

ImmHELP
Immigrant Health Equity and Legal Partnerships

MEDICAL-LEGAL COLLABORATIONS IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

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Session Goals

- Participants gain understanding of how Medical-Legal and other cross-sector collaborations support holistic and trauma-informed care of immigrant youth and families.

- Participants AND presenters learn from each other's work and begin to imagine what collaborations could be beneficial in the Central Valley and across the state.

This session is meant to pique interest and start conversations, not delve deep into topics. We'll share our slides with you all, and perhaps you can continue conversations together outside of this space.

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Who is in this space?

Raise your hand if you are working in…

- Legal Services
- Medicine/Health
- Mental Health
- Social Services
- Education
- Community Organizing

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Agenda

- Opening: Intro, Goals, Agenda - 7 mins
- Overview of ImmHELP / Medical-Legal collaboration - 7 mins
- Examples of ImmHELP's work + Brief Q&A - 20 mins
- Building Partnerships: Learnings & Possibilities - 10 mins
- Open Discussion - 10 mins

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What is ImmHELP

ImmHELP (Immigrant Health Equity and Legal Partnerships) is an **interdisciplinary collaborative of health and law professionals** working towards a world where **immigrant children and families have access to health, safety, and justice**.

ImmHELP offers training and resources to:

- **Promote** an inter-disciplinary approach to trauma-informed and healing-centered services to individuals seeking immigration protection
- **Achieve** positive medical and legal outcomes for immigrant communities
- **Advocate** for systemic change

KIND Kids in Need of Defense

The Bar Association of San Francisco

Stanford Medicine

CARECEN SF

CGRS Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Immigrant Legal Defense

LSC Legal Services for Children

UCSF University of California San Francisco

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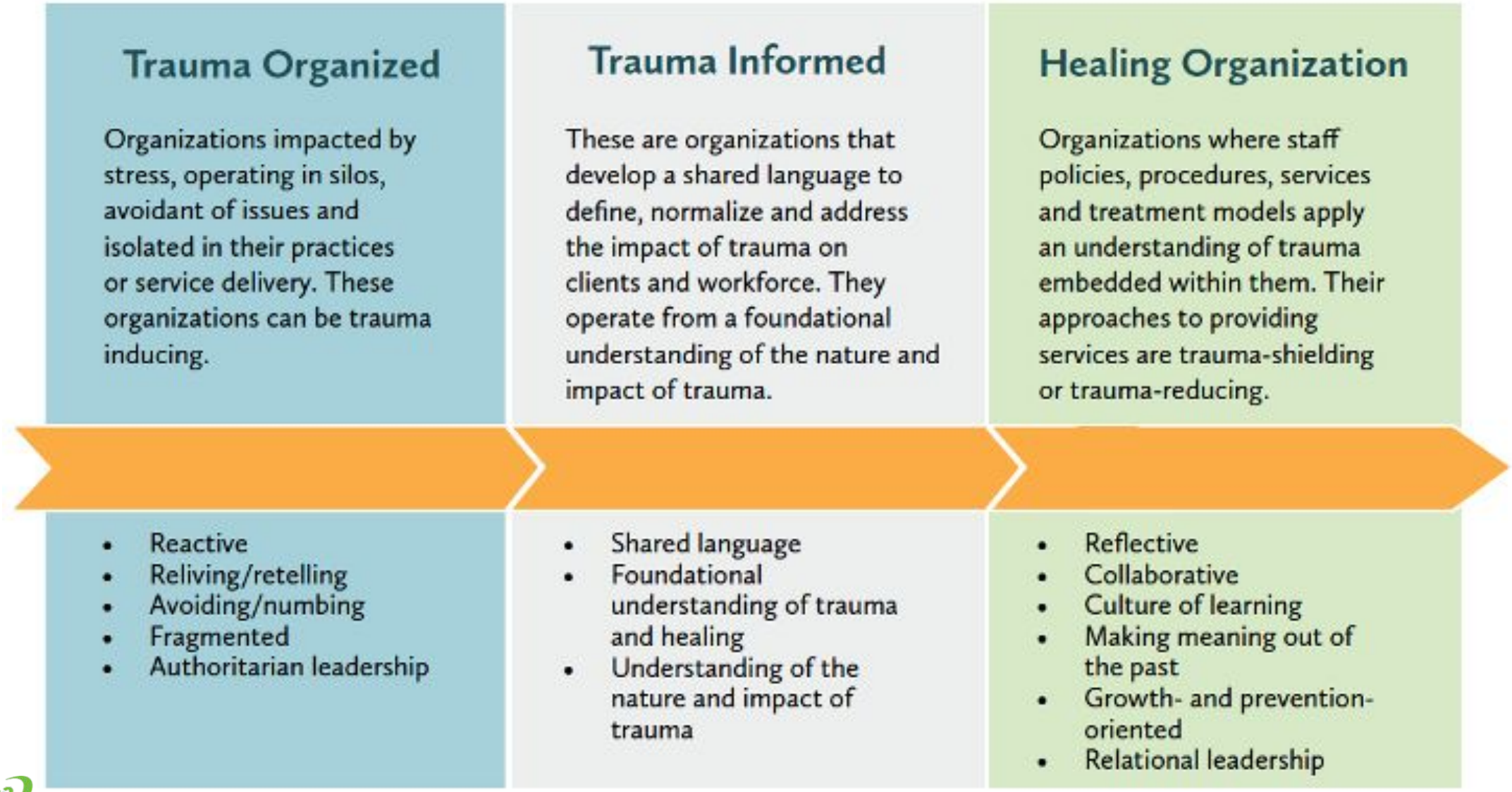
A trauma-informed systems frame…

"Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as **physically or emotionally harmful** or **life threatening** and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's ***functioning*** and ***mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual*** well-being." (SAMHSA, 2014)

Negative impacts on:

- attention and memory
- emotion and behavior regulation
- communication and relationships
- connection with self, others, and world

Trauma in systems



(from www.traumatransformed.org)

trauma TRANSFORMED

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What ImmHELP Does

Examples of Medical-Legal collaboration from our own work

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ImmHELP interdisciplinary activities

- Knowledge- and information-sharing:
  - Universal declarations about how trauma can manifest for youth (e.g., memory, chronology, decision-making)
  - Practice advisory about mitigating coercion in immigration proceedings for unaccompanied children (with Acacia)
- Workshops and trainings
  - Vicarious trauma workshop
  - Medical-legal collaboration in immigration advocacy
- Cross-sector partnership development

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Universal Declarations and Consensus Reports

- **Universal** declarations, with **one** author, are designed to be **used for many cases**, not individualized assessments.

- A health expert declaration **supports a legal case by educating** the judge / officer re how age, developmental stage, trauma history, medical/mental health history, etc. impact memory, chronology, decision-making, etc.

- **Consensus reports** are also for **use in many cases**; these reports have **multiple authors**.

How We Work Together

- ImmHELP members raise topics through monthly calls where legal advocates discuss trends and challenges, and mental health practitioners ask questions and share a trauma-informed systems frame. We work collaboratively on declarations, sharing case examples and research.

- Examples
  - Universal Declaration Of William Martinez, Phd, Expert On Childhood Trauma And Child Neurodevelopment, available through the CGRS technical assistance.
  - Consensus Report on Factors Influencing the Decisions, Acts, and Behaviors of Children and Youth Seeking Refuge in the United States, available through ICHP.
  - Consensus Report Understanding the Impacts of Childhood and Complex Trauma Among Individuals Seeking Asylum and Other Humanitarian Relief in the United States, available through ImmHELP's website.

Practice advisory on youth decision making under coercion (with Acacia Center)

- **Highlights concerns** re: coercive practices influencing UC decisions in immigration processing
- **Presents concepts and criteria** from social sciences to support legal provider identification of coercive practice
- **Outlines best practices** for safeguarding the rights and decision-making autonomy of UCs
- **Includes tools and guidance** for application in the field

Practice implications

1. *Ensure understanding*
2. *Create safe communication spaces*
3. *Identify sources of pressure*
4. *Allow time for decision-making*
5. *Use supported decision-making*

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Cross-disciplinary workshops and training

- understand respective health and legal systems
- share and build best practice for collaboration
- engage in collective resourcing

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Cross-disciplinary workshops and trainings

Vicarious Trauma in Immigration Advocacy: Cultivating Individual and Collective Care to Combat Systemic Cruelty (SF Bay RRN)

- overview of impacts of individual, vicarious, and collective trauma
- review and practice of self-care and collective-care strategies
- small group processing and support

Resources:

- Strategies for Cultivating Individual and Collective Care
- Reflection Process Facilitation Guide

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Trainings on medical-legal collaboration in immigration advocacy

- Identifying and Presenting a Strong Humanitarian Asylum Claim
  - trauma-informed practices for legal representatives
- Best Practices in Attorney-Expert Collaboration in Forensic Evaluation
  - case-based workshop to identify common challenges and develop best practices for health-legal collaboration
- Coordinating with Attorneys to Advance Care for Immigrant Patients: Understanding Policy and Legal Context
  - guidance and tools for healthcare providers to understand legal system, provide supportive documentation, and pursue opportunities for individual- and systems-level advocacy

