12.15.21 LSWG Meeting

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04:17

Let's just get started. Um, you know, in terms of introductions, we're going to introduce ourselves say your name and your, your foundation, and pronouns and what immigrant wish Do you have? Currently since it's holidays and people are thinking about wishes, whether holiday or not let's, let's talk about what our what our wishes are. And I can start I'm Sarah Campos, Senior Program Officer at Grove she her pronouns and my big wish. This season is for some kind. of legalization. I don't care what it looks like. I just want it to get passed before Christmas. Like some of the advocates have been saying, gosh, I wish we could do something for dreamers and TPS holders and people have been waiting for so long. So that's, that's in my heart. Very, very hopeful. And I'll pass it to Navin.

05:54

Hi, everyone, I'm involved. With Zellerbach Family Foundation, she her hers. And I would echo that Sara’s sentiments in terms of what I would wish for this year, but I also just given the state of everything even if there is no legalization policy, or a bill that passes just more investment in immigration or immigrants services, because regardless of what happens in DC, there's still so much need here. So maybe even just more local investment in immigrant serving organizations. So, I will pass it on to Dan.

06:46

Hi, Dan Torres Haas Jr. Fund. He him pronouns Aye. Aye. I share that with Navin as well. And also hoping and wishing for a healthier year to come especially as we you know, know how disproportionately impacted immigrants are by all the consequences of the pandemic. And I will pass it to Luis

07:24

Thank you, Dan. I'm Luis. I'm the Immigration Services Bureau Chief at the Department of Social Services here in California. And yes, as much as I want something, some sort of reform. I really enjoy helping individuals that I know do Advance Parole. So, I think this has been a month where I've known a lot of folks that are trying to do Advance Parole, to visit relatives for the holidays. So that's one thing I recommend, you know, I know that as auditions, we want to see the volume of people help but it helps to know one or two individuals that are taken advantage of some of the benefits that are available. And that's really been fulfilling. So, helping some individuals that I know with Advance Parole has really been that gift that really makes me enjoy the work that we do, and the work that the state has been providing resources for. And yes, I think the wishing for more opportunities and resources next year and doing the work to having the health right and the energy to do the work that needs to get done to be ready for whatever comes next year. Pass it to Rebecca

08:45

Rebecca from the Ken Y & H Soda Foundation, she her pronouns. I'm filling in for whoever will be Mary Doyle's replacement. Guys are probably working with Mary but I'll still provide my wish. And, and I think that's for one service providers to have some reprieve and have their cups filled and it's for immigrant people and their stories, their realities to be seen and to be heard and to be felt through any number of ways. So, I'll share that and I'll pass it on to Stephanie.

**Ivy Suriyopas** 09:45

Sher pronouns and I am going to put my wishes were a pathway for DACA students. I think I hold them close to my heart and I just always want something better for them. And I actually also I would love to see more immigrant business get started and revamped in 2022.

10:22

My name is Kevin. He him pronouns. Here at GCIR. My big wish, when I think I share the same wishes everyone else so I will go a step further and say that I hope that those in leadership in DC find a way forward regardless of you know, parliamentarian or sort of other barriers that might seem to suggest we can't get something done this year. Yeah, as wish for political courage to get this done. And I will pass it to Cairo

11:07

Hi everybody, my name is Cairo. I'm the director of state and local problems here at GCIR. I was having some computer issues and was a little bit late. I don't know sat nav and if you could just repeat the checking into a question for me.

11:21

Yeah, sure. Introduce yourself. Foundation. Where you from pronouns and what's your big immigrant wish? The Season?

11:31

You know I think for me, it's about finding citizenship for the DACA folks, TPS folks. farmworkers. I know parole is on the table right now. So, I do have mixed feelings about that. I know it is a step in the right direction but for me, it's getting relief for you know, these communities that have been haven't had relief in 2022.

12:16

Good afternoon. Everyone. I'm Patty watching with them or in Community Foundation, she her pronouns. And now I have all these ideas. So I think I will keep it broad and just think about family. Well being a families are united and thriving. I think that's all I see a phone person.

**Ivy Suriyopas** 12:47

she her pronouns from the GCIR Team. Feeling similar to what others have shared, just wishing for political courage, but I'm in addition to what's happening on the hill, administratively. Of course, ridding ourselves of MPP and title 42.

13:37

right. Okay. Well, let's, let's move on to updates, I think, is that you Ivy again on the California Dignity for Families Fund.

**Ivy Suriyopas** 13:48

Yes. So, I know that we wanted to spend a little bit more time engaging with each other. So, I'll try and keep the updates brief. So as many of the many of you on this call are probably already aware, we launched CDFF earlier this year and just had our second docket and the first block of timber $2.78 million, were just distributed. 13 groups. And last month, $1.85 million, were distributed 10 groups. There were four different categories of grants for these groups. Half of the docket were for groups that are providing coordinated or transitional support organizations that are working in partnership with each other to provide holistic wraparound support for migrants and including folks across the US Mexico border. And another bucket is for infrastructure and capacity building, with another bucket for transformative opportunities, which is policy change. I just wanted to drop the link here for folks so you can see the right link for yourself all these great grantees. In 2022 and the first quarter we'll be reconvening the Advisory Committee, which will include a first stand for us who are on this call, another funder to PFL leaders and including Marissa our president, and for movement leaders. In this past December 8, we also shared a learning framework. And that is done in partnership with community center, evaluation, and research, learning and evaluation partner. So please be on the lookout for we're probably going to do a program to share those learnings and just FYI, our fundraising goals $20 million. We've currently raised 10 point 5 million.

16:28

Ivy is this going to be a quarterly docket that GCIR is going to run until the money runs out? Or when's the next time you all are going to get together and do some grant making,

**Ivy Suriyopas** 16:42

but Dan would have more information on that, but I know that the next docket is probably scheduled for end of January, early February. So, at this point, it's been about every two months or so.

