



Our City of Nations (OCON) 8.0
Stronger Together: 10 Years of OCON and an Eye on the Future

Hybrid Conference at **MSOE DIERCKS HALL** 1025 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, WI 53202
April 23, 2025, 9am-4pm

Vision: Provide a platform for improved skills attainment, sharing, and captivation of advanced research and practices within the prism of Human Wellness, being interchangeably influenced by local and global factors.

Goal: Mobilize and harness the diverse knowledge, capacities, and services of various stakeholders interested to learn from and with those who interface with refugee and immigrant communities in the USA

Time	Content & Location	Speakers/Presenters
9:00 - 9:10 am	Opening Remarks	<p>Title: <i>Welcome to the 2025 Our City of Nations Conference</i></p> <p>Educational Objective: Welcome conference participants, review the impetus for this year's theme with a focus on the roots of OCON and where we are headed together.</p> <p>Presenters: Bojana Zorić Martinez, Director - Bureau of Refugee Programs, Department of Children and Families/State Refugee Coordinator, Wisconsin</p> <p>Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja, Owner, Clinical Director & Psychologist, Sebastian Family Psychology Practice, LLC</p>

9:10 – 9:55a	Keynote Address	<p>Title: <i>Newcomer Practitioner Perspective</i></p> <p>Description: Experiences from the perspective of a practitioner, administrator, and policy advocate working in the intersection of health and behavioral health to support newcomers in the light of current challenges.</p> <p>Speaker: Gaurav Mishra, M.D, MBA, Chief Behavioral Health Office/Adult and Child Psychiatrist, San Ysidro Health, Refugee Migrant Technical Assistance Center_(RMTAC),</p>
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10:05- 11:00a	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Introduced by: Keynote Dr. Mishra</p>	<p>Title: <i>OCON and Refugee’s Future Due to Executive Orders</i></p> <p>Description: Multiple agency representatives will provide updates on the future of newcomers as it relates to executive orders and our OCON work together. This will be a conversation with panelists discussing insights, challenges, and opportunities for innovation amid an ever-changing landscape of work with newcomers.</p> <p>Speakers: Multiple policy and immigration specialists at local, state, and national levels</p>
11:05- 11:50p	45-Minute Breakout Sessions	<p>Breakout #1</p> <p>Title:Conversations on the Intersection of Health, Mental Health, and Community of Practice</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Frederick Coleman, Psychiatrist, UW Health University Hospital</p>

		Breakout #2 Title: Developing Collaborative Partnerships to Care for Complex Medical Cases of African Immigrant Women Speaker: Ethleen Peacock, CEO and president, Alaafia,
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		Breakout #3 Title: Highlighting Medical and Mental Health Needs for Pregnant Women Living with HIV Speaker: Dr. Ronald Anguzu, Assistant Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin
12:00-12:30p	Break and Lunch <i>Virtual poster display on loop OR mini presentations</i>	
12:30-1:15p	Plenary Session	Title: Newcomer Voices Description: A session centered around newcomer voices. Participants of <i>Be the Change</i> , an art-based leadership group with refugee girls and women at Lynden Sculpture Garden will discuss their work and impact together Moderator: Kim Khaira - Community Engagement Specialist, HOME Program, Lynden Sculpture Garden Speakers: 1. Maryam Durani - Program Coordinator, Hanan Refugee Relief Group 2. Be the Change Program Participan

1:25-2:00p	Networking Breakout Rooms	Participants will be broken into small groups to network, discuss their work, and the conference content thus far
2:00-2:45	45-minute Breakout Sessions	<p>Breakout #1: Title: Educator Voices: Lessons from ESL Teachers in MPS Description: ESL teachers from Milwaukee Public Schools will share lessons and stories from their work with newcomer families, highlighting successes, needs, and ideas for providers. Open Q&A and networking to follow.</p> <p>Moderator: Kourosh Hassani, Director MPS ESL</p> <p>Speakers: Anne Voith, ESL Teacher, Curtin (K-8), Lauren Harvey, ESL Teacher, Bradley Tech High School (9-12), Erin Lowrey, ESL Teacher, Audubon High School (9-12)</p> <p>Breakout #2: Title: Health Videos as a Culturally Sound Approach to Integration Among Newcomer Populations Description: Learn about Catholic Charities Milwaukee Refugee & Immigration Services (CCRIS) refugee education videos in up to ___ newcomer languages designed to support newcomers as they navigate complex systems in the US and provide feedback about video topics you would like to see in this interactive session.</p> <p>Speakers: CCRIS, UWM, and MCW Research Colleagues Claire Reuning, MA, Refugee Integration Specialist, CCRIS Barwaqo Mohamed, Community Educator, CCRIS Lynne Woehrle, PhD, Program Director & Faculty, Peacebuilding Programs, UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing, Julia Snethen, PhD, RN, FAAN, Faculty, UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing Anastassia White, Graduate Program Manager, Peacebuilding Programs, UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing Fabrice Jotterand, PhD, MA, Director & Professor, Graduate Program in Bioethics, Medical College of Wisconsin</p>

2:55-3:40	Discussion	Title: New Realities of Refugee Resettlement Description: New realities we find ourselves in during the current Presidential administration. Speaker: Cecilia Mendoza, Associate director of government relations, National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), cmendoza@immigrnatjustice.org
3:45-4:00	Reflections & Closing Remarks	Closing remarks from the day's presentations and participation