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Examples of ImmHELP partner projects

- A coalition of healthcare providers, including ImmHELP members, created Everyone Belongs Here, a resource to support healthcare professionals working with immigration communities.
- CGRS offers technical assistance to lawyers representing asylum seekers, including an expert witness database with medical and mental health experts.
- ILD provides mentorship to orgs and schools pursuing legal-education partnerships.
- The Fuerte Program, led by Dr. William Martinez at UCSF, provides mental health education for newcomer youth.
- Stanford School of Medicine Immigrant Child Health Program develop, evaluate, and support programs that provide integrated, multidisciplinary, trauma-informed services for newcomer children and families.

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(if time) Brief Q&A

Katie Annand, Managing Attorney @ ILD katie@ild.org
Ryan Matlow, Clinical Psychologist & ICHP Co-Director @ Stanford rmatlow@stanford.edu
Zaeda Blotner, ICHP Administrator @ Stanford, zaedasbh@stanford.edu
www.immhelp.org

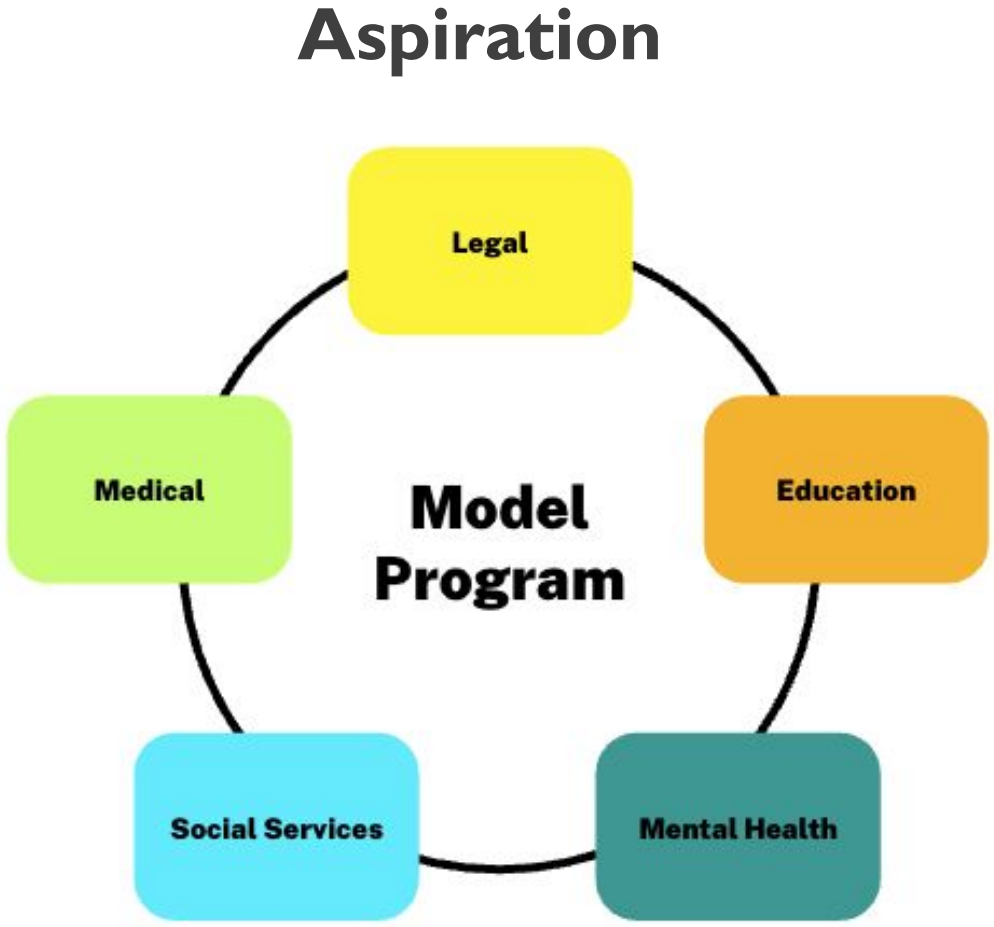
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Building Partnerships: Lessons & Possibilities

- Example
- Lessons
  - Cross-Sector Collaboration Toolkit
- Discussion

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Example: Stanford Medicine Immigrant Child Health Program (ICHP)