16:56

Can I ask those the two rounds and it's not the same grantees, right? It's different grantees each round is that correct? And then write the idea that it's a onetime grant to those grantees or is it? Are we thinking going forward that it will get renewed so that folks are you know, going to get another grant the same folks are going to get another grant next year? How are you envisioning that work in terms of longevity for those are renewals for those partners.

17:30

The whole project is a two-month project. So we have not talked about renewals, but I think the idea has been that we want to address the different needs that have been raised. And as you know, it started off with helping families and unaccompanied minors, particularly those are new arrivals from the southern border. And then in the early planning of that we had new needs come up with you know, Haitian arrivals, and Afghan resettlement evacuation needs. So the scope is broad as brought in. And one of the things that's kind of been great about this is that we it's been a very dynamic process where we check in with our different partners about the new emerging needs, and part the thinking part as we move forward to be more check ins with our state partners and other movement leaders about what else is emerging. And it's been amazing. Lots of things have come up. I think, what that also means is that broadens to feel the folks who are seeking assistance from the fund.

18:52

I mean, just to give you a little snippet in a concrete example, with Afghan resettlement, it's a moving target: we have a lot of things happening in real time with housing, the social services needs, language access that are emerging, like every week. So as things like that happen, I think we need to you know, next time we can't together, get a refresh what and what the needs are and start coming up with a strategy to look into those requests and, and work with the team to get recommendations on what we should do. Same things happening with unaccompanied minors, and the other populations we're serving.

19:32

What's the best way for people to reach out if they if they feel like this? This is you know, really important need that needs to be addressed? Should they contact you, Dan? GCIR? Marissa? What's the best way or any of the above?

19:52

I'd say that GCIR team, but also the folks staffing it: Nikki, who's facilitating and then Ingrid, who's doing the due diligence and you know, interviewing potential grantees. And so do you sort of got the team that does that and then present it to the rest of the committee with their analysis, and then we discuss, whether there’s a need, and can it be met at that point.

20:31

I'm sorry if I can ask another question. I'm just super curious. If I remember this correctly, this is a public private partnership right with the state doing it. Also work around this issue too. Can you just refresh my memory and talk about how you guys are thinking about that coordination? So, between the grantees that are getting funded through this fund, and then those that are getting funds funded through the state, and then just making sure that folks are somehow accessing state benefits to if they qualify for that if they're coming through the, you know, getting served by the partners from this fund? Just to get

**Ivy Suriyopas** 21:17

by, it's certainly defined to be a complementary relationship. So, the state is distributing $25 million through its own funds. And then CDF is distributing again the goal is $20 million and complementary way to the groups that wouldn't otherwise qualify for state funding. And a lot of these groups a lot of these grantees are like, are working to try and access benefits, where there may be available from the state or otherwise.

21:54

Yeah, I think in terms of like the broader question how it's working with the really big benefit of the conversations we're having is that we're sharing our, you know, knees that are that are surfacing through our own conversations with the field gaps. We're identifying and then sharing that out with the governor's office and CDSS leadership to think about how they can fill in those gaps. And there might be some grantees that qualify for both, you know, funds, but the with the dignity fund, we've been intentional about providing on ramps to new groups that don't necessarily have state funding yet, you know, getting them the capacity and resources to ramp up and then situate them so that they can apply for state funding. We've gotten the opportunity and conversation we had yesterday with us where we do a lot of networking with amongst the funders to think about what else we can do to provide grants for consultants and general operating support for groups that that we think could be well suited for this work but don't have the mechanisms to apply for a state contract or a federal contract yet, right. So a couple of groups that we funded, and then some of us came in with secondary funding to help them hire consultants, development consultants. That can get them situated for that state and federal money down the road. So that's the kind of way we're trying to coordinate to, to build out the capacity in the field. And then data we do a lot of we have a lot of conversations about the different needs and different you know where unaccompanied minors are being released, where Afghan refugees are going to be resettled in. Getting that information in real time with the state is so critical for us to think about where to where to investigate and talk to potential grantees to have them submit a proposal and down the road.

24:05

The questions come in.

24:09

Great, so let's move on to Cairo. UACs in the Bay Area or in the state.

24:19

Yeah, I these are my findings and I hope I can I can build in a larger discussion or make room for the folks close to the conference to contribute but in terms of federally there's 13,248 Children under the US Department of Health and Human Services about 1100 Many five have been released to sponsors here in California and this is the most recent data from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and about 2020 2500 are currently being held in California licensed facilities. You know, most recently the governor signed the unaccompanied immigrant children protections Act, which requires unaccompanied minors to receive the same protection as any other foster youth under California licensed facilities. In there are several groups that were working on that on that bill and of course, co sponsor that bill, including the very Institute and the immigration advocates, network and kind and legal services for children. So I'm happy to also dropped the links for folks to know more. These were my most recent recent findings

25:41

I wrote Do you have a sense of the geography like where are they? But one of the counties or regions where they're being held? Or where they are?

25:52

Yes, I can pull that up. Believe it was Orange County was one of them. Hey, go there's Orange County, Los Angeles County. Santa Clara County and Contra Costa County.

26:49

Can I ask the funders in the room like are folks is hearing that from their partners too, that they're seeing an influx of unaccompanied minors coming through with services and then what you are thinking about in terms of investing in that area or trying to address that need. I'm struggling with that or thinking about that too. So I just wanted to hear what other folks are thinking about with regards to that. Howdy.

27:22

I don't know how formal I should be here.

