

WEBVTT

00:09:18.989 --> 00:09:21.989

Hey, to... to let the folks in the Zoom

00:09:21.990 --> 00:09:30.744

Um, in on what we're doing. We haven't started yet, um, because we're trying to figure out some procedural issues, but I think we're ready.

00:09:30.807 --> 00:09:34.807

So, if you... if you're ready to go, we've got...

00:09:36.512 --> 00:09:41.512

Lots of people, and folks can come and sit up here around the oval. There's lots of room.

00:09:44.603 --> 00:09:47.603

We like your picture, Susan. We like the...

00:09:49.223 --> 00:09:51.223

We're, like, thinking about cappuccino.

00:09:55.723 --> 00:10:03.723

We will now call to order this evening's study session of the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board and the Champaign County Mental Health Board.

00:10:03.887 --> 00:10:11.887

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, at 5.45 PM, in the Shields Carter Room of the Bennett Administrative Center, Urbana, Illinois.

00:10:11.886 --> 00:10:13.951

May I have a roll call?

00:10:15.010 --> 00:10:17.010

Alejandro Gomez?

00:10:19.052 --> 00:10:21.052

Chris Miner?

00:10:23.839 --> 00:10:25.839

Tony Nichols?

00:10:27.185 --> 00:10:29.185

Elaine Palencia?

00:10:28.839 --> 00:10:30.839

Here.

00:10:30.839 --> 00:10:31.973

Kyle Patterson?

00:10:32.892 --> 00:10:34.892

Emily Rodriguez?

00:10:34.786 --> 00:10:36.786

Here.

00:10:35.728 --> 00:10:37.728

Jane Sprandel.

00:10:37.660 --> 00:10:39.660

Here.

00:10:39.661 --> 00:10:40.824

Jon Paul Youakim.

00:10:40.791 --> 00:10:42.791

Here.

00:10:41.767 --> 00:10:43.767

Molly McLay.

00:10:43.377 --> 00:10:45.377

Here?

00:10:45.376 --> 00:10:46.683

Susan Fowler?

00:10:47.508 --> 00:10:49.508

Neil Sharma?

00:10:50.658 --> 00:10:52.658

Kim Fisher.

00:10:53.711 --> 00:10:55.711

Anne Robin?

00:10:55.926 --> 00:10:57.926

Here?

00:10:57.926 --> 00:10:59.084

Vicki Niswander.

00:10:58.762 --> 00:11:00.762

Here.

00:11:02.243 --> 00:11:04.243

All right, thank you very much.

00:11:04.253 --> 00:11:06.253

So we have...

00:11:06.254 --> 00:11:09.933

This is Alejandro, sorry. Alejandro Gomez here, sorry. Went a little... a little quick.

00:11:09.931 --> 00:11:10.009

Thank you.

00:11:10.190 --> 00:11:12.190

Thank you.

00:11:12.191 --> 00:11:17.778

So, Stephanie, um, a lot of those folks are not in the room, not physically in the room.

00:11:19.450 --> 00:11:21.450

Right. So, in the room, we have...

00:11:22.238 --> 00:11:24.238

Emily Rodriguez, Anne Robin,

00:11:25.157 --> 00:11:29.157

Jane Sprandel, Jon Paul Youakim, Elaine Palencia, and Molly McLay.

00:11:33.073 --> 00:11:42.073

Yes, so we have a quorum of mental health board members in the room. Um, we do not have a quorum of developmental disabilities board members in the room.

00:11:43.136 --> 00:11:45.136

Um, so... we...

00:11:46.186 --> 00:11:50.186

Cannot formally admit the members who are on virtually.

00:11:50.187 --> 00:11:59.531

Um, I guess the mental health board could, since we have a quorum, virtually admit our members, but it doesn't really matter, because this is a study session, so the only thing we're voting on is the agenda.

00:11:59.698 --> 00:12:01.698

So...

00:12:02.779 --> 00:12:08.779

MHB members, do you feel strongly about trying to admit the virtual members? It doesn't matter?

00:12:10.893 --> 00:12:13.893

We can maybe just note for the record who is present virtually.

00:12:15.543 --> 00:12:21.543

Okay, so next we will move to approve the agenda, and again, uh, only the mental health board members in the room.

00:12:21.577 --> 00:12:23.577

can vote on this, um,

00:12:23.658 --> 00:12:31.658

So, we have an agenda here for the study session, um, would anyone like to make any comments, changes, or...

00:12:31.737 --> 00:12:33.737

move to approve it.

00:12:35.838 --> 00:12:38.838

Uh, Rodriguez moves to approve. Can I get a second? I'll second.

00:12:38.813 --> 00:12:40.813

You came seconds.

00:12:41.213 --> 00:12:45.213

All those in favor of approving the agenda as presented, say aye. Aye.

00:12:45.078 --> 00:12:47.078

All those opposed, same sign.

00:12:47.079 --> 00:12:49.294

The ayes have it, the agenda is approved.

00:12:49.558 --> 00:12:59.558

Next, we will move to public participation and agency input. As always, members of the public are welcome to come to the Mental Health Board and Developmental Disabilities Board to make

00:13:00.224 --> 00:13:06.224

Public comments, we cannot respond to comment directly, but we will use it to inform future decisions.

00:13:07.224 --> 00:13:15.224

For anyone who is making comment to us, please be aware of the Illinois Lobbyist Registration Act and take appropriate steps to be in compliance with the Act.

00:13:16.138 --> 00:13:24.138

Um, for those who do want to make comments, um, I do want to mention that this is a study session where there'll be open discussion about the topic at hand.

00:13:24.138 --> 00:13:28.214

Which is resources and needs of immigrants and refugees, um...

00:13:28.892 --> 00:13:35.892

So, we will have time for public comment then, but this is our formal... formal public comment time now as well.

00:13:35.892 --> 00:13:39.276

So if you would like to make comment, you can either approach the podium,

00:13:40.000 --> 00:13:45.000

You can fill out a comment card, or if you're on Zoom, you can raise your hand or put something into the chat.

00:13:46.078 --> 00:13:50.078

I'm a limit individual time to 5 minutes, and total time to 20 minutes.

00:13:50.243 --> 00:13:55.243

Um, for speaking. Given that, is there anybody who'd like to make public comment now?

00:14:01.390 --> 00:14:06.390

There is no one in the room approaching, and no one online who has indicated.

00:14:07.061 --> 00:14:11.061

There will be another, uh, time to make formal public comment at the end as well.

00:14:11.061 --> 00:14:15.881

So, given that there's no one to make comment, we will move forward. So...

00:14:15.881 --> 00:14:18.777

Um, we will first hear from...

00:14:18.987 --> 00:14:20.987

The presidents of the two boards,

00:14:21.693 --> 00:14:26.693

Um, so first, um, Vicki Niswander, would you like to make any comments?

