



**Walking Together:
Reimagining our Path to
Community
November 12, 2021**

Co-Sponsors

The fiscal home of the Our City of Nations initiative is the Medical College of Wisconsin's Office of Global Health. We are grateful to the following 2021 symposium co-sponsors for their generous donation to sustain this educational opportunity.



Anonymous Donor

Planning Representation

The following people and organizations were essential in the planning and implementation of this symposium, bolded names signify planning leads: Abby D'Alberto, Christine Casselman, **Joanna Balza**, Nancy Burns, **Anastassia Christensen**, Rebekah Davis, Tim Ehlinger, **Tiffany Frazer**, Melissa Hodzic, Caitlin Kaeppler, Kim Khaira, Shruti Khandelwal, Kai Gardner Mishlove, Biluge Ntabala, Micheal Oldani, Nicole Palasz, Claire Reuning, Amber Rios, **Jim Sanders**, **Sebastian Ssempijja**, **Kyla Stanley**, Po Too, **Hassimi Troare**

-Advocate Aurora Health Walkers Point Community Clinic

- Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services

-City of Milwaukee Health Department

-International Institute of Wisconsin

-Lynden Sculpture Garden

-Concordia University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy

-Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Global Health, Pediatrics' Community and Global Health Track

-Mount Mary University Counseling Program

-Sebastian Family Psychology Practice, LLC

-State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families, DFES, Bureau of Refugee Programs and DHS-Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Tuberculosis and Refugee Health Unit

-University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding and Institute for World Affairs

Welcome Message

Dear OCON Participants,

In December 2015, a call went out to all those who cared about the well-being of our newest neighbors, “Come, let us work together for the betterment of our neighborhoods, cities, and region”. Thus, began our collective journey together through the Our City of Nations (OCON) experience.

“City of Nations” is a term given to Milwaukee in the late 1880s when the city was known for its myriad (mostly European) of immigrant populations. We also acknowledge that in Milwaukee we live and work on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America’s largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin’s sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present. With Milwaukee’s indigenous roots, its historical immigrant settlements, and its continual refugee resettlement, it has always been a “City of Nations”.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to “OCON 4.5” where we come together again as a community called to serve our region’s neighbors, both new and old. The theme of OCON 4.5 is “Walking Together: Reimagining our Path to Community”. We gather together in hopes of strengthening our capacity to come together to ensure that services and resources are equitable, accessible, and justly distributed to our neighbors. Even now, more than ever during a global pandemic, we must ensure that all members of our communities are safe and well.

Welcome Video

We hope you enjoyed our community members’ OCON welcome in their own language: “Welcome to Our City of Nations 2021 meeting. The theme is Walking Together: Reimagining our Path to Community”. Thank you, community members: Burmese- Nawpaw, Karen- Po, Rohingya-Fatimah, Spanish- Maria, Swahili, French, Kinyarwanda-Tessy.

Walking Together Theme

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

Continuing Education

Objectives:

1. Describe how to adapt my practice to better serve refugee and/or new immigrant populations
2. List the important considerations for assisting newcomers to arrive, survive, and thrive
3. Describe our contributions and lessons learned for a global discussion on refugee resettlement

Counselors, Social Workers, & Case Managers: Mount Mary University and The Medical College of Wisconsin are co-sponsors of this program. Counselors, case managers, and social workers will receive a certificate of attendance upon request with 4 clock hours identified commensurate with their attendance.

Opening Session 9:00 – 9:10 am

Title: Welcome to 2021 Our City of Nations Symposium

Educational Objective: Welcome conference participants and review the impetus for this year's theme

Presenters:

1. James Sanders- Physician
2. Savitri J Tsering- Refugee Health Coordinator, State of Wisconsin
3. Mark Denning- Native American Community Member

Session 1 9:10 – 10:10 am

Title: Force Migration: Issues and Impacts

Educational Objective: Learn the current status of forced displacement and migration, locally and globally

Moderator: Kim Khaira- Community Engagement Specialist, Lynden Sculpture Garden

Presenters:

