants
 - “This cannot be done without new funding from Congress. This funding cannot be diverted from immigration filing fees.”
- Currently, ICE limits “expedited removal” to individuals caught trying to enter and those caught within 100 miles of the border and who have been here less than 14 days.
 - “The basic rules for getting a green card will remain in place unless and until Congress agrees to change them.”
- Clinical Responses?
Source: Allen Wernick, attorney and director of the City University of New York’s Citizenship Now project.

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Theme 3: Immigration Bans

- A pledge to ban all Muslims
- Register and track people from high-risk countries
- NSEERS (“Special Registration”) enacted after 9/11/01
 - Targeted Arabs and Muslims
 - Struck fear into communities, confused registrants, tore families apart
 - Distrust made combatting terrorism more difficult (ACLU)
 - Suspended in 2011 & officially ended in December 2016
- Human Rights Advocates: if there is a new registry, we should ALL register as Muslims.
- Clinical Responses?

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Theme 4: Misinformation

- About What?
 - Immigration
 - Benefits
 - Mental Health
 - Supportive Services
- A Clinical Response: Psycho-Education
 - Group
 - Individual
 - Invite experts
 - Expand services
 - Collaborate with colleagues

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Theme: Safe Spaces

- Sanctuary Campuses
- Sanctuary Cities
- Partnerships for Trauma Recovery – “Our Response: Creating Safe Spaces for Refugees”
- NW Refugee and Immigrant Health Coalition – “Safe Space”
- What have you, your agency, your city done to create safe spaces?

Case 1:

- Mother and 19 y.o. son
- Son has pending green card application
- Son arrested by police, taken to police station, assault charge
- Son swears innocence
- Criminal Attorney looking into plea deal
- PSOT ACTION:
 - Contacted attorney (with client's consent) to speak before next court hearing
 - updated attorney on immigration status and possible consequences of guilty plea
 - USCIS will see arrest and likely schedule interview before approving green card
 - Interdisciplinary support

Case 2: From a Participant

Case 3: From a Participant

Case 4:

- Mother and teenage son
- Mother afraid children would suffer from new administration; hearing rumors on street that “immigrants will be deported.”
- PSOT ACTION:
 - At legal group orientation with mother, John explained Know-Your-Rights-Card
 - Mother very tearful; supported by John, group leader, and clients
 - Needed reassurance that son was not unlawful, but should still carry card
 - Scheduled individual meeting with her next day
 - Mother attends weekly meetings of African therapy group

Additional Cases, Concerns, Questions?