00:14:28.030 --> 00:14:36.030

Uh, I don't have any particular comment to make other than I look forward to this session and learning a lot about

00:14:36.030 --> 00:14:43.535

Immigrants and refugees in our community. I know that there are many concerns, and so, uh, thank you for being here today.

00:14:45.872 --> 00:14:47.872

Thank you very much. Um, next,

00:14:47.872 --> 00:14:52.390

We will move to Mental Health Board comments from President...

00:14:53.084 --> 00:15:01.084

Molly McLay, that is me. Um, I also just want to thank everybody for being here and say that I am really looking forward to this study session as well.

00:15:01.788 --> 00:15:07.788

I think it is more important than ever before, given what is going on in our country.

00:15:08.548 --> 00:15:11.548

to make sure that this community is a welcoming space.

00:15:11.831 --> 00:15:15.831

for immigrants and refugees, and to make sure that we are centering

00:15:16.128 --> 00:15:19.128

Um, the mental health of this community.

00:15:19.638 --> 00:15:26.638

Because right now, it's under attack, and I am very grateful that our boards have decided to have this study session.

00:15:27.056 --> 00:15:30.056

And I really, um, hope to learn a lot, and...

00:15:30.056 --> 00:15:33.729

hope that we can provide a supportive space for people to share.

00:15:34.619 --> 00:15:42.619

Um, before we move to the next part, I guess this is sort of introducing the next part. The way the study session is going to work is that I...

00:15:43.452 --> 00:15:45.452

We'll be deferring the chairmanship.

00:15:45.580 --> 00:15:47.580

Um, to another board member.

00:15:47.746 --> 00:15:56.746

Um, and he and, um, our Associate Director, Leon Bryson, will both have comments, and then they will, um, sort of work together. I think Leon

00:15:57.162 --> 00:15:59.162

probably introduce the presenters.

00:16:00.109 --> 00:16:02.109

Um, as they, um, come up to speak.

00:16:02.049 --> 00:16:05.049

Um, and then we'll have some other resources available.

00:16:05.049 --> 00:16:11.681

So with that, I want to, um... the next item on the agenda is to have comments from

00:16:12.050 --> 00:16:14.050

Our board member facilitating the session.

00:16:14.051 --> 00:16:20.587

And, um, we have asked Dr. Jon Paul Youakim to please, uh, facilitate this session.

00:16:20.566 --> 00:16:25.566

Given his, um, passion for this area and advocacy for this

00:16:25.774 --> 00:16:30.774

on the board, um, as well as the fact that he is our past vice president and...

00:16:31.129 --> 00:16:34.129

past president. So with that, I turn it over to you.

00:16:35.987 --> 00:16:37.987

Thanks, Molly.

00:16:37.987 --> 00:16:40.567

So, you know, first I'll start off saying, you know,

00:16:40.838 --> 00:16:44.838

It's an honor to, uh, lead this study session.

00:16:45.284 --> 00:16:48.284

As the son of immigrants, my dad came here at...

00:16:48.888 --> 00:16:54.888

18 years old, um, from Palestine, um, after the 67 War. He hid in the Church of Nativity with my

00:16:55.778 --> 00:17:00.778

Uh, with his brothers and sisters and his, uh, father for about 10 days, and then they came here after that.

00:17:01.355 --> 00:17:04.355

Um, coming here with not knowing anybody, just, you know...

00:17:04.461 --> 00:17:06.461

the shirt on their backs. Um...

00:17:08.067 --> 00:17:11.067

Growing up here in Champaign-Urbana has been...

00:17:11.549 --> 00:17:13.549

something I have thoroughly, like,

00:17:14.540 --> 00:17:17.540

Just greatly enjoyed. I felt like, as a kid here,

00:17:18.649 --> 00:17:20.649

Everybody knows everybody, um...

00:17:21.550 --> 00:17:23.550

Didn't matter what social class, what background you came from.

00:17:23.534 --> 00:17:25.534

Everybody was friends with everybody.

00:17:25.728 --> 00:17:27.728

Um...

00:17:27.672 --> 00:17:30.672

what you picture America should be.

00:17:30.747 --> 00:17:32.747

Um...

00:17:33.020 --> 00:17:36.020

I, uh, and sadly, the older I've gotten,

00:17:36.695 --> 00:17:41.695

the more that... that seems more like a dream, and that that wasn't real, or it just went away,

00:17:41.772 --> 00:17:44.772

And it just... it hurts, uh, seeing that happen.

00:17:45.696 --> 00:17:48.696

Um, you know, we are here today to talk about

00:17:49.371 --> 00:17:53.371

Some of our most vulnerable community members, you know, we talk about

00:17:53.934 --> 00:17:56.934

immigration and immigrants, we talk usually about laws and borders.

00:17:56.934 --> 00:17:59.377

Um, but we rarely talk about mental health.

00:17:59.557 --> 00:18:05.557

Um, you know, under the administration immigration enforcement has intensified in ways that have...

00:18:06.692 --> 00:18:13.692

has left deep psychological scars on many immigrants and refugees in our community and across the nation, and...

00:18:14.032 --> 00:18:19.032

Um, you know, one example is over 5,000 kids were...

00:18:19.249 --> 00:18:21.249

Uh, separated, um,

00:18:21.666 --> 00:18:28.666

since, uh, from their parents, uh, at the border, since the policy in 2018 of the zero tolerance policy.

00:18:29.369 --> 00:18:33.369

Uh, pediatricians reported severe trauma in those children, nightmares, anxiety,

00:18:33.923 --> 00:18:38.923

PTSD, the American Academy of Pediatrics called the policy government-sanctioned Child Abuse.

00:18:38.923 --> 00:18:43.954

Uh, inside ICE detention centers. The Physicians for Human Rights.

00:18:44.535 --> 00:18:49.535

described widespread depression, panic attacks, even suicide attempts among detained asylum seekers.

00:18:50.048 --> 00:18:54.048

Um, you know, some have even died from lack of medical attention.

00:18:55.598 --> 00:19:00.598

in communities across the U.S., you know, we see constant ICE raids, creating fear.

00:19:00.717 --> 00:19:02.717

Um...

00:19:03.277 --> 00:19:12.277

in 2019, you know, ICE raided Mississippi, which led to the arrests of over 600 workers, leaving hundreds of children suddenly without parents.

00:19:13.224 --> 00:19:17.224

Schools reported spikes in absenteeism and anxiety the next day, and Georgia recently,

00:19:17.426 --> 00:19:22.426

We had over 300 Korean immigrants that were treated like criminals and arrested and deported to South Korea.

00:19:22.888 --> 00:19:25.888

Um, but it's not just that, it's also...

00:19:26.245 --> 00:19:29.245

what people in power say, like...