1. Dr. Nathaniel Fleming- Pediatrician, Assistant Professor, Institute for Health Equity, Medical College of Wisconsin
2. Bojana Zoric Martinez- Bureau of Refugee Programs (State Refugee Office) Director, State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
3. Po Too- Refugee Social Service Coordinator, Walker's Point Community Clinic, Advocate Aurora Health
4. Dr. Frederick Coleman- Psychiatrist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Session 2

10:20 – 11:20 am

Title: Health and Wellness in Displaced Populations, Past and Current

Educational Objective: Understand the challenges and successes with health and wellbeing through the pandemic and other formidable changes

Moderator: Dr. Timothy Enlinger- William Collins Kohler Chair in Systems Change and Peacebuilding and Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters:

1. Edumakono Zetho- Refugee Community Case Manager, Refugee Community Advisory Board Member, Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services
2. Dr. Paul Trebian- Ed.D, Consultant, "Concepts to Practice"
3. Mayhoua Moua- Executive Director, Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health Inc.

Session 3

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Title: Building Community in Uncertain Times

Educational Objective: Hear examples of how newcomer and host communities are walking together and building community

Moderator: Bojana Zoric Martinez- Bureau of Refugee Programs (State Refugee Office) Director, State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Presenters:

1. Fessahaye Mebrahtu- Black Catholic and Ethnic Ministries Director, Archdiocese of Milwaukee
2. Yassra Sankari- ESOL Multicultural Outreach Coordinator, Oshkosh School District
3. Dawn Shimura- ESOL Program Coordinator, Oshkosh School District
4. Saw Kol- Center Consultant, Engauge Workforce Solutions
5. Chris Peters- Workforce Development Consultant, Engauge Workforce Solutions

Session 4
12:35– 12:50 pm

Title: Strengthening Connections: An Opportunity to Share, Learn, and Network

Educational Objective: Make connections, share ideas, and network

Breakout rooms:

Symposium registrants introduce themselves in small groups

Closing
12:50 – 1:00 pm

Title: Closing and Thanking Participants/ Speakers

Educational Objective: Re-emphasize OCON theme and conclude on a reflective note

Presenter:

Kajua B. Lor, PharmD, BCACP- Founding Chair/ Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences Department, Medical College of Wisconsin

Consensus Statement

Best Practices for Refugee Care in Southeast Wisconsin
BMC Proceedings 2017, 11(Suppl 5):5.

Refugee resettlement requires a private-public partnership in an ongoing process involving community engagement.

To meet the needs of the increasing number of new refugees, agencies need to work smarter and faster in a collaborative fashion to integrate the best possible experience of these refugees.

In working with refugees, recognize the individual differences (i.e. that each refugee is unique even within his/her culture) but remain mindful of customs and err towards modesty with self-expression.

The stated goal of resettlement is self-sufficiency. It's not just safety or hospitality; it's working with refugees, so they are able to become self-sufficient citizens and achieve their hopes and dreams.

The refugee experience often includes circumstances that disrupt their cultural norms and reduce social support. Collectively, these may cause a loss of identity and distrust in government or larger systems.

Be aware of your own narrative (cultural background and personal experiences) in your encounters with refugees and be prepared to listen to refugees' narratives at their own pace.

The social context of interpretation is multi-faced; as such, consider the potential impact of who provides interpretive services. Avoid dual relationships and consider the client's comfort level with the interpreter.

Different cultures may conceptualize pain, illness, and disease differently from "western-based" frameworks; one size does not fit all. We must find critical elements that translate when the usual words and Western definitions fail.

Providers must seek to maintain cultural humility when assessing individual patients. Providers must strive to know something about: history, and culture, social structure, basic health and illness concepts, the spiritual aspects of health and illness, and key Western and cultural psychiatric/psychological concepts BEFORE asking questions.

To move towards health equity, we need to implement health in all policies with health equity as an explicit goal. Healthcare needs to change its focal point to helping communities better utilize primary care teams and community health workers to reduce reliance on emergency medicine.

We need to keep communication between the government and communities strong so that priorities set at a community level can be reflected in government policies and budgets.

More community navigators are needed to build relationships with community members, articulate and anticipate obstacles, and advocate for communities.

Many refugees are eager to seek health services and to learn to navigate the health care system; we must work to address the challenges for both providers and refugees to help achieve this medical self-sufficiency.