

## A FOCUS ON PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

A Panel presentation at the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Presented by:  
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In a Panel Discussion with Dr Jim Sanders,  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
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## Relevance of the forum to the current geopolitical realities on Refugee-immigrant needs

- ❖ The academy's mission and objective in relation to child welfare
- ❖ Premising war and violence to children as a Public Health Risk Factor
- ❖ War and violence directly threaten Health and Well-being for all.

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## Children and adolescents are:

- Targeted by combatants
- Recruited to the combatants
- Witness and are exposed to and are victimized by violence
- Are used to propagate violence
- Left unattended by responsible adults
- Lose social and protective guidance and care

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- The majority of the world's children never receive protection as refugees
- This human catastrophe is lost to the world conscience

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## The focus on the refugee/ immigrant children and adolescent in the USA includes:

- ✓ Pre-migration medical screening and clearance, as it is for adults and discussed by Dr Sanders
- ✓ Post- migration early screening have a protocol as discussed by Dr. Sanders
- ✓ Screening for Mental Health for children are proposed, and need more attention
- ✓ Early detection of Mental Health and behavioral concerns
- ✓ Current awareness about adverse childhood experiences (ACES) informs the anticipated needs

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❑ Vulnerability to PTSD ,Depression and Anxiety Disorders among Refugee and immigrant children are significant

- ✓ Toxic Stress for refugee/ immigrant children

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### Our clinic's experience in serving Children and Adolescents

- ❖ Prevalence of ADHD, 30- 35%
- ❖ Depression 20- 25%
- ❖ Agency total annual service is 700- 800 children
- ❖ Adjustment disorders with mixed emotions and conduct 25- 30%
- ❖ Psychotic disorders < 5%
- ❖ Substance use disorders- 40% of all adolescents
- ❖ The majority of refugees/ immigrant children suffer from adjustment disorders
- ❖ Refugee/ immigrant children are 10- 15% of total youths case load

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### Family wellness and support

- o Presents as best protective factor for well-being
- o Psycho social support for the children and adults
- o Ethnic- community based organizations
- o Faith- based organizations
- o School relevance and support
- o Cultural linguistic awareness

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### Affirms the roles of integrated Behavioral Health and medicines

- ❖ Our agency is co-located in Primary Health and Medicine
- ❖ Encouraging PCPs to be comfortable about managing psychotic picture medications
  
- ❖ Being open to consulting with other non- medical and Behavioral Health care providers

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The premise of caring for the pediatrician and the team, per the Harvard program on Refugee Health tool kit

- ❖ Caring for the Healer

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### Conclusion and Discussion

- Thanks and keep paging Team members

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