00:19:30.077 --> 00:19:35.077

When Trump called immigrants rapists, animals, invaders, when he calls immigrants

00:19:36.013 --> 00:19:38.013

Poisoning the blood of the... of our country, you know,

00:19:38.013 --> 00:19:41.887

Harkening back... us back to a time of fascism and internment camps.

00:19:41.887 --> 00:19:47.733

Many immigrants feel it's just a matter of time before they are placed in an internment camp with no recourse for justice or freedom.

00:19:48.501 --> 00:19:55.501

Trump referred to Haitians and African countries as shithole countries. He used Palestinians as a racial slur against Democratic opponents.

00:19:55.734 --> 00:19:59.734

He claimed that Haitians in Iowa... in Ohio were eating dogs.

00:20:00.269 --> 00:20:05.269

Palestinians, uh, and those who support Palestinians are arrested for speaking out against the genocide.

00:20:05.655 --> 00:20:07.655

Um...

00:20:08.076 --> 00:20:14.076

all the attacks against immigrants have taken a toll on the fabric of our society, of our ideals.

00:20:14.064 --> 00:20:16.064

of what it means to be a community.

00:20:19.262 --> 00:20:24.262

You know, you had the, you know, psychologists have found that even immigrants with legal status reported higher stress levels

00:20:24.509 --> 00:20:26.509

And symptoms of depression during this time.

00:20:26.948 --> 00:20:32.948

Yet despite the trauma, uh, immigrant communities have shown remarkable resilience. Organizations have stepped up.

00:20:33.454 --> 00:20:36.454

And to providing therapy, legal aid, and emotional support.

00:20:36.478 --> 00:20:39.478

to families recovering from separation and fear.

00:20:41.074 --> 00:20:50.074

But, you know, sadly, when a nation's leaders dehumanize a group of people, it sends a message that they're not welcome, not valued, not safe.

00:20:51.953 --> 00:20:54.953

It reminds those... the children of those parents.

00:20:54.953 --> 00:21:02.939

Um, who they hear their... when their parents are called illegal in the minds of refugees who thought they finally had escaped persecution, that they're not truly welcomed.

00:21:04.067 --> 00:21:08.067

Um, and if we truly care about justice, and we remember

00:21:08.605 --> 00:21:12.605

that immigration is not a political issue, it's a human one, that immigrants are people.

00:21:13.681 --> 00:21:15.681

Um, hopefully we can then begin to heal.

00:21:15.954 --> 00:21:21.954

And replace that fear with compassion, and recognize that mental health is a right, and not a privilege, and that we're all here.

00:21:24.865 --> 00:21:27.865

Not by legal status, you know, we're here by...

00:21:27.866 --> 00:21:31.434

you know, what makes us American, that we want a better life for...

00:21:32.356 --> 00:21:35.356

ourselves, for our children, for our families, and that...

00:21:36.296 --> 00:21:38.296

you know, immigration is part of the fabric.

00:21:38.276 --> 00:21:40.276

of America, and...

00:21:40.538 --> 00:21:42.538

If we just...

00:21:43.630 --> 00:21:45.630

turn our backs on that, then we...

00:21:46.784 --> 00:21:52.784

don't really believe in what this is... what all of this is supposed to be about. And so today we're here to talk about

00:21:53.747 --> 00:21:56.747

how those organizations in our community are helping

00:21:57.146 --> 00:21:59.146

those families, those children...

00:22:02.846 --> 00:22:07.846

survive and hopefully thrive, and become resilient through all this trauma.

00:22:09.754 --> 00:22:11.754

it's hard to be optimistic.

00:22:12.262 --> 00:22:15.262

But, um, the agencies here...

00:22:15.932 --> 00:22:17.932

do give me hope, and I am...

00:22:19.211 --> 00:22:21.211

Glad that we're having this study session so we can...

00:22:22.032 --> 00:22:24.032

hear the work that they are doing.

00:22:24.033 --> 00:22:26.205

why we are supporting them, why we...

00:22:26.103 --> 00:22:28.103

need to continue supporting them.

00:22:28.331 --> 00:22:30.331

Uh, and with that, I'll...

00:22:30.473 --> 00:22:32.473

Um, pass on...

00:22:32.938 --> 00:22:34.938

to Leon Bryson.

00:22:37.112 --> 00:22:39.112

Alright, good evening, um...

00:22:40.045 --> 00:22:47.045

So I have a statement and a question, and perhaps it may be answered a little bit later this evening, so...

00:22:47.672 --> 00:22:49.672

I think Dr. Yoakin

00:22:49.929 --> 00:22:53.929

took some of my thunder, but here goes.

00:22:55.638 --> 00:23:00.638

The courage and sacrifice to leave all behind for a better life.

00:23:01.024 --> 00:23:03.024

the American dream.

00:23:03.119 --> 00:23:05.119

Has it been worth it?

00:23:06.607 --> 00:23:13.607

As mentioned, tonight's study session will focus on Champaign County's immigrant and refugee resources and needs.

00:23:14.427 --> 00:23:21.427

Our presenters include Maria Jimenez, Executive Director of Immigrant Services of Champaign Urbana,

00:23:22.503 --> 00:23:27.503

Awad Awad, Director of the UIUC Salaam Cultural Center.

00:23:28.011 --> 00:23:32.011

And Lisa Wilson, Executive Director of the Refugee Center.

00:23:32.995 --> 00:23:37.995

Their profiles and organizational details are included in tonight's board packet.

00:23:38.934 --> 00:23:44.934

We have requested that our distinguished presenters limit their presentations to 10 to 15 minutes.

00:23:44.934 --> 00:23:48.323

to allow for a stimulating discussion.

00:23:49.755 --> 00:23:53.755

Without further ado, we will hear from Maria Jimenez,

00:23:54.701 --> 00:23:57.701

Then Awad Awad, followed by Lisa Wilson.

00:23:59.565 --> 00:24:01.565

Maria, the microphone is yours.

00:24:02.227 --> 00:24:12.227

Thank you. Um, honestly hard not to get choked up there both times, so thank you for setting the space so beautifully, because it really is important to constantly remind ourselves of

00:24:12.565 --> 00:24:14.565

why it is important to have these conversations.

00:24:14.943 --> 00:24:22.943

This is not a job that I ever really imagined for myself, and I'm still learning every day.

00:24:22.943 --> 00:24:28.186

often in rooms where I'm referred to as an immigration expert, and I'm by no means am an immigration expert,

00:24:28.444 --> 00:24:33.444

But I do know what it's like to be an immigrant, I know what it's like to, um...

00:24:33.946 --> 00:24:38.946

Watch your parents consecutively watch the news, waiting for a moment of hope.

00:24:39.708 --> 00:24:41.708

Um, and I know what it's like to...

00:24:42.621 --> 00:24:48.621

to be in very close proximity to the communities that are starting to feel scared to leave their homes.

00:24:48.832 --> 00:24:51.832

That are starting to feel scared to send their kids to school.