27:24

Not formal. But it's it's helpful. Because you can always see

27:30

right? As long as I remember to put it down Marion County has always been I'd say disproportionately higher destination or placement for unaccompanied minors over the years and that has accelerated in the past year. I think he hit its peak in 2120 2021. And we recently queried our you know, we support canal Alliance, which provides the really the in partnership with Family and Children's Law Center. It's the only place to receive Affordable Legal Services for sh s and other relief avenues. And, you know, they're completely they have a huge waiting list. You know, they can take I think 50 cases, there's at least that and more that they can't help and that's a relatively small number, obviously, compared to other places. We did query our other partners you know that the the question about legal is kind of cut and dry. Right and how many attorneys do you have what you know, what resources can you put towards it? I think that bigger challenges around how are these students faring? You know, how is how is it going with their host family? How is school going? How are they accessing? You know, once they get on the, excuse me the initial, you know, can they get connected to a community clinic and enrolled in school? What happens? And there are different subgroups, I'd say, you know, educators across school districts and MYRIN with the county office. There's another group. I can't remember offhand maybe through the county, you know, around social services that are looking at this, that this population but not so connected with each other. And so that's just started to open up where some, you know, it's really sporadic, some schools are really on top of it and creating a welcoming environment and prioritizing mental health and behavioral health supports and others not so much. So, I would imagine that that's a similar picture in other places, and we're watching that, you know, hoping that with some simple connecting and facilitation of who's doing what, that that more can happen. We haven't put dedicated money into that process yet. I think it's, you know, the the this population coming into a fairly fragmented social services system that is hard for for All right, so are there upstream approaches, right, that can help make that route that navigation easier? I think that's the question that we're trying to figure out.

30:39

No, Petey, and I think it was in 2014 or 15. A bag, pulled communities together, Association of Bay Area Governments, you know, and just pulled really every you know, all these actors, you know, people from the schools, you know, people from city government, legal services providers. I'm just wondering if there might be will around. I mean, there's so many issues right now, right. You know, between Afghanistan kids, you know, you know that it's hard to to give any one group but, um, but I remember that that was that had been really helpful to get everyone in the same room on the same page, you know, so you can avoid duplication of services and, and people could get valuable information.

31:35

Yeah, let's do it again.

31:37

Let's do it again. Yeah. Let's see if we can't pull something like that together.

31:43

It's a good question of whether it's a regional issue or local or both, but yeah, you know, in Myrin, things are fairly. What's the word provincial, I

31:52

guess. And so, I think there are there are ways to improve the you know,

32:04

the world that is surrounding that these youth is pretty local. So we're, you know, just doing things on that level, I think will help a lot, but it'd be great to understand this, the larger kind of trends and movements and supports that may be beyond the county level.

32:25

Some since Dan, voice

32:29

This is a priority for our board and we're we have several grants out, trying to address different needs legal services. Language justice, especially because so many of these kids are coming from Guatemala at this point speak indigenous languages. And you may have seen by the way tracks report last week about asylum and the disparities, somehow outcomes based on language and they highlighted, that the indigenous speakers from Guatemala are facing horrible outcomes compared to like Spanish speakers from Ramallah. And so that's, that's a big priority for us. But the other initiative we're launching is the California Youth Leadership core initiative to help build capacity in the accredited raps, getting more immigrant youth who are in community to the committee card system to get training to become US DOJ raps and provide legal services and language justice advocacy, in particular for you know, groups are serving unaccompanied minors, that'll be our emphasis in you know, I just met with the Bureau this morning and talk about this very issue about trends and regions and what you know what's going on they, they're working on an initiative to sort of based on a model of kinship navigators. That's the time it has a longer history. In the Child Welfare world. And in in bringing that to the immigrant rights field, and they presented some data to me about the trends of releases of unaccompanied minors from fiscal year 2014. To now and to Patty's point, it is definitely a regional impact. I mean, the numbers for LA during that time period, like 20, almost 20,000 Kids are there. And, you know, their needs don't go away every fiscal year, it’s still there and they still have a lot of needs in terms of integrating you know, their access to schools and family reunification, jobs, and work force development. So, one of the one of the things that you're looking at is how to build in the field can ship navigators who can help sort of be the hub for the gluten, the different systems that the kids you know, have to journey through. Particularly starting with, you know, helping the families that are going to serve as sponsors to get kids out of custody as quickly as possible, and then helping them navigate social services, school enrollment, health care, all the different systems when they're in the post release phase, and connecting them with legal services. So maybe that's something we could offer I can maybe I can ask them to share that document with, with all of you or I can forward it went figure permission. But that might be something to look out for data and the concept because you're looking for more partners to do that work.

35:56

We can maybe give it to Cairo to share with maybe as part of the meeting resources from this meeting. That would be helpful to look at we could even think about having you know, a session a particular you know, briefing from them on what's going on. That would be helpful to

36:16

Rebecca did you have your hand up earlier?

36:18

Yeah. I just wanted to ask because since I'm one of the four counties where unaccompanied minors are being held in Contra Costa County and we're a hyperlocal funder, I'd be really interested in understanding you know, which groups are overseeing the implementation of the unaccompanied immigrant children Protection Act or whichever act that was mentioned earlier and you know, if there's any funding opportunities to to hold the Contra Costa county facility ticular accountable to whatever protections they ought to be a full Dean. So if anyone has any leads, I appreciate it could be offline. Thank you.

37:05

My guess is the IDA the immigrants defend immigrant defense advocates. I think they had a hand in in that legislation. So they probably know about implementation that it's a good question that we should get a handle on.

37:22

Yeah, we're actually the co-sponsor of codimension papers. Did the briefing this morning. Maybe we could have seen a talk about that kinship navigation, and you know, implementation of the fee. You see a lot.

37:40

I can send over the the list of organizations that worked in the NGO or co-sponsors.

