



**ImmHELP**

Immigrant Health Equity  
and Legal Partnerships

# Developing Best Practices for Medical/Legal Collaboration to Support Immigrant Communities

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# ImmHELP Partners

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UCSF Health and  
Human Rights Initiative



Center for Gender & Refugee Studies



**UCSF** Weill Institute for  
Neurosciences | Department of  
Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences



**UCSF** Department of  
Pediatrics



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# ImmHELP Objectives

- Promote inter-disciplinary approach to trauma-informed and healing-centered services to individuals seeking immigration protection
- Achieve positive medical/legal outcomes for immigrant communities
- Advocate for systemic change

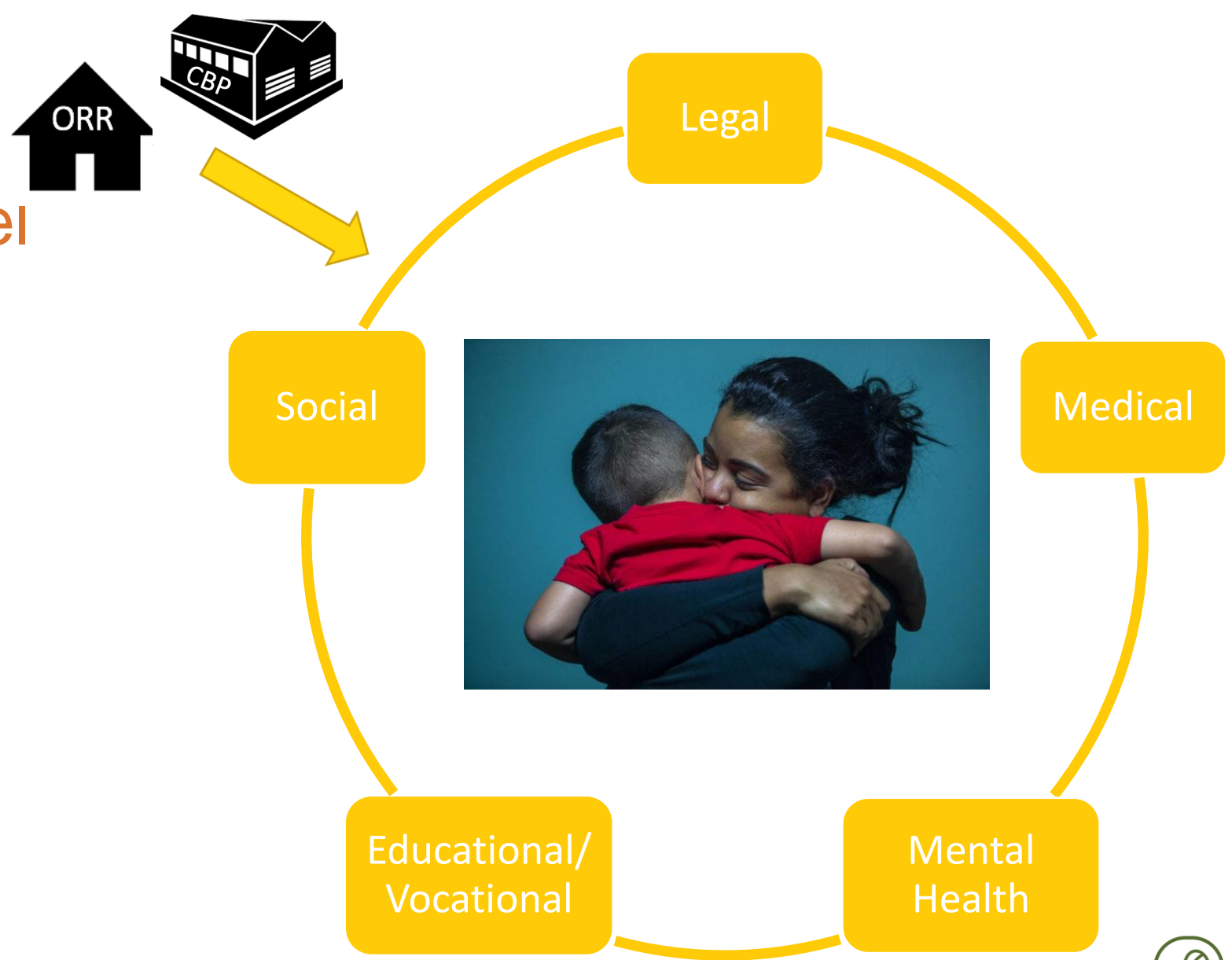


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# Envisioning a Model Program

