



Coalition for Our Immigrant Neighbors (COIN)

Minutes for Monthly Meeting on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 12pm- 1pm (EST)**

Encouraging collaboration and best practices for service providers to immigrants in central Indiana

COIN is a coalition of volunteers and service providers working together to facilitate and coordinate community efforts to provide legal, psychological and other services for immigrants in Central Indiana. Our vision is of a Central Indiana professional community responsive to the unique needs of our Central Indiana immigrant population.

Minutes taken by Lucia Mercado.

<i>Alfonzo Ruiz Molina</i>	<i>Maire Stocking</i>	<i>Kelsey Raves</i>	<i>Donna Watzke</i>
<i>Jacob Snodgrass</i>	<i>Abby Vesga</i>	<i>Becky Sawyer</i>	<i>Jenny Menelas</i>
<i>Jack Gannon</i>	<i>Dr. Dennisha Murff</i>	<i>Jim Bogusz</i>	<i>Tizita Abate</i>
<i>Maria Pimentel-Gannon</i>	<i>Rainie Grant</i>	<i>Jorge Rodriguez</i>	<i>Lucia Mercado</i>
<i>Alexa Vizcarra</i>	<i>Adam Mueller</i>	<i>Dyllanne Deischer</i>	<i>Adriana Moore</i>
<i>Lacy Panyard Holton</i>	<i>Kathy Souchet-Downey</i>	<i>Remy Niyitegeka</i>	<i>David Jose</i>
<i>Cesone Clemmings</i>	<i>Lorena Garcilazo-Coria</i>	<i>Brennan Edwards</i>	<i>Hope Moritz</i>
<i>Steve Whaley</i>	<i>Betty Whaley</i>	<i>Brandon Fitzsimmons</i>	<i>Megan Day</i>
<i>Kaitlin Willbanks</i>	<i>Haddy K. Rikabi</i>		

Brandon Fitzsimmons introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending on the heels of an extended holiday weekend. Brandon directed everyone to fill out the attendance form, and allowed everyone to introduce themselves. Post introductions, Kelsey Raves, staff attorney at Indiana Legal Services, introduced herself and provided an immigration law update.

Kelsey Raves, Indiana Legal Services - Immigration Law Update

Changes to TPS, temporary P status. Kelsey explained what TPS is and how it is given. TPS has formally announced the decision. The specific countries include: El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua. This does not allow for new registrations. The dates are included in the slideshow included with these minutes. Kelsey stated that this is for people who already hold TPS and need to re-register.

Family Reunification Parole (FRP)

This is for people who are waiting for an immigrant visa, filled out by a family member. This would be a three-year parole, which is decided on a case-by-case basis. It is by invitation only, which means the government selects who is eligible for the program. Nationals from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. There must be a demonstration of urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. There also must be demonstration that the applicant has a favorable exercise of discretion. Included in the slideshow is the timeline for the FRP program.

Streamlined Re-Parole for Afghans

On June 8th, 2023 there was a new launch of a streamline process for Afghan nationals. This can be done without paying any fees. It is only available to Afghan nationals who were paroled on or after July 31, 2023. The I-94's must show "OAR" or "PAR" class of admission codes. There are two ways to proceed through the Afghan Re-Parole process. In the slides, there are examples of both. If an individual has a pending application for a permanent benefit, USCIS will automatically consider these on a case-by-case basis.

If USCIS finds the individual warrants re-parole, they will send them an I-94 granting a 2-year extension of parole and a new EAD valid for the duration of the extension. This applies for individuals who do not have an application pending for a permanent benefit. Individuals will need to affirmatively apply; USCIS encourages online filing.

Paper filings – note that the prior I-131 edition will no longer be accepted after August 8
No I-765, Application for Employment Authorization needed. EAD will be requested via the I-131

Biometric Appointments

Many cases require biometric appointments. There is now a self-service tool where people can reschedule appointments if they can't keep the schedule that was sent to them. There are some exceptions. The appointment must be a future appointment, they must not have rescheduled twice, and the appointment must not be in the next 12 hours. To reschedule an appointment, it must be online or on the phone.

Chicago EOIR Update

The Chicago Immigration Court is moving. We only have a designated number of immigration courts. Closest to Indiana is the Chicago court. The new address is: 55 E. Monroe Street, 15th Floor. It will reopen on July 25th. In the interim, they are accepting in-person filings and certain scheduled hearings will occur at 536 S. Clark Street. They have communicated that they will attempt to be more gracious with individuals who didn't know about this move.

Currently there are 17 full-time Immigration Judges, receiving approximately 1000 new Notices to Appear (NTA) per week. This is a document that places someone in removal proceedings with the immigration court. It is similar to a criminal indictment, with allegations for why the government thinks that they are deemed removable from the United States. Recently a record-breaking 3,400 NTAs filed within a two-week period. Wait times tend to be very long. Chicago is 1 of 4 courts piloting a new initiative. Family units are being sent/processed at the Chicago Asylum Office for credible fear interviews rather than at the Southern Border.

