



Coalition for Our Immigrant Neighbors (COIN)

Minutes for COIN monthly partner meeting on **Tuesday, August 8, 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.

*Jacob Snodgrass
Adriana S. Moore
Whitney Guthrie
Bukola Akinbola
Lacy Panyard
Tom Taylor
Lucia Mercado
Jim Bogusz
Maureen McCrae
Elsa Bueno
Maire Stocking*

*Kaitlin Willbanks
Chrisine Kungu
Maria Yuquilima
Karla Munive
Alexa Vizcarra
Kent Newton
Brandon Fitzsimmons
Dyllanne Deischer
Hope Moritz
Beatriz Alvisi
Katherine Harkov*

*Clara Unzicker
Jocelyn Alday
Kara Clements
Haddy Rikabi
Amy Pangbuurn
Lizeth Aguilar
Dallin Lykins
Alfonzo Ruiz Molina
Vitalii Buz
Christy Staats*

Brandon Fitzsimmons kicked off the meeting by introducing the speakers and welcoming all participants. The attendance form was sent in the chat and participants were given the opportunity to present themselves and what organization they were representing at the meeting.

Dailin Lykins introduced himself and offered the Immigration Law Update.

Updates with USCIS

There have been some updates to the USCIS. One of the changes has to do with the Humanitarian Parole Process. This process is set to allow certain Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans an advanced travel authorization so they can be paroled into the United States. There is a limit for how many individuals can arrive per month.

The first step involved is to submit an I-135A, a financial form that shows that a person can serve as a financial sponsor. If this financial form is accepted, the government then contacts the beneficiary via email. Then, through an app or online, that individual must submit additional information. Struggles come on the beneficiary side through the online difficulties. They also announced a family reunification parole process which gives an advance travel authorization for Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The National Visa Center (NVC) will send an email to individuals once they have an approved I-130 petition. A pending I-130 will not qualify; they must be approved.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has been reinstated and extended for 18 months. This status applies for El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua. This only applies to renewals, applicants who arrived after the designated continuous residents dates do not apply. Dates are included on the powerpoint. Online filing is being accepted for certain forms. Some examples are I-589 asylum form and the I-765 employment authorization document. There are changes for Application for Citizenship. Application for Citizenship can be filed through an application online and the oath ceremonies are the same day of an interview. In order to apply, a USCIS account is required.

Updates with the EOIR

The immigration court in Chicago has moved. The new address is: 55 E Monroe St suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60606. Individuals can find their case information online. It is important that individuals report new addresses so that they get notices to the right address. It is also important that individuals are connected with attorneys, that way they are informed about the benefits they may be able to receive. One including pre-hearing conferences.

Justicia Lab

Maria Yuquilima was given the floor to share about the Justicia Lab. Justicia Lab started in 1999 as a program called ProBono Net. It aims to broaden the platform for justice. Through their mission, they build online digital tools that provide access to legal access and justice for immigrants. Justicia Lab creates forms that are in simple language that anyone can access. These digital tools allow individuals to find low-cost assistance. Justicia Lab partners with immigrants and their advocates to identify current challenges and come up with digital tools which will facilitate the immigrant justice experience and simplify the process. Currently, Justicia lab has about 200 nonprofit partners, over 10,000 advocate members and over 500,000 immigrants who they work with. They partner with many leading immigrant advocacy groups to bridge the digital divide. Some examples of partners include AILA, New York State and Google. Our local partner Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic also confirmed that they have benefited from use of Justicia Lab.

Citizenshipworks

One of their main tools is Citizenshipworks, which is a tool that allows individuals to go online, choose their own language and walk through a simplified version of the citizenship form. They can also be connected to free legal assistance as they apply online. This tool has positively impacted the lives of nearly 50,000 legal permanent residents.

Immi

Immi is another tool through Justicia Lab that allows individuals to verify and identify what form of relief is available to them. Individuals can do a pre-screening which can help them understand their legal options. They are then given a list of local resources that they can use.

¡Reclamo!

This is Justicia Lab's newest tool available. It aims to help foreign born workers recover their stolen wages. It is an online pilot program which is available in New York. These tools are multilingual.

Universal Intake Tool

This is a news tool which was funded in Houston. It is made to help tackle new issues and difficult challenges. The universal intake tool works with immigrants and their advocates to use a case referral application that supports communities in urgent need of immigration and legal assistance. Their main solution is that immigrants and refugees have access to plain-language immigration information that is easy to find. Their legal services are technologically accessible.

COIN Partner Sharing

Brandon Fitzsimmons spoke about IndyVolved and asked partners to email him or Lucia Mercado resources that they would like COIN to present at the IndyVolved booth. Their emails are below:

brandon@coalitionforourimmigrantneighbors.org

lucia@coalitionforourimmigrantneighbors.org

At the end of the meeting, Brandon Fitzsimmons opened up the floor for partner sharing. Below are some of the announcements mentioned at the meeting.

Firefly's Survivor Advocacy program has started a virtual Spanish-speaking survivor support group. If you know female-identifying survivors of domestic violence who would be interested, they can reach out to 317-644-7201 or email SupportGroups@fireflyIN.org

Kids' Voice has new volunteer opportunities. www.kidsvoicein.org/events

<https://goodwillnfp.org/> Nurse Family Partnership is looking to recruit nurses, especially multilingual ones, who would like to work with mothers/families and babies.