- Trauma-focused and trauma-informed
- Single point of contact
- Culturally-anchored
- Comprehensive needs assessment and screening
- Multidisciplinary care and collaboration
- Evidence-based + empirically evaluated



# Workshop for Best Practices for Attorney-Expert Collaboration on Forensic Evaluations

## Attendees:

- Attorneys with prior experience working with a forensic health evaluator
- Health professionals who have conducted forensic evaluation

## Format:

- Facilitators - Medical & Legal
- Case Study - Attorney and Forensic Health Evaluator Team
- Discussion

## Objectives:

- Identify challenges in attorney/expert collaboration
- Identify effective methods to mitigate challenges
- Develop list of best practices for attorney/expert collaboration based on experience & workshop discussion



# Workshop Themes

Setting and Managing Expectations

Legal Assessment/Theory

Seeing the client as a whole human being

Mutual respect of expertise/lenses

Affidavit writing

Handling new information & edits

Gratitude for interdisciplinary support/collaboration



# Workshop Outcomes



Sample Lesson Plan



Workshop Outline



Best Practices Document



Tool to Streamline  
Communication



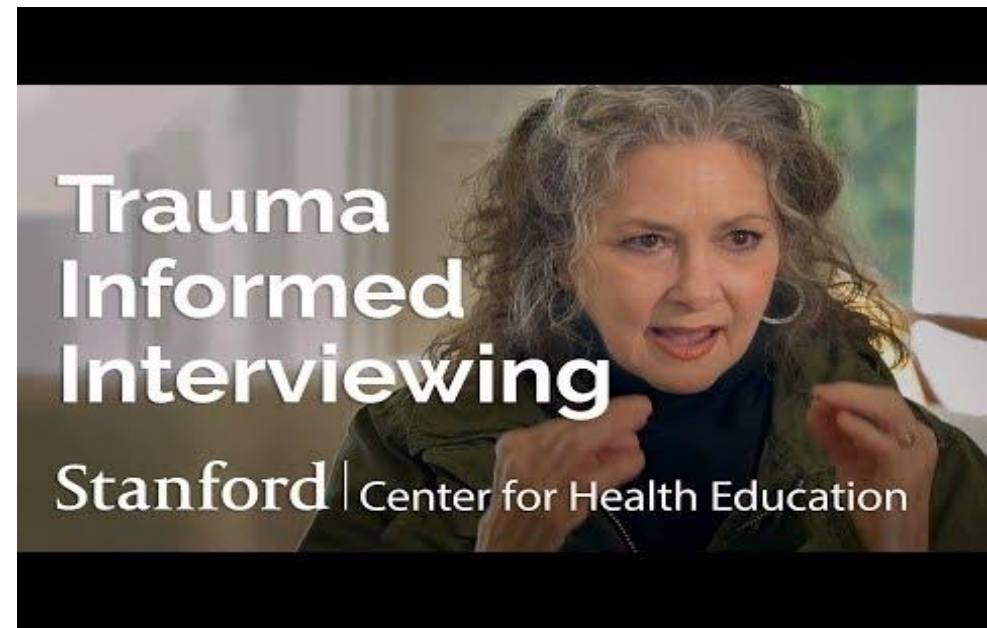
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# Trauma-informed Interviewing Techniques

<https://digitalmedic.stanford.edu/our-work/trauma/>

- Digital training toolkit for attorneys and other professionals on practice recommendations for interviewing immigrant youth exposed to trauma
- Video modules:
  - Establishing connection
  - Supporting young children
  - Supporting teens
  - Self-care
- Guidelines and reflection activities
- Resource library



“The goal of this project is to provide attorneys who will be interviewing detained children with the special requirements of speaking with children who have experienced significant trauma,” says Paul Wise, MD at Stanford.