Scam Warning from EOIR:

Individuals have reported receiving emails/notices to appear for hearings on Zoom. These Zoom meetings include a person dressed as a judge, in a black robe, who tells the foreign national that they need to post a bond or they will be detained. The court is asking to report any instances of these notices to the Court.

SCOTUS Decisions

U.S. v. Texas.

The government has the ability to set enforcement priority. There was an 8-1 decision that upheld the prerogative of the executive branch to set guidelines for ICE, allowing the agency to prioritize its work. Hopefully, there will be positive prosecutorial discretion moving forward.

U.S. v. Hansen

Court ruled 7-2 on a federal statute that criminalizes "encouraging or inducing" illegal immigration. It forbids only the purposeful solicitation and facilitation of specific acts known to violate federal law, and therefore is not unconstitutionally overbroad. There are claims that this statute could affect the 1st amendment.

Legislation

The Dignity Act of 2023.

This is a pending recommendation. On May 23, 2023, bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representatives from TX and FL. This contains numerous provisions to address border security, asylum/humanitarian protections, backlogs in processing, legalization for certain individuals, and much more. This is still just a proposal and has not been passed.

Florida SB 1718

Requires private employers with 25+ workers to use E-Verify, the federal online database to confirm employment eligibility. Requires hospitals and ERs that accept Medicaid to request/collect immigration status information. It says that it is a federal crime for a person to transport someone they know, or should have known, is an immigrant who has not been inspected by authorities into the country that could be charged with a felony for human smuggling. Invalidates driver's licenses of undocumented immigrants that were validly issued by other states. Allows law enforcement to collect DNA samples from people detained under a federal detainer request (immigration hold) who aren't in a lawful status. Kelsey said that there are likely litigations coming for these cases.

Border Issues

Texas began installation of buoys to create a 1,000-foot marine barrier wall on the Rio Grande. There was a lawsuit filed last week. These lawsuits are regarding human safety, altered river flow, and violation of treaties between US and Mexico.

National Guard troops have been deployed to the Southern Border by TX, FL, VA, VW, SC.

CBP One Mobile App. There are a lot of technological issues, digital privacy concerns, etc. This app is hindering the ability for individuals to obtain appointments & apply for asylum, under new processing rules. The Biden administration is actually decreasing the amount of migrants allowed for lawful processing. The rate of single adult migrants passing initial border screenings decreased from 83% to 46%.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact:

Kelsey.Raves@ilsi.net

Kelsey opened the floor for questions. Brandon then introduced Hope Moritz of Shepherd Community Center. Hope Moritz introduced herself and her organization.

Hope Moritz, Shepherd Community Center - Programmatic Spotlight

Shepherd prioritizes lasting positive transformation among individuals. They have a holistic approach to assisting individuals and families. They come through spiritual, academic, educational and other meaningful ways. There is a graph included on their powerpoint which displays this. Meeting people's needs where they are at regardless of their age, race, belief system. They are very intentional. They give neighbors a hand up from poverty. They assist them in a better life.

There are 10 assets for moving from poverty to stability; these are included in the slideshow. These include faith, health, support, emotional stability, mental acuity, models, self advocacy, knowledge of dominant culture, future orientation, income. Hope then shared a different slideshow to show that they are relationship-focused and hone in on different developmental stages. Shepherd has a childcare center for children ranging from 6 weeks to 4 years old.

They also have Project Jordan, which is an education platform for parents and their children. They also have programs for those of school age. The slideshows include all of the programs available. There are family service resources that they offer which include food, financial, mental health/addiction, medical, employment and adult education. Hope explained the following partnerships that Shepherd has. For more information, please refer to the slideshow that is included in the monthly update email.

Wrapping Up

Brandon wrapped up the meeting and announced the resource fair in late July at Shepherd Community Center. Brandon shared more about the fundraiser for the Ukrainian Education Platform at Panera Bread, instructing people to reach out to him with questions. There is also an Ask-a-Lawyer Event being hosted by COIN, Indiana Justice Project, Grassroots Maternal & Child Health, and the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic from 12-3pm at North United Methodist Church (at the intersection of 38th and Meridian) on **Saturday, August 19**. Reach out to Brandon or Lucia with any questions. Brandon opened the floor to Abby Vesga to explain a bit about her organization, Laundry and More.

Laundry and More

Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm they meet at the laundromat and provide free laundry services and free food. Next Tuesday, July 18th from 10am-1pm there will be a community day. It would be great to have as many organizations as possible. This has been going on for four years. There are barriers due to lack of resources, and it would be wonderful to have partnerships for individuals who will come out and talk with families.

To find more go to www.laundryandmore.org.
Contact: Abby@laundryandmore.org