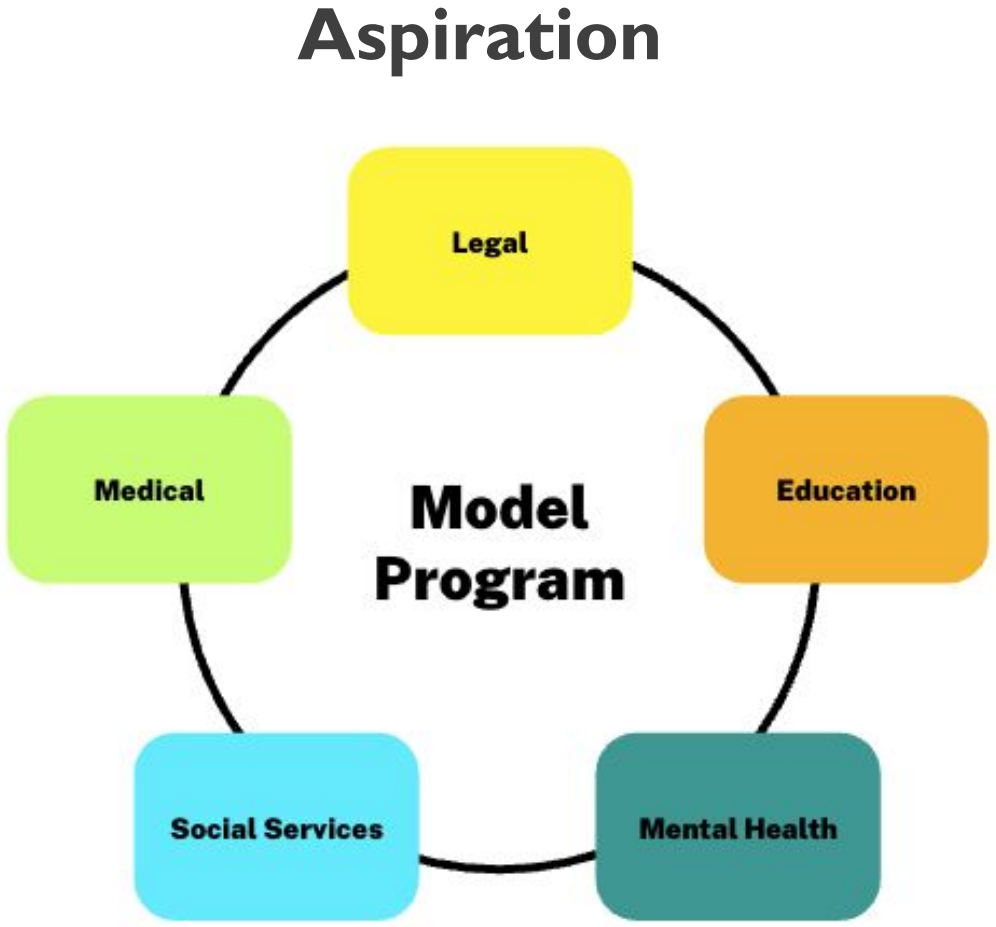


in practice

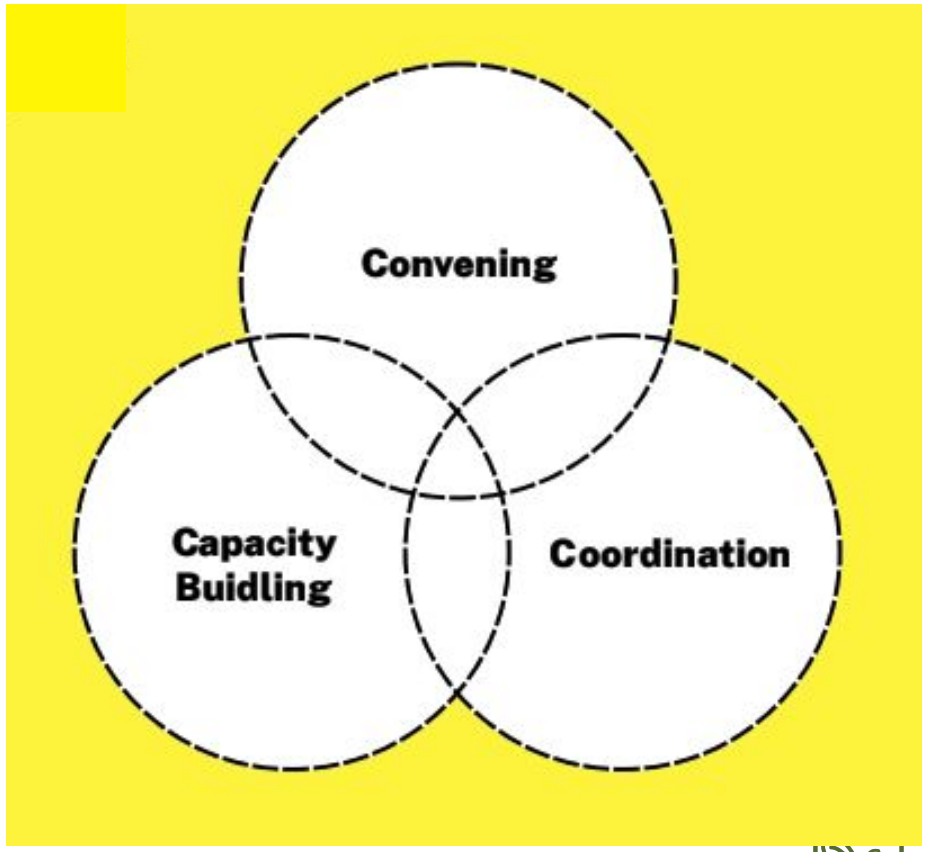
- Service provider convenings
- Working groups
- Cross-sector trainings and presentations
- Case conferences
- Partnership development (schools, legal services, health clinics, etc.)
- Referral pathways
- Impact measurement (work in progress)