37:46

Again, I'm super interested in kind of to what Patti was saying earlier to just kind of having some kind of hub to kind of track where folks are going. feel like there are a lot of organizations that work with unaccompanied minors, but I don't know there is my database for kind of keeping track of any of this stuff. And it sounds like from my partners, that there are a lot of legal services organizations that are now looking or hiring social workers to provide some of that kind of wraparound service kind of helping with the referrals and all of that, but I don't think that they're necessarily talking to each other. And so, you know, this is a struggle we've always had with in this field, because, you know, we've we've talked about a standardized intake form and that hasn't necessarily taken off for various reasons. And I'm wondering if the challenges was something like this for specifically this population, or similar to that to of trying to figure out how to centralize some of this. And then I wanted also to share around unaccompanied minors, we have been partnering up with Bill hang at USF in also the city and county of San Francisco there. They've been picking up unaccompanied minors and what they want to do. The the DA basically, their office has been picking up unaccompanied minors and instead of like getting them caught in the system, they've been trying to work with us F to implement or pilot a deterrent program so that they don't get like any kind of criminal background, but they have to go through this program for six months. And part of that program provides the legal services through the clinics, bills clinics, but also has some kind of social work or working with them to creating some kind of plan for them to and then if they can complete this program within six months, their charges basically get dropped, and they're not caught in the system at all. Um, but you know, once again, it's very localized, and they're not necessarily talking to other folks too. So I'm like, you know, are we talking to other folks in the region? Who might want to get involved in this? Are we keeping track of these youth too, so that, you know, we know what's happening to them after they serve or go through this program, but it's a it sounds like a promising model. And we're hoping that the county actually will pick it up after this first year once there's some kind of proof of concept that we can provide to the county so hopefully this summer or something like that will get funded through the county but just wanted to share that but also once again, the county is also interested and you know, this has been on their radar too, because of just the heightened increase of folks flowing young people flowing into this area, too. So just wanted to share that.

40:56

Thank you for you know, those are excellent ideas. I'd love to continue that conversation on the point about the first your first point about whether groups are working together. This has been an ongoing challenge. This is a no and we've been raising this point, lots of different contexts. And one of one idea that I think I'd love to hear more feedback from you all about what we can do to support communities of practice. It seems like, you know, the immigration field has so much diversity now in terms of different areas, different priorities, but the one place where I think that there can be communities of practice could be around and company minors, because this seems to be more. There seems to be some specialization in that field and there are policies that are ripe for implementation and energy around and perhaps that looks like a regional set of bodies, but that's something that maybe we can take back to the dignity fund, because we're looking for ways to make this sustainable the dignity fund, hopefully can create hubs and networks that will, you know, continue well past the program's expiration. But maybe that's something that we can take back to the dignity fund folks if they can we explore that concept further and maybe if you know with your ideas and thoughts about where we could create them that might that could give us some more flesh to ideas to take back to that table

42:31

The state is moving to establish the new Office of immigrant youth. So we do have our first post for the is the immigrant youth coordinator. So this will be a person directly under the Office of Equity under Marcella was going to be coordinating a lot of the services that right now exists in different bureaus. They're all going to go into that one new office. So that's going to be a more like coordination role to bring all the state programs together. And maybe that's also a place where more of this coordination we're talking about happens. But there is a few investments both on the legal services that's under my bureau and I can tell you that there's about 30 service provider providers across the state but with very limited capacity in some cases, they only have like nine cases for unaccompanied minor. So I know that this is a sometimes a very specialized area of law where the attorneys not only need to know immigration law, but also the family law part of it. So it's often very difficult to find folks that are experts on both or the practice both of those areas. So again, one of the places where capacity building is very necessary for the field. And there has been investments in this year's budget for the wraparound services. We have the county program and the opportunities for youth program that are mainly in school districts the impact of school districts including la Marion County, Contra Costa and Oakland is one of the models as well, where we're working with the school districts to provide all those services for the for the unaccompanied minors and their families as well. So, there's quite investments happening but I think that there is still a lot more to do. I think it was a first year or this investment. And we didn't always get the outcomes that we'd want. And so, we were still looking for different partners to try it again and this new in this coming year. But I think that that all that is going to be now under the Office of immigrant youth and then we'll have this one person really coordinating all the different components that are part of the state investment at the moment.

45:07

Do you think for this new coordinator position to kind of bring a few folks together to to form just a learning hub to exchange information, or should we have we just charged one of ourselves, you know, outside of the state to do that. It's just it sounds like there's a real need and will to share information on? Yeah.

45:34

yeah, from what I've read. That this this coordinator, it's going to be like a community facing position. So it's going to be one of those positions where I think the field could really lean to coordinate a lot of the things that are needed. I'll share the link to the to the position that was posted. In case you guys want to share it or you know somebody who should be applying but um, that that will be the first step in creating this this office.

46:04

Okay, need to to move, move on because we've got a packed agenda. But it sounds like that for the moment that can live there. You know, so we can get together and get good information shared. Cairo.

46:21

Before we move on, Louise, can you repeat? I don't know if the program that you mentioned that that's in MYRIN has a name or a person connected to it. Second follow up.

46:33

The two programs that I know that invest in the school district is the opportunities for youth and the cow new program. Those are the two that that are helped by the company miners. Thank you I'm

46:53

okay. Cairo. Did you have more or should we move on to Kevin and the national policy report?

47:00

I had some numbers on the Afghan resettlement. Around 37,000 Refugees remain in US bases that are still waiting to be processed into US soil. About 25,000 have already been placed in communities across the country. You know, California was projected to take about 5300 of Afghan refugees more than any other state. Texas was going to go into follow with 4800. So far Sacramento, in the month of October received 800 People Fresno is expected to take in 75 families by the end of the year and 50 families have already been resettled in San Diego. And in terms of the Bay Area, about 225 folks have settled in the Bay Area with 300 More projected to join. Project Anar has recently released a letter, signed by 225 organizations, denouncing USCIS policy of denying Afghan refugees. Around 30,000 Folks are waiting to be paroled into the US and basically the Biden administration has already denied has already begun denying because USCIS is under severely understaffed and is used to 2000 applications a year so the 30,000 intake has taken a lot on them but I just posted a link to the chat with the letter that project Anar is leading. And I can also in the follow up material share with you all some of the grantees that the California Dignity For Families Fund has supported who are leading Afghan resettlement work in California.

49:17

okay. Kevin,

49:20

do you want to move on to national policy update?