00:24:52.110 --> 00:24:55.110

Um, a good example is last week, we did an event

00:24:56.069 --> 00:25:04.069

at Urbana Middle School. It was a really wonderful event, presentation from the Mariachi Tigers, which is, you know, the kids there have the opportunity not just to join

00:25:04.524 --> 00:25:11.524

banned, but if they want to be in mariachi, they can, which I think is just a beautiful and cultural, immersive experience.

00:25:12.011 --> 00:25:14.011

That really is a testament to a lot of the work that...

00:25:14.013 --> 00:25:17.929

immigrants in local schools are doing to try to make immigrants feel safer.

00:25:17.928 --> 00:25:24.247

It was a really exciting event, except we show up, and the projected amount of people that was gonna be there dropped.

00:25:24.514 --> 00:25:29.514

Significantly, because ice was there the day before at Lincoln Square Mall.

00:25:30.337 --> 00:25:35.337

And so, their presence alone is... this mic sounds kind of weird, so I don't know if I'm...

00:25:36.046 --> 00:25:41.046

But their presence alone when they come into our community, the ripple effect...

00:25:41.047 --> 00:25:43.386

that it has on...

00:25:44.560 --> 00:25:50.560

keeping people iced into their own homes and afraid to go out and seek resources, I think is one of the biggest things that...

00:25:51.041 --> 00:25:55.041

I'm seeing personally in our work, and I know our caseworkers are caring really heavily,

00:25:55.041 --> 00:26:04.341

Um, I think there's also this pressure to acknowledge that a lot of the main work that's being done in our community to help immigrants is being done by immigrants.

00:26:04.630 --> 00:26:06.630

Um, so when we talk about...

00:26:06.830 --> 00:26:15.830

mental health, specifically with immigrants, I think we, you know, particularly the program that I'm really trying to implement with ISCU for the mental health program,

00:26:16.335 --> 00:26:23.335

I'm particularly seeking out therapists who are immigrants themselves, even if it's second generation.

00:26:23.910 --> 00:26:25.910

but who have a relationship to what it's like.

00:26:25.910 --> 00:26:30.264

Um, to walk in those shoes, and I think that that's important. I think that...

00:26:30.482 --> 00:26:42.482

Um, immigration across the spectrum, whether you come because you're fleeing persecution, or whether, you know, my story was a little bit more my parents coming literally just to seek the American dream,

00:26:42.993 --> 00:26:51.993

Irregardless, it is one of the most traumatic things that you can experience to be uprooted from your life, um, from everything you've ever called home.

00:26:52.778 --> 00:26:56.778

And then to come to a country that dehumanizes you in almost every way possible.

00:26:57.243 --> 00:27:03.243

I don't know if you guys saw the USDA website today, so I'm gonna read it out loud.

00:27:04.121 --> 00:27:07.121

If you go to [USDA.gov](https://www.usda.gov),

00:27:07.768 --> 00:27:10.768

There's a big red, um...

00:27:10.937 --> 00:27:12.937

writing at the top that says,

00:27:12.937 --> 00:27:19.624

Senate Democrats have now voted 12 times to not fund the food stamp program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

00:27:20.549 --> 00:27:24.549

Bottom line, the well has run dry. At this time, there will be no benefits issued November...

00:27:24.773 --> 00:27:41.773

November 1st. We are approaching an inflection point for Senate Democrats. They can continue to hold out for healthcare for illegal aliens and gender mutilation procedures, or reopen the government so mothers, babies, and the most vulnerable among us can receive critical nutrition assistance.

00:27:42.640 --> 00:27:48.640

Um, that word, illegal alien is, like, a word that's, like, those two words have, like, haunted me my entire life.

00:27:49.117 --> 00:27:56.117

Um, it's... it's terrible to hear. It's also horrible to see on a government website. And so...

00:27:56.346 --> 00:27:58.346

Needless to say, um...

00:27:58.892 --> 00:28:03.892

food insecurity has been probably one of the most, I think,

00:28:04.904 --> 00:28:07.904

difficult things to see all across the board when serving immigrants.

00:28:07.904 --> 00:28:11.207

And we're not just talking about, like, not having...

00:28:12.446 --> 00:28:20.446

enough money to go to the grocery store and get enough, like, food for the week, but we're talking about, like, we don't know how they're going to be able to eat that night.

00:28:21.022 --> 00:28:30.022

Um, this year, we were lucky enough to be able to say, okay, like, we've got to do something about this, and we kind of implemented, like, a mock SNAP program before this even happened.

00:28:30.022 --> 00:28:40.858

Um, so we do distribute gift cards that we give out on, like, a 6-week basis every 2 weeks, and that's calculated with family members and children and all those things are taken into a court.

00:28:40.859 --> 00:28:45.253

And then we're constantly doing drives in the community with churches and with just...

00:28:46.074 --> 00:28:53.074

Um, student-led organizations that give us donations of canned items and grains and things like this that we know have a high shelf life, and so...

00:28:53.384 --> 00:28:55.384

a lot of the times, we can't...

00:28:55.815 --> 00:29:04.815

meet the exact demands that our clients would really need to be stabilized, but we're making sure they're leaving with something. Um, and if that means food, that means food.

00:29:05.812 --> 00:29:13.812

We started a diaper distribution program, and honestly, that has just... it's been incredible to see how receptive the community has been to that, and so...

00:29:14.227 --> 00:29:18.227

Making sure that, like I said, they're leaving with something, they're leaving with supplies, has been huge.

00:29:19.036 --> 00:29:24.036

Um, but the pressure has... it has really picked up, and...

00:29:25.043 --> 00:29:29.043

I feel specifically for, like I said, employees.

00:29:29.065 --> 00:29:32.065

And what they're carrying every single day,

00:29:32.064 --> 00:29:39.462

Um, interfacing with these communities, there's violence in the community that has picked up.

00:29:40.128 --> 00:29:42.128

Um, it's been there before, but...

00:29:42.155 --> 00:29:46.155

it feels like it's picked up. The rates of domestic violence.

00:29:46.586 --> 00:29:58.586

won't go too much into it, but there's a lot of human trafficking that's also going on, and that's something we're discovering for the first... not for the first time, but really diving into how interconnected it is to all of these

00:29:58.850 --> 00:30:01.850

Clients that we're serving, so that has been...

00:30:02.126 --> 00:30:04.126

taken up a lot of our time.

00:30:04.429 --> 00:30:07.429

Um, I do feel...

00:30:07.875 --> 00:30:12.875

that the mental health program and being able to connect people

00:30:13.905 --> 00:30:24.905

to therapists who understand firsthand what they're facing in their native tongue, not with a translator, not with that delay of, I can't actually build this relationship with you fully, because I can't...

00:30:25.923 --> 00:30:28.923

Actually, you can't hear the pain in my voice in the way that I'm saying it.