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Example: Stanford Medicine Immigrant Child Health Program (ICHP)



in practice



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Building Partnerships: Lessons

- Lesson 1: Adapt Programs to Local Context
  - What are the specific needs, strengths, or other considerations in your community?
  - Don't reinvent the wheel! What networks and programs are already in place?

- Lesson 2: Start Small with an Eye for Growth
  - What is your ideal, long-term goal?
  - What are achievable goals that you can get done now to work towards that goal?
  - Be realistic with your capacity, and go slowly. Sustainable partnerships take time.

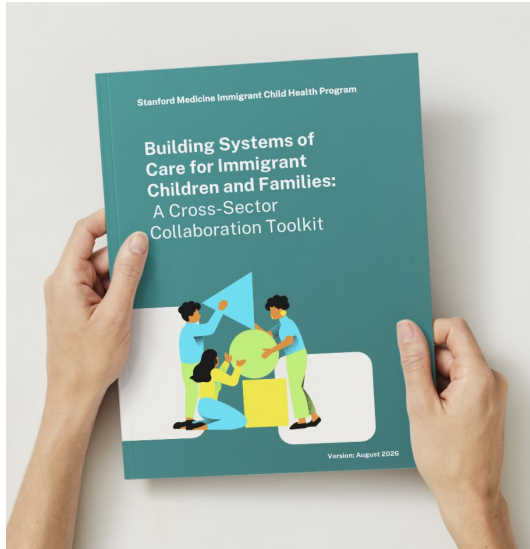
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Building Partnerships: Lessons

- Lesson 3: Cross-Training and Collaboration Build Capacity
  - What do people in one sector (e.g. medicine) need to know about another (e.g. law) to collaborate effectively?
  - Create opportunities to learn about each other's systems, whether it's through training workshops, case conferences, informational resources, etc.
  - Identify how cross-sector collaboration can reduce duplicative efforts and **create collaborative infrastructure** (regular meetings, workflows, etc.)

Resources:

- **Stanford Med ICHP Cross-Sector Collaboration Toolkit**
- Info & Resource Sharing
  - ILRC Immigration Toolbox (monthly email)
  - ILRC Immigration Briefings (biweekly webinar)
  - ILD TK-12 Immigration Legal Updates
  - California Newcomer Network (CANN)
  - See if your county has an immigrant forum!



Building Partnerships: Lessons

- Lesson 4: Facilitate Community Co-Creation
  - Initiatives are more successful when they are designed with the input of communities directly impacted, and we need to be empowering and listening to immigrant communities now more than ever.
  - The organizations and individuals closest to directly-impacted communities are best equipped to meaningfully engage them! Who are these essential partners in your community?
  - What feedback have you heard from immigrant communities recently? How could you better engage and empower the community you serve?
  - **<u>This should be an ongoing conversation/responsibility!</u>**

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Discussion

- What interdisciplinary, cross-sector collaborations and partnerships exist in your region?
  - What have been the successes and challenges? What are the learnings?

- Where are there current needs and opportunities for increased interdisciplinary collaboration and integration?
  - i.e., between legal, health care, educational, and social service sectors.
  - What might be some next steps for advancing cross-sector integration and partnership?
  - What are the challenges/threats to integration that we should account for?

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