49:24

Sure, I can do a brief update us talking made her part of this FEC. Three meeting. But the two topics that we explored were around the migrant protection protocols as well as the efforts to secure some form of relief for books and documentation on the micro protection protocols. The big news obviously, was that the administration had chosen not just to restore them for a court order but to actually expand the countries that the program would find. Previously, Mexico had only taken returning asylum seekers from countries where they spoke Spanish and it's notably left out just hitting and for some reason, the administration has chosen to expand magnification protocols even while they say they're looking to enter them. So now Haitian asylum seekers are subject to being removed Under this policy. The administration was forced to restart it because, you know, courts have declined just stop a lower court decision that said the administration acted incorrectly and terminating up in the first place. So it may still want to be that the administration is successful in his attempts to end the program, but it's really disheartening obviously, that they chose to expand it. Another original program, there was almost 70,000 people who were removed and she's about 70,000 people were in the original program 32,000 were removed 9000 hyperkyphosis terminated and only 723 were granted asylum. That's pretty sobering. Me think about an initial group of over 70,000 And those are just the people who made it to the border and you know, were returned many others obviously, we're deterred because of US policy and door were stopped along the way because of the threats that present themselves over attorneys. So it back in I think it was October the Administration released and news and she rationale for why they terminated the program and so that is kind of working its way it'll work its way through the courts. Either the lower court will accept the rationale, in which case, Missouri and Texas will probably challenge it and say this rationale doesn't make sense. It's still unconstitutional. Bring it back to the Supreme Court, or the policy won't be upheld by the lower court which case administrator should probably have to, again, attempt to end the program with some new our rationale. So not really great news. They're the only sort of I don't want to call it a silver linings is bad. But the only improvements to what they've done is said that they were going to include some exemptions for certain categories of runnable individuals was elderly LGBTQIA. Identifying those with physical or mental disabilities will be subject to immediate removal. And then also, they said that their asylum officers would be more proactive and sorry, not asylum officers. They see custom border patrol officers would be more proactive in asking someone if they had credible fear, essentially. So if the person said yes, then they could go actually see an officer and potentially be allowed to enter the states. Whereas under the previous administration, you know, they weren't practically asking that question. Obviously, they were just sort of seizing people and turning them back. So you know, it's a very, I'm hesitant to call it victory, but it's better than what it was previously. And in those regards, the others sort of piece sort of obviously in the news, I think you guys all are well aware of. We all said our initial wishes have been in the call. We're around this, but we're sort of on attempt three to get some sort of immigration relief through in DC. The parliamentarian has not yet rejected it, which is I guess an encouraging sign

53:41

you know, if the parliamentarian accepts the new proposal, it's not guaranteed to go through because you all of the Democrats essentially need to stay together and vote to pass it. And we know that there hasn't been 100% agreement on the Democratic side of the Senate in terms of like what immigration reform or a lot of policy should look like. But even if they all do agree to it, if the pollen parent agrees, if all the senators agrees and it goes through and they accept the bill that the House passed, it's still a watered down version of what had been proposed previously, which is you know why you heard Cairo at the beginning of the call sort of kind of lukewarm enthusiasm for the performance on the table. You know, it's not a path to legalization. And it's, you know, it only benefit about six, six and a half million people, and about half of those might have a path to LPR status. So essentially, it's a five year period of relief where people could seek work authorization get, I think it's one more renewal. So, you know, obviously if 6 million people have some sort of pathway to some sort of status, if it's temporary, that's better than where we are now. If it's where we need to be no. So obviously advocates are going to continue to push even if we're so lucky to get this reform. The sort of the other sort of piece of this is, if the parliamentarian does not accept this new proposal, there are there are a number of nonprofits and emerge justice organizations that are calling on the Senate to disregard the advice of the parliamentarian is not binding and proceed with the effort. So we'll see sort of how things play out and how effective they've been applying pressure. If that happens. The reason I said sort of the beginning, my hope is that flicks on political courage is I think, if this gets dragged out into 2022, there's the closer we get to midterms, the likelihood of anything positive happening is exponentially decreases. So my takeaway from all this is, you know, just important to continue to support work in the advocacy, the advocacy and power building work that allows the community to really apply the pressure that's necessary on the White House on the senate house to get something through let's it's kind of where we are now. I guess the only piece I left out of this is that part of what this hinges on is whether the parliamentarian feels that it's not a radical enough change, to sort of like trigger like rejection and also whether the budgetary impact is relevant enough. To sort of say, okay, this passes the bird test, or the bird rule, as there's an estimate from the CBO. I think it's about $300 billion over the next decade, in terms of costs to the US of expanding protections in this way. Because there'll be some eligibility for some benefits, like Affordable Care Act. So, you know, we're, you know, awaiting news. Yeah, I'll stop there and any questions?

56:59

We heard that parliamentarian might give an opinion by the end of the weekend or by sometime this weekend, and that it might be, you know, coupled with other opinion she's trying to roll out so people should stay tuned to that. Any other questions? Just want to let people know we have Tim Hernandez who just joined us a few minutes ago and he's going to be sharing some poems with us, but we still have a few more things on our agenda before we, we go to that, but I just wanted to let people know who he was. So Kevin, let's see if there's no, no more than that. Maybe we can do the updates, the other updates on the Legal Services scan. And just a few things so that we can move the agenda.