00:30:28.924 --> 00:30:31.985

is... I'm just really proud of it.

00:30:31.985 --> 00:30:34.734

Um, that being said, it's like, there's... I can...

00:30:35.113 --> 00:30:42.113

I'm really starting to see how much it needs to grow. Um, I learned recently that Champaign County, for example, doesn't have a

00:30:42.113 --> 00:30:44.403

Spanish AA meeting, right?

00:30:44.674 --> 00:30:54.674

So if you think of it, some of these, like, essential things when we think about people having access to recovery, or even just support groups that kind of cover these, like, main bases of issues that we think about.

00:30:55.073 --> 00:30:57.073

a lot of them don't exist yet.

00:30:57.072 --> 00:31:04.606

So I really want to branch out beyond just the individual therapy and look at these, okay, like, support groups for domestic violence specifically, and kind of, like, look at these

00:31:04.864 --> 00:31:08.864

specific issues that we know these communities face a lot, and...

00:31:09.293 --> 00:31:13.293

to think about the... the power in co-regulation,

00:31:13.523 --> 00:31:20.523

And in, um, individuals that share a specific pain or a specific trauma, not necessarily

00:31:21.082 --> 00:31:29.082

having to go to talk therapy and potentially re-traumatizing themselves in a situation where, I mean, when it's a systemic issue, they can't...

00:31:30.163 --> 00:31:33.163

that therapist and them are not going to be able to just necessarily resolve that.

00:31:33.796 --> 00:31:41.796

Um, so I'm just really starting to think a lot more moving forward about doing that in, like I said, in co-regulation in spaces.

00:31:41.654 --> 00:31:43.654

We had one earlier.

00:31:43.798 --> 00:31:53.798

Um, this month, and we actually did some of the survey questions that you guys sent out. We folded those into the process that we did, and it was really beautiful to see.

00:31:54.456 --> 00:32:05.456

the result of, you know, breaking out into groups and just being able to ask these questions of, like, you know, what did you think it was gonna be like when you came, and then what was it actually like?

00:32:06.089 --> 00:32:08.089

so much wisdom and...

00:32:08.201 --> 00:32:12.201

And pain in those stories that's important, I think, for us to listen to, but...

00:32:13.063 --> 00:32:19.063

Yeah, I just... I guess, all in all, what I see as being my main focus in all of this is just...

00:32:20.209 --> 00:32:22.209

the amount of...

00:32:22.907 --> 00:32:26.907

stories that I have listened to firsthand that when you hear them,

00:32:27.469 --> 00:32:33.469

It's not, I wanted to go to the United States so I could make money and send it back home.

00:32:35.067 --> 00:32:37.067

that's what my family experienced.

00:32:37.067 --> 00:32:40.092

We're talking about fleeing

00:32:40.983 --> 00:32:45.983

government persecution, we're talking about religious persecution, we're talking about...

00:32:46.467 --> 00:32:58.467

Gang violence that gets to the point where mothers are thinking, if I don't go to the United States, it's only a matter of time until my children are kidnapped. We're talking about people who have a family member murdered in their own living room.

00:32:58.840 --> 00:33:01.840

And the next day, it's a backpack with a couple t-shirts.

00:33:01.924 --> 00:33:03.924

We're talking about walking.

00:33:04.302 --> 00:33:06.302

to the southern border.

00:33:07.005 --> 00:33:09.005

from South America, and so I think that

00:33:10.971 --> 00:33:21.971

regardless of the argument or where people stand, we have to at least, like, tell the truth of these stories, and what... why people are actually deciding to come to the United States, and until we do that,

00:33:21.972 --> 00:33:24.110

I don't even think we can fully...

00:33:24.697 --> 00:33:27.697

process the best way to support them. So that's where I think, like,

00:33:27.854 --> 00:33:35.854

For me, I just want to... I want to share those stories, and I want to advocate them... advocate for them in whatever space that I can. And thankfully,

00:33:35.855 --> 00:33:39.961

You guys are here today and willing to hear me share what I...

00:33:39.961 --> 00:33:43.938

have to share, and I'm eternally grateful to you guys, so thank you.

00:33:59.968 --> 00:34:05.968

I... I had thought about this earlier today, and I think I'm just gonna commit to sitting in the control room. I can...

00:34:06.708 --> 00:34:09.708

hear you, but though I can control the cameras a little bit, because...

00:34:10.443 --> 00:34:14.443

Like, this is a really important discussion, and I don't want to be distracted by the view anymore.

00:34:14.787 --> 00:34:16.787

So, I'll be right in there.

00:34:39.918 --> 00:34:41.918

Okay. Up next...

00:34:42.950 --> 00:34:45.950

We will hear from Amad - Awad Awad,

00:34:46.592 --> 00:34:48.592

The director of the...

00:34:48.687 --> 00:34:50.687

Salaam Cultural Center.

00:34:55.701 --> 00:34:59.701

Good evening all, and thank you for your time and for the invitation.

00:34:59.718 --> 00:35:07.718

Um, it's indeed an honor, uh. Um, I am the director of the Salaam Middle East and North Africa Cultural Center.

00:35:08.414 --> 00:35:13.414

at UIUC, we are one of the first cultural centers of our kind across the country.

00:35:13.261 --> 00:35:23.261

I believe we are either the fourth or the fifth. There's been 5 or 6 others that have opened after us across the country, and I'm in contact with every single one of the directors.

00:35:23.221 --> 00:35:31.221

There is no blueprint for what we're doing. And... but what Salaam is doing is providing a model for the rest of the country.

00:35:31.422 --> 00:35:36.422

And, um, some of the things that we are doing to do that, for example, is.

00:35:37.002 --> 00:35:41.002

You know, how do you walk into a space like this.

00:35:41.003 --> 00:35:49.279

Where a person running for office can say something derogatory about your background, and their points go up when they're running.

00:35:51.609 --> 00:35:56.609

I, too, am of Palestinian background. Uh, my parents, um.

00:35:56.067 --> 00:36:10.067

emigrated to Latin America first. Before coming to the US. Um... And, uh, so, you know, growing up as a kid, um, I didn't know that everybody wanted to come over for Thanksgiving because we had amazing food.

00:36:10.453 --> 00:36:17.453

I just thought it was normal that we would have grape leaves and kibbeh, and mashed potatoes, and turkey, and corn.

00:36:17.244 --> 00:36:26.244

And San Cocho and Tamales, and all on our spread, um... But this is what makes America America, right?

00:36:26.426 --> 00:36:30.426

Um, we are, uh... sum of all of our parts.

00:36:30.462 --> 00:36:38.462

Um, and so... you walk into Salaam, and I hope your next meeting may be at Salaam, you're more than welcome to come and use the space.

00:36:38.880 --> 00:36:42.880

But you walk in there, and everything is really intentional.