# Human Centered Design: Prototype Feedback

- Survey administered over one month (Sept 9 – Oct 14, 2019)
  - Snowball sampling method: Invitations sent to 50 contacts including personal connection working in immigration and human rights law, with request for respondents to share with colleagues
  - N=65 total respondents
- Focus group screening sessions
- Organizations represented included various NGOs and professional associations (law and social work)



# Pre / Post Confidence

## Pre / Post Agreement with Statements (N=53)

Statement	Pre		Post		diff	prop inc
	mean	sd	mean	sd		
1) I feel prepared to interact with children who have been exposed to trauma.	2.93	0.92	3.28	0.66	0.36 **	0.28
2) I know what to do to help a child engage with me during an interview.	3.06	0.89	3.42	0.69	0.36 **	0.32
3) I know of ways to give a child a sense of control during an interview.	2.94	0.91	3.43	0.69	0.49 **	0.40
4) I know of ways to help a child feel safe during an interview.	3.04	0.83	3.38	0.69	0.34 **	0.34
5) I can identify signs that a child needs urgent mental health support.	2.96	0.81	3.34	0.73	0.38 **	0.42
6) I am confident in my ability to end an interview with a child in a safe, supportive, and contained way.	2.98	0.82	3.36	0.62	0.38 **	0.34
7) I am confident in my ability to prevent the re-traumatization of children in my interactions with them.	2.57	0.77	3.02	0.72	0.45 **	0.45
8) I know strategies to safeguard my own mental health while working with children who experienced trauma.	2.94	0.75	3.34	0.65	0.40 **	0.42

NOTE: This table shows the mean agreement across 8 statements, with responses coded as strongly disagree=1, somewhat disagree=2, somewhat agree=3, strongly agree=4. A paired t-test was conducted to determine whether difference is significant. The last column shows the proportion of respondents whose agreement with the statement increased. Sample is restricted to respondents who answered both sets of pre and post statements (N=53), \*\*p<01



# Guidance for Mental Health Professionals Serving Unaccompanied Children Released from Government Custody

Stanford Early Life Stress and Resilience Program

National Center for Youth Law

Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice

NOVEMBER 2021



Available at:

<https://youthlaw.org/publication/guidance-for-mental-health-professionals-serving-unaccompanied-children-released-from-government-custody/>



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The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

# Perspective

## When Undoing Is Not Enough — Repairing Harms Inflicted on Immigrant Children

N. Ewen Wang, M.D., Ryan Matlow, Ph.D., and Alan Shapiro, M.D.

As one of its signature priorities, the Trump administration implemented substantial changes to immigration policy, which profoundly affected the health and welfare of immigrant

eral children in 2018 and 2019. Children and families have been detained for prolonged periods in settings known to be detrimental to their health and psychological well-being.<sup>1</sup> In recent years



“Like I’m Drowning”

Children and Families Sent to Harm by the US “Remain in Mexico” Program

TO  
AGENCY

# Outputs: Policy Advocacy

Concern regarding Dedicated Dockets and expedited asylum proceedings

Sign on:

Legal organizations:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JsdCLg6PqK-14OkXij5LVd4tceXNIpzhRCUBIq6K9dl/edit>

Health organizations:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16L97IOlael7pcwNOrYYm5aiwBfumSmgU/edit>



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# CGRS Expert Database

## Expert Witness Search

### Name

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

### Expertise

TYPE OF EXPERT

LANGUAGE CAPACITY

### Expert's Location

COUNTRY

STATE

### AVAILABILITY

Show all experts matching my search criteria, regardless of availability.

Show only experts currently accepting new cases

[Reset](#)

**SEARCH**

- Free, searchable repository of health, country conditions, and issue-specific professionals who serve as expert witnesses to support asylum claims.
- Expert profiles with areas of expertise, availability, and CV.
- Experts can register at: <https://cgrs.uchastings.edu/register/expert-witness>



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