58:10

Sure, I can do that and obviously started now. And if you want to add anything, feel free to do so. I think most of you know that, you know, over the last year plus we've all sort of been in dialogue around the Legal Services assessment that GCIR conducted in 2019 that aim to sort of identify the capacity and gaps for legal service infrastructure in California, and hopefully, he could help support that infrastructure, particularly when we were more optimistic about sort of, sort of more wide scale legalization opportunities. And we had a series of discussions about that. We had a webinar here. And just a month or so ago, we had a jointly administered program within partnership with the Institute for local government. It was a long session. It was about three hours, I think, where several folks from sort of city and county governments came together with the philanthropic stakeholders, including so if you're on this call, to do another sort of look at legal services in a state, essentially, where we were where we needed to go and do some thinking about public private partnership opportunities. So, where we are in terms of the next steps in the civil service conversation is we are going to do an updated assessment on legal services in California. We have partnered with resource development associates who did the initial report in 2019. To do a sort of a refresher and update, considering some of the more contemporary context of the last few years, including the pandemic, the racial justice movement, the new administration, and really looking at how those factors have impacted the initial findings from a couple years ago here in the state. So, Navin Sara, Cairo and I primarily will be working with RDA and moving this project forward. Our next steps are to identify a few leaders from the field who can join us in sort of an advisory capacity as we update this scan. I will say it's not going to be a sort of a full-on report in the way that the last one was. This is going to be a short and sweet sort of analysis and reflection piece, to really bring forward some of those lessons and learnings to the broader community again and get a dialogue going. Even if we don't wind up with expanded relief opportunities. We know that the system already couldn’t meet the demand. That was there and there's you know, the best time to prepare for the futures now so you know, if nothing happens at the federal level, obviously you know the 20 is going to redouble efforts and just keep trying. So, we expect the results from that will come out. Maybe around February, honestly when March. And then we'll continue to show to have conversations and think about how these legal services working group and C three might coordinate some investment activities together. And so, let's see, here's what we'll likely find a way to bring that forward to our convening power BI international convening, which will be in May in Houston. So, I will pause there.

1:01:22

Folks have any questions? I don't have anything to add on that. I guess the only thing that I want to say that it's not necessarily related to the scan but related to legal services and ready to stay California. We did receive a proposal from some of the advocacy groups, groups that are have been active on ready to stay California and kind of laying out what we need to do in preparation issues such as they lay out stuff like you know, comms and public education and you know, you know, just very you know, screening of screening so that we know, you know, if people are eligible, how they can you know, how they can prepare and avoid, not adios and other unscrupulous actors out there. So, um, I would love to reconvene our group on I think it was it was comprised of Navin and Dan and M. And Elise to look at this proposal and think about ways that we can work together as funders to resource this in the best way that we can. On it's not it’s, it's kind of it has hefty price tags, as we might expect, it's, it's ambitious to try to, you know, let people know this is happening, or this, this may happen, and here's a way to prepare. So, and it's not just Philanthropy, but also other state and local fun actors as well, public actors. So, um, so stay tuned for that, because that's, that's coming up. I think early in the year it would be good for us to get together

**Ivy Suriyopas** 1:03:15

to talk about that. Right.

1:03:19

Any questions about any of this? Or comments? Well, I'm hearing none, move on with the agenda. And it's really I'm really delighted to introduce friend poet Tim Hernandez. He's an award winning writer, research scholar and performer His work includes poetry, fiction and nonfiction. And he's the recipient of numerous awards, most notably the American Book Award, the Colorado Book Award, and the International Latino Book Award. His work has been featured in the LA Times New York Times C span and NPR all things considered Public Radio International hailed his book Manana Means Heaven, as one of their top picks of the year in 2013. nandus was also named one of 16 new American poets by the Poetry Society of America and he has received accolades and recognition for his research on locating the victims of the 1948 plane. wreck at Los Gatos Canyon. The incident made famous by Woody Guthrie song of the same name. The result of this work is the basis for his documentary novel or they will call you the first installment of the plane crap plane crash series which he continues to write and research is done. This holds a BA from the Naropa University and an MFA from Bennington College. And he is an associate professor with the University of Texas El Paso. El Paso's bilingual MFA in creative writing. Welcome, Tim.

1:05:04

Thank you so much for inviting me. And for having me. I appreciate it and also letting me sit in and listen a little bit to all of your business there. You know, y'all are doing such important work and I'm just really honored and grateful to have been invited to share some a few poems with you all. I know, I was trying to find some of my poems, you know, here's the thing is, I come from the San Joaquin Valley. My parents were migrant farmworkers. I was born and raised there into that experience, and I always feel like I can write anything I write about has is filtered through that lens. It's always informed by that by those experiences of being a young, young boy. You know, going from field to feel this season to season with my family. You know, and I always feel like, you know, for me, a lot of the poems that I write anything I write kind of has that at least Hugh painted over it also, that said, I'm going to share with you just a few poems. All right, the first two are smaller poems, and then the third poem is a little bit of a longer poem. And Sara, I know I shared with you and Cairo the some of the poems that I might read, but I remembered one as I was listening to the conversation, and I remembered one that I had sort of kept away, because it's a little bit of a longer poem, but I feel like it's probably really appropriate for this. So I'm going to share that I'm going to say that for the last poem, and I'll read that then. Okay. This first poem is called brown Christ. Yesterday, I saw God, a brown Christ hovering above an onion field over tilled plains of the San Joaquin, frayed constellation of denim ox hide work boots, broken at the heel, a curved knife, gripped in his fingers, low clouds, undeleting hair of broken lemon grass and rodeo lasso, a fragrant beard of better heal, everything smelled of sulfur and manure. And the silos wept and the snowflakes tumbled tenderly from the day moon, refracting congregations of aspen with the music of all the truck dogs how lean over accordions, shimmering, there man, a light that's brown Christ. Thank you. Yes, thanks. This next poem is called Lost Children. This is kind of one of those poems that just you read it you read something or you read a newspaper article or something hits you and suddenly you feel or at least for me anyways, that you feel compelled to put some words down in this kind of came instantly in that way. But you'll probably recognize I think maybe the, some of the subject is lost children. We have lost the parents of 545 caged children, yet 5g towers are all the rage. But can they track down the families? We've microchipped a monarch butterfly and traced it down to a single tree bow and Bolivia. Just yesterday, NASA's presser virulence rover was tasked with locating ancient microbial life on Mars. But we can't locate non ancient human life on Earth. We must remember this.