00:36:42.880 --> 00:36:48.978

There's no maps, because the indigenous people never drew the maps. It was always the colonial powers.

00:36:48.978 --> 00:36:51.905

So why should we let colonial narratives tell us who we are?

00:36:52.662 --> 00:36:59.662

And then at some point, those borders become solidified, and you colonize yourself with a flag.

00:36:59.331 --> 00:37:04.331

By defining yourself against an other, and the other is usually your immediate neighbor.

00:37:06.356 --> 00:37:12.356

Um, and so, for example, when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, you know, in different spaces that I've been in.

00:37:12.122 --> 00:37:20.122

Um, I've been asked, you know, well, what's the problem? Why can't they come over? Why can't they this? What's this? What's that?

00:37:19.913 --> 00:37:29.913

And in essence, I would respond with, if you take anyone from either side and put them in Harvest Market and come back in an hour, their shopping carts would look almost identical.

00:37:31.102 --> 00:37:38.102

But you can't tell them that because of the power imbalances and the way that their narrative is portrayed to us in the West.

00:37:38.101 --> 00:37:49.101

Um, and so, yes, um... you know, Salaam, in all of its pronunciations, among the majority of Middle Eastern North African languages.

00:37:49.669 --> 00:37:55.669

Whether it's pronounced as... Saddam, salam... Schlammar Shlomo Shalom.

00:37:56.521 --> 00:37:59.521

all means peace, but the hardest thing about peace

00:37:59.535 --> 00:38:02.535

is that it's made between enemies, not among friends.

00:38:03.451 --> 00:38:08.451

And most of the time, these enemies are perceived enemies, are people who've never met and broken bread.

00:38:09.220 --> 00:38:17.220

And so, how do we change that? What can Salaam do to help in this kind of context, especially when it deals with mental health?

00:38:16.864 --> 00:38:26.864

And our, um, our different demographic communities. I mean, for one, I don't even know who our domestic demographic community is, because there's no box for us to check.

00:38:27.355 --> 00:38:32.355

Currently, we're still being lost under, uh, under white, or under black.

00:38:32.376 --> 00:38:39.376

Um, and while the state of Illinois last year was the first state in the union to adopt.

00:38:39.674 --> 00:38:45.674

A MENA and Middle East and North Africa as a category for our next demographic for the census.

00:38:45.431 --> 00:38:52.431

the federal government followed suit. Um, the current definition at the Office of Management and Budget is still limited.

00:38:52.347 --> 00:38:58.347

Um, and so we... we could address that together, um, as the city of Champaign.

00:38:58.313 --> 00:39:04.313

and move it up the ranks. So that'd be the first and foremost, is to define who we are on our own terms.

00:39:04.714 --> 00:39:06.714

or allow us to define who we are in our own terms.

00:39:06.986 --> 00:39:12.986

Um, when it comes to mental health, there is still stigma in the community surrounding mental health.

00:39:12.985 --> 00:39:18.260

So, how do we also advocate and teach about mental health within those spaces?

00:39:18.563 --> 00:39:24.563

Um, one thing that we can do, for example, is to learn from.

00:39:24.739 --> 00:39:30.739

organizations like Arab American Family Services on the outskirts of Chicago and Bridgeview.

00:39:31.512 --> 00:39:34.512

Uh, and their successes in working with the community.

00:39:34.186 --> 00:39:41.186

Um, but one of the major gaps that I, myself, had been seeing my entire life, born and raised in the U.S.

00:39:41.272 --> 00:39:45.272

There's this gap in intercultural understanding from the counselors.

00:39:45.336 --> 00:39:51.336

And those that want to help. Um, and this is where Salaam can be a great asset and a benefit.

00:39:50.862 --> 00:39:56.862

of, uh, learning how to communicate with people on their own terms.

00:39:56.862 --> 00:40:02.647

through worldviews that they understand. and lenses that they've experienced growing up.

00:40:02.104 --> 00:40:12.104

I think would be, uh, first and foremost. Um... providing spaces like Salaam where the community can just come together.

00:40:11.979 --> 00:40:15.979

to do nothing other than to drink tea and play card games.

00:40:15.979 --> 00:40:18.861

Um, where they can feel safe in that space.

00:40:18.862 --> 00:40:25.677

Um, one of the things that I'm doing for high schoolers, for example, is giving them remote internships.

00:40:25.767 --> 00:40:30.767

Where part of their internship is to document their family's story.

00:40:31.167 --> 00:40:39.167

about how they came here. And to interview their parents or their grandparents so that we could also preserve the languages and dialects.

00:40:38.993 --> 00:40:50.993

of... of that particular generation. Um, and their stories. Um... food insecurity. You know, we can work together with the different food pantries around town.

00:40:50.993 --> 00:40:56.763

So, for example, if you have, um, lentils available, and you have rice.

00:40:57.215 --> 00:41:02.215

all that you would need is a recipe card that says, pick up an onion.

00:41:02.484 --> 00:41:09.484

have some cumin, salt and pepper. And you can make a dish that's popular in the Levant called Njudara.

00:41:09.225 --> 00:41:16.225

which is the Palestinian dirty rice. So we can teach the community about our heritage through our own food.

00:41:16.451 --> 00:41:19.451

So people aren't afraid of us before they even meet us.

00:41:20.157 --> 00:41:27.157

Um, you know, uh... I'm an academic, former academic, so I can talk forever.

00:41:27.029 --> 00:41:35.029

Uh, if you give me the floor. Um, but with that said, I just want to close it here to allow space for others to speak and for question and answer.

00:41:35.028 --> 00:41:36.997

But no, there's a lot that we can do.

00:41:36.998 --> 00:41:40.963

Um, there's a lot that we can do, especially when it comes to Israel-Palestine.

00:41:40.963 --> 00:41:44.082

Because it's the hottest topic here at the moment.

00:41:44.077 --> 00:41:56.077

tensions on campus are rising because of it. It's only a matter of time before the ceasefire, um, will falter in various different steps, resulting in possible flare-ups on campus.

00:41:56.007 --> 00:42:01.007

Because some of the conditions that are in Trump's plan cannot be met.

00:42:01.007 --> 00:42:11.979

And could not be immediately or fully. Uh... And we've also know that there's a particular person that has a long history of foiling agreements.

00:42:12.547 --> 00:42:20.547

Um, so it's also a matter of time before that happens as well. If there isn't really strong backing from the U.S. Government to ensure that the ceasefire takes place.

00:42:19.765 --> 00:42:22.765

But one of the things that we can do.

00:42:23.746 --> 00:42:30.746

For example, is for both communities. that were... that were affected by October 7th, and those after it.

00:42:31.119 --> 00:42:39.119

Um, their education sector. Why can't we give them access to our clouds and servers so they can have space in order to have courses online?

00:42:40.650 --> 00:42:44.650

Why can't we provide courses at the University of Illinois system.