1:08:14

That's lost children. This one's a little longer. So I'm going to take a sip of my water

1:08:24

this one is called the witness. And I think the subject itself will be in the poem and you'll recognize it as well. This is the longer poem Okay, so bear with me. Today is November 21st 2018. And last night, 150 adolescent girls were transported into Tornillo's detention facility because they do not qualify to be released to their parents. Thanksgiving is tomorrow and I am writing to you from my home here in El Paso, Texas, where I just shared a mushroom omelet and two figs with my 11 year old son Salvador, and I can kiss him right now if I want to. He might smell like old milk. But this poem doesn't care. Not like I care. This poem might point his finger and deny this to be true. It might say I care but right now I have a combined total of $1.47 in my bank account, and there is nothing this poem can do about it. I couldn't sell this poem if I wanted to. Even if I could this poem would be indifferent. It cannot march into the gates of door Neal or croon to the incarcerated children Carol's at Christmas and demand that 800 of them be returned to their families. This poem has no legs or no mouth. You may argue this poem does. But have you ever been kissed by a poem? It's true it cannot exist without your I don't mistake that for caring because a poem has no heart. A child has a heart a poem has no heart. A poem is neither dead nor alive. It lives on the breath of you and I but a poem itself cannot breathe. It doesn't qualify as human. There are now 1800 Children huddled inside your meal 40 miles away from this poem, but it doesn't matter because this poem cannot offer them their mother's arms. Though it will argue it can. It'll say it can. It may even attempt to stretch itself or later down the road. It will attempt to celebrate itself and sing itself. A poem will never caress you, even if it promises the love poems love to promise all the love but it's incapable of love. Just ask the 2000 unqualified children inside thought Neil is poems care. They might shrug children's have children have eyes and fingers and flesh and feet, which they blast the soccer balls over fences, soccer balls. They care about as much as poems. Both are circular and kicked around for sport. Both can hurl fences right now. 2500 children are desperate to make a phone call holding on for dear life, and this poem will never make that connection for them. This poem is all talk Don't let the poem seduce you. It is now early January 2019. Frigid 20s at night. days ago Joshua Rubin approached the fence and he spoke to a few children he is the witness. But he was threatened away by the guards he tells me each morning just before sunrise you can hear 1000 birds here cackling and singing across the cotton fields. Nature has memory. Let me remind you though, a poem doesn't care if it cared, as it so often claims it would grow legs and walk off this page and hitchhike to the stone gates of Marcelino Serna port of entry make itself useful. But this poem cannot hitchhike because it has no thumbs our eyes and to witness you need eyes to see ears to record and there are now 3000 Children locked inside prison that door Neil, Texas. Today is Tuesday and you are here. Maybe you're sitting down maybe at a cafe or reading this poem doesn't qualify though, as a poem. Joshua Rubin might be a poem 2600 Children kicking soccer balls over a barbed wire fence might be a poem, but this is not a poem. It doesn't care what you think it's a not a poem. It exists 40 Miles 40 minutes outside of Tornillo’s children's prison, and this poem cannot lift a finger. It'll make promises but it'll never deliver. It'll go on celebrating itself in singing itself. And this poem will assume that you get this reference because poems assume you get the references, but this poem does not. This does not qualify as a poem right now. There are 2800 children being held captive in a prison who do not qualify to be reunited with their mothers or fathers. Right now you are listening to these words, perhaps in your home or office, perhaps comfortable near a bedside lamp concerned perhaps about whether or not this qualifies as a poem. Thank you. I, I don't know do we? Do we have time for one more? Should I read one more or should I say

1:13:08

I have a really short one actually. This is sort of encapsulates, I think the last two years of living under this sort of new reality--this pandemic. It's called year of the dead. How do you build an altar for a year of the dead? There aren't enough miracles to pretty it up 229,000 lights in search of a saint the offender is built inside of the convention center. They say made of streetlamps and sirens and 1000 empty beds praying for inoculation. Kiss the tomb of your beloved from behind a veil. Even breath requires distance unless of course exhaled in a Texas strip club. Nothing more essential, I guess than $1 Bill wedged between lips, there will be sugary skulls and cardboard gatherings and other elected ornaments. We have only one day to make this happen to bury the past and call upon the ghosts that bear our name. And they are counting on us. They are counting on us to get it right. Thank you.

1:14:07

Thanks so much, Tim for sharing your poems. Just I yeah, just really. Thank you.

1:14:18

Thank you all so much for letting me share my work of course and all the work that you're doing. It's really a pleasure knowing that you all have that. You're holding that corner down. Appreciate that. Thank you, guys.

1:14:48

Well, you know, Tim, we're going to continue with the meeting. I am going to urge people to seek out your work I've read most of his work and reviewed it from time to time, so please, please check his workout is beautiful. Because you know, all right. So, we are going to do something we I don't think we've done before. At legal services working group, we're going to do you know, we want to basically acknowledge just, you know what a difficult year this has been, and know many of us were looking at this year, you know, last year around this time, you know, after the election, we had, we were just full of hope. We knew that. The Biden administration had a big bold immigration plan. And we thought that we were going to see some major change at this by this point. Right? In the year. And it feels Yeah, it feels like a mixed bag. We've won on a few issues, but you know, we're still you know, trying to capture those, those big issues and we've lost on some pretty big issues at least so far, um, you know, MPP continuance of, you know, the title 42 expulsions on so that you know, the one big bright spot in all of this is the people in our movement on the people out in the front lines, do we the advocacy, um, you know, as I was, I was thinking about this, I was thinking of Lorella you know from community change and thinking about the dreamers and folks that are running the TPS campaigns on but I was also thinking about all you guys the funders, and GCIR folks who, resource these partners. And today, we just want to really appreciate all of you for all you give all you've given for being thought partners, for moving your boards to give more, and just for staying in the work. And as we close out the year, we want to end this last board meeting on this last not board meeting, but this last meeting of the year with some levity and some fun, high school yearbook style. These are a little goofy. So we're going to ask for your indulgence and also apologize in advance. All right. So first, we're going to do appreciations to GCIR staff and first Kevin, Kevin, we appreciate your ability to articulate complex material and synthesize it into digestible bits. Given your diplomacy we think you are most likely to be chosen by AOC to be her running mate in 2024.

1:18:00

And satisfying ready, go next, go for it. So IV we also want to appreciate you also you started in 2021 with us and so we want to appreciate your easygoing manner. And your willingness to pinch hit at the last minute, especially with the LG forum that we had with the public private partnership with the Legal Services scan. We see you and we know that you do a lot of heavy lifting behind the scenes. And so we think that Ivy is going to be chosen to play the role of the key campaign strategist for the AOC Kevin Douglas ticket in 2024. Next, we have Cairo and Cairo. Welcome to the team. We really appreciate your enthusiasm in the way you jumped into the work, especially this work with the legal services working group. You win for most interesting name of the year inside and I hope that you don't get too annoyed with us in the weeks to come as you get to know us..

1:19:22

Okay Patti, we appreciate your smart and detail-oriented approach on immigration and environmental justice and think you're most likely to advise Mayorkas on humanitarian visas for migrants affected by climate change. And we have Dan. Dan, we appreciate your smarts, your lawyer early insights and the way you are grounded in the realities of immigrants. We've also heard that you're quite the karaoke crooner. If you aren't appointed, appointed to a cabinet post for the AOC Kevin Douglas team, or even if you are, maybe you'll sing it there and not inauguration or maybe you'll just sing for us whenever we set up a karaoke for LSWG we think you're the you're most well no. Yeah, we're going to wait for those songs to come.

1:20:15

Alright. And Stephanie, forget Carmen San Diego. Where in the world is Stephanie Martinez. Is she in Puerto Rico is she in San Miguel de Allende, or in Napa? Keep us guessing and where she of where she's at. Stephanie. We really appreciate your commitment, and we're so happy to have you on the other side at the funder side of this work.

1:21:25

So I wanted to thank you Sara because there is nobody else that I would want to up with and be joined at the hip with doing immigration work. You've been just amazing. So I want to express my appreciation.

1:21:41

And Navin what, what other thought partner can I ask for that Navin who's just been there all along the way? I'm just, it's just wonderful to do this work with you. And really, wonderful to be in community with all of you. Just really a beautiful community that we have here that we built together.

1:22:09

So thank you all. I think that we are we're all you know, we're on target. I think Cairo you are going to lead us to the closing. Right.

1:22:30

That's a great yeah, that was that was great. Thank you aside and I've and I promise I won't get annoyed with you in the years to come. hold you to that. Yeah, I just you know, I know that there's oftentimes when we leave meetings, there's just so much and I think this was this has been a really, really grounding meeting for me. And it's, again, it's my first legal services working group meeting and just love the way that we've been able to add joy and arts and culture in here and I'd love to ask all of you what's coming up for you one word that captures how you feel as you leave this meeting today. And I can start to give an example. So I feel grateful to just be here to just be with you all. To thank you so much for the warm welcome. And looking forward to building with you all in 2022 and I'll pass it on to

1:23:32

Um, I sorry, this is just kind of on my mind because I just got a text from my son's teacher, which if you're a parent, you know, it is never a good thing when your teacher your child's teacher texts you in the middle of the day. So my child just slapped someone for no reason. So it's on my mind. That is the child that I have. I love him, but he also drives him crazy.

**Ivy Suriyopas** 1:24:12

ah, um, I hope everything works out. The word for me is light. And its many meanings. I feel like this man started out very heavily with all over wishes and, you know, being in the real and being really 100 about what's going on. Right now. But I appreciate that things are have more levity right now and also just missed the end of the year. So there's an opportunity, there's promise. There's light at the end of the tunnel. So, I'll pass it on to Patti. totally sympathize.

1:24:55

Navin, you're in good company. I would say I'm feeling connected, and I I really enjoy and enjoy this group. I haven't been consistent in my attendance this year. But I'm so glad that I made this one and just really appreciate all the work that goes on in between.

1:25:18

Let's see Luis. Just thank you. Well, I'm very fortunate that I'm completing my one-year probation with the state so yes, I feel like I'm here to stay. I made the one year cut and I'm still here feel like I'm still very new. I still don't know a lot about the procedures with the state, but I think I have been able to bring a perspective to the team that's growing I think, I don't know if you know, but we probably more than doubled this year in size. So, with that capacity, I think we could do a lot more. So, I'm very fortunate to be part of this team with the state currently. And of course, we really enjoyed working with you. Pass it to Kevin

1:26:10

Thank you. Um, I'm feeling impressed from the dialogue that was occurring earlier to sort of understand sort of different strategies that are being used in regions and the questions that were raised. Just really, I think it's a great example of how committed and smart you are in this space. And I'm super impressed by the creativity that not an insider brought to this closing exercise is a lot of fun. Thank you and I will pass it to Dan.

1:26:44

Thank you, I am feeling gratitude and and inspiration. Thank you so much for the What a treat to hear poetry, whatever. And I have to say, I'm going to miss something. I'm kind of I've been really quiet about my own life. But I've started to to study poetry. I just wrote a poem to show gratitude to some of the most special people my life including my oldest sister who taught me to read and count when I did not speak English and entered school nameless got kicked out because we had a very harsh school district that didn't integrate immigrant children. If I wrote a poem to her, thanking her for teaching me how to read and so that see it

**Ivy Suriyopas** 1:27:36

love that this meeting made me get out of my head and really feel this in my body. I just feel so present right now. And I really appreciate it

1:27:46

and I'll pass it and the word that comes to my mind is enriched I just feel like I am very full of all kinds of things, you know, knowledge, information, strategy, creativity and poetry and love that there's so much heart in this work, and you all embody it, and it shows so I just I feel very grateful for this kind of enrichment. Thank you. Someone who hasn't gone in my

1:28:27

that it was everything.

1:28:31

Well, this is a first I don't think we've ever ended on time without like, you know, we have a minute to spare. So thank you all. Thank you all for joining us and and we've just got so much work ahead but I'm, I'm looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to really getting deep down into the work and the weeds and working working with you all. Thank you Thanks.