00:42:44.006 --> 00:42:50.006

to a new generation of administrators so they can be trained before the brick and mortar goes up.

00:42:52.043 --> 00:42:58.043

We have access to one of the best engineering programs in the entire world, not even country.

00:42:57.928 --> 00:43:06.928

Especially in the field of transportation. We can create programs where graduate students can conduct research on how to best.

00:43:06.928 --> 00:43:15.984

to help with the rebuilding process. Again, this is on all sides. This is something that we can actively do that would then also.

00:43:16.497 --> 00:43:21.497

reflect the better mental health of our community by saying, it's not hopeless.

00:43:21.663 --> 00:43:26.663

we can actually do something, and this is what we can do in our capacity.

00:43:27.564 --> 00:43:33.564

We should engage with these deviceive narratives to create an alternative narrative, a third narrative.

00:43:33.365 --> 00:43:38.365

That allows for reconciliation. that allows for moving forward.

00:43:39.028 --> 00:43:44.028

These are things that we can do. Do we have the guts to do it? That's a different story.

00:43:44.442 --> 00:43:50.442

But do many of us have the experience and are willing to roll up our sleeves?

00:43:50.418 --> 00:43:54.418

I sure am myself, and I'll be happy to help in any way that I can.

00:44:00.331 --> 00:44:02.331

Thank you for your time.

00:44:02.331 --> 00:44:02.335

Thank you, Director Awad.

00:44:03.792 --> 00:44:06.792

Up next, we have, uh, Executive Director Lisa Wilson.

00:44:07.518 --> 00:44:10.518

From the Refugee Center. Lisa, take it away.

00:44:11.269 --> 00:44:13.269

Thank you so much. Can everybody hear me?

00:44:14.276 --> 00:44:20.276

That's great. Thank you. Um, thank you for the invitation to come and speak to the study session tonight.

00:44:20.334 --> 00:44:28.334

The Refugee Center has a long history in Champaign-Urbana, and a long history of support from Champaign County Mental Health Board, which we are...

00:44:28.536 --> 00:44:30.536

Extremely grateful, um...

00:44:31.023 --> 00:44:34.023

for that support. It allows us to...

00:44:33.722 --> 00:44:38.722

serve more people, um, than we otherwise could. So, thank you for that.

00:44:40.684 --> 00:44:42.684

Um, what I wanted to talk about

00:44:42.684 --> 00:44:46.299

is what our immigrant neighbors are going to be facing

00:44:47.294 --> 00:44:52.294

Um, in light of HR1, which has also been called

00:44:52.379 --> 00:44:56.379

The great big, beautiful bill. I have another name for it, but...

00:44:57.499 --> 00:44:59.499

I digress. Um...

00:45:00.712 --> 00:45:05.712

First of all, I... let me address what's going to happen on Saturday. On Saturday,

00:45:06.740 --> 00:45:08.740

There are going to be people that

00:45:09.354 --> 00:45:18.354

Even though we may have all followed the news and know that there aren't going to be any SNAP benefits paid out, we know there are people in our communities here

00:45:19.039 --> 00:45:24.039

that do not know this information. We've been trying to spread the word now, um,

00:45:24.563 --> 00:45:28.563

for several days, we're trying to contact as many clients as we can.

00:45:29.223 --> 00:45:37.223

But I'm pretty sure Monday morning, we're gonna find people walking into the refugee center telling us that they couldn't buy groceries over the weekend because their SNAP card didn't work.

00:45:37.595 --> 00:45:42.595

So, this is going to be devastating on so many levels, um, for...

00:45:42.768 --> 00:45:48.768

our... our clients. Many of our clients do not have valid work authorization.

00:45:49.947 --> 00:45:51.947

It is hard for them to work at all.

00:45:52.699 --> 00:45:57.699

Um, some of them work under the table, uh, or work with somebody else's

00:45:58.174 --> 00:46:00.174

identification, um...

00:46:00.579 --> 00:46:04.579

And while we don't condone that, it's... it's just a fact of life, and...

00:46:04.938 --> 00:46:09.938

when... now that employment authorization is being scrutinized, um,

00:46:10.899 --> 00:46:13.899

more and more, it's been harder for our clients to find work.

00:46:14.785 --> 00:46:17.785

So we're facing a situation where it's harder to find work,

00:46:18.100 --> 00:46:23.100

And now, their benefits are going to go away. Um, so for...

00:46:23.173 --> 00:46:29.173

When I speak to groups, I always tell them, immigration is really complicated.

00:46:30.747 --> 00:46:33.747

Immigration qualification for public benefits is even more

00:46:34.577 --> 00:46:37.577

complicated. So, in...

00:46:37.841 --> 00:46:42.841

In the US, undocumented people do not get benefits. However,

00:46:43.758 --> 00:46:50.758

We do have many mixed-status families. For example, the parents may be undocumented and the children were born in the U.S.

00:46:52.777 --> 00:46:55.777

When they, um, apply for SNAP benefits,

00:46:56.818 --> 00:47:03.818

There is a little math that takes place. It's the poverty level, their income, they produce pay stubs,

00:47:03.484 --> 00:47:05.484

And the household size.

00:47:06.418 --> 00:47:10.418

So, with HR1, what's going to happen?

00:47:10.410 --> 00:47:12.410

If we ever get out of this shutdown,

00:47:13.110 --> 00:47:19.110

is that for our mixed-status families, they're going to reduce the amount of SNAP benefits.

00:47:19.735 --> 00:47:21.735

So, for a family of four,

00:47:21.974 --> 00:47:23.974

If there's two citizens,

00:47:24.253 --> 00:47:27.253

they're getting the benefits for a family of two.

00:47:28.962 --> 00:47:35.962

So, even after we get through this shutdown, our immigrant friends are facing a very

00:47:35.962 --> 00:47:38.271

dire situation.

00:47:39.469 --> 00:47:42.469

The first will be SNAP, and then after that will be Medicaid.

00:47:43.418 --> 00:47:45.418

Um, at the Refugee Center, we serve...

00:47:45.723 --> 00:47:50.723

refugees, asylees, and the overall umbrella term, immigrants.

00:47:51.763 --> 00:48:00.763

Our refugee clients are legally in the country. They applied from outside the country, through the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees.

00:48:01.678 --> 00:48:03.678

They were admitted into the country.

00:48:04.616 --> 00:48:09.616

they, uh, a refugee resettlement agency, one of the big national agencies, uh,

00:48:10.500 --> 00:48:12.500

Promises to resettle them, and then they...

00:48:12.799 --> 00:48:16.799

divide their quota among affiliates, and we are...

00:48:16.785 --> 00:48:18.785

or were an affiliate.

00:48:19.476 --> 00:48:21.476

Um, so even...

00:48:22.759 --> 00:48:26.759

refugees, and even people who have been granted asylum,

00:48:26.656 --> 00:48:29.656

are going to lose benefits under this system.

00:48:30.351 --> 00:48:32.351

Right now, it is not clear...

00:48:33.439 --> 00:48:36.439

what refugees will receive when they enter the country.

00:48:37.890 --> 00:48:42.890

Before the Trump administration, when a refugee entered the country, they entered with automatic

00:48:43.316 --> 00:48:49.316

Uh, employment authorization. That means I couldn't find a job, even if they didn't have the card in their hand, they were...

00:48:49.316 --> 00:48:51.219

It was, uh, they were ins...

00:48:51.495 --> 00:48:55.495

They had status merely because they are categorized as refugees.

00:48:55.548 --> 00:49:01.548

And then, they are immediately qualified for benefits. They don't have a job, we know their income is nothing.

00:49:02.535 --> 00:49:05.535

So they would get in Illinois, they would get SNAP,

00:49:05.997 --> 00:49:07.997

And Medicaid, or all kids for the Kids,

00:49:07.997 --> 00:49:14.679

And either temporary assistance for needy families, or for single people, um, refugee cash assistance.

00:49:16.193 --> 00:49:21.193

Right now, the federal government has not decided whether those refugees are going to get anything.

00:49:21.597 --> 00:49:23.597

They're hanging their hats on...

00:49:25.442 --> 00:49:28.442

the legal permanent Residence 5-year bar.

00:49:28.139 --> 00:49:30.139

So,

00:49:30.710 --> 00:49:33.710

when you come in for... if you came in under family immigration,

00:49:34.007 --> 00:49:42.007

You would not, and your legal permanent resident, you would not be eligible for benefits unless... until you had been a legal permanent resident for 5 years.

00:49:42.995 --> 00:49:44.995

And now they're trying to enforce that on...

00:49:44.994 --> 00:49:46.816

all of the statuses.

00:49:47.435 --> 00:49:51.435

So, we have people who have had no means to...

00:49:51.435 --> 00:49:54.445

earn anything, and now we're taking away any kind of...

00:49:55.255 --> 00:49:57.255

food benefit and Medicaid benefit that they might get.

00:49:58.458 --> 00:50:01.458

Um, it's really quite shocking to see

00:50:02.440 --> 00:50:04.440

that all of the statuses where

00:50:06.414 --> 00:50:08.414

where our immigrant friends would have

00:50:09.625 --> 00:50:14.625

access to SNAP and Medicaid now will not, and that includes, like I said, refugees, asylees,

00:50:14.804 --> 00:50:19.804

um, domestic violence victims, the Violence Against Women Act applicants,

00:50:20.111 --> 00:50:23.111

Trafficking victims who apply for a T visa,

00:50:23.261 --> 00:50:26.261

Victims of other crimes who apply for a U visa,

00:50:26.836 --> 00:50:28.836

Anybody who's here on humanitarian parole,

00:50:29.937 --> 00:50:31.937

Um, and even for temporary protected status.

00:50:31.937 --> 00:50:34.467

They're gonna cut benefits out to all of these people.

00:50:35.009 --> 00:50:37.009

And it's just... I...

00:50:37.461 --> 00:50:39.461

It's horrific. Um...

00:50:39.721 --> 00:50:41.721

So I just want to, um...

00:50:43.066 --> 00:50:45.066

put that in context of the mental health

00:50:47.250 --> 00:50:56.250

uh... strife that they're going to be under. It's, uh... it's going to be worse. It is just absolutely going to be worse, in addition to the fear of ICE.

00:50:56.957 --> 00:51:03.957

Um, I think we're really fortunate that ICE has not geared up enough to make Champaign-Urbana a target, and they're really focusing on trying to embarrass

00:51:04.379 --> 00:51:06.379

Governor Pritzker and be in Chicago.

00:51:07.229 --> 00:51:12.229

Um, but there is still a lot of fear, um, especially fear to go to Chicago for any kind of

00:51:12.056 --> 00:51:20.056

appointments, um, for those of you that don't know, immigration court is in Chicago. You either go to Chicago, or some... I think for...

00:51:20.246 --> 00:51:25.246

Citizenship, you sometimes go to St. Louis, I think some of our clients have gone to St. Louis, but...

00:51:26.047 --> 00:51:28.047

There's nothing here, um, and...

00:51:28.814 --> 00:51:38.814

you don't have a choice. You either show up and risk getting detained by ICE, or if you don't show up for your appointment, you are on the expedited removal list.

00:51:39.510 --> 00:51:43.510

Which means that ice can come and just pick you up and take you away and deport you.

00:51:44.720 --> 00:51:48.720

Um, so the risks are very real.

00:51:49.750 --> 00:51:54.750

we clearly need to provide as much support as we can for our immigrant neighbors.

00:51:54.747 --> 00:52:03.747

Um, we are going to try, like Maria and ISCU, um, we've got a little bit of money that we're going to put aside for some food gift cards.

00:52:04.095 --> 00:52:06.095

To try and get people through.

00:52:06.422 --> 00:52:14.422

Um, and also for some emergency supplies. We generally don't distribute any kind of food at the refugee Center, um, and I...

00:52:14.999 --> 00:52:17.999

Please don't publicize this, because we know we don't have enough for everybody.

00:52:18.000 --> 00:52:25.374

But we're, you know, we just don't want to be in a situation where somebody has come in, and their kids haven't eaten in days, and we have nothing.

00:52:25.462 --> 00:52:28.462

To give them, and we will give them all of the...

00:52:29.173 --> 00:52:31.173

Uh, the food pantry resources we can,

00:52:31.828 --> 00:52:34.828

But for most of those, you have to go and you have to sign up.

00:52:34.903 --> 00:52:42.903

And it's not every day, it's maybe once a week, or once a month with some, so we know there's going to be, you know, empty stomachs out there.

00:52:42.903 --> 00:52:45.235

Um, we want to help as much as we can.

00:52:45.539 --> 00:52:47.539

Um, another, um...

00:52:47.818 --> 00:52:52.818

factor is that, um, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, um,

00:52:53.876 --> 00:52:55.876

has raised its fees.

00:52:56.682 --> 00:53:01.682

Including for asylum. Usually, before this, there was no fee to apply for asylum.

00:53:02.678 --> 00:53:07.678

The amount of the fees that they're raising is really egregious, and it's...

00:53:07.657 --> 00:53:12.657

pretty clear that very few people are going to be able to afford to apply on their own.

00:53:14.566 --> 00:53:20.566

I mean, I can just summarize everything that's going on by saying this administration doesn't just want to prevent

00:53:20.835 --> 00:53:24.835

undocumented people from living in the U.S. They want to prevent

00:53:25.810 --> 00:53:28.810

Almost all immigrants from coming to the U.S.

00:53:28.825 --> 00:53:33.825

Um, they've cut... right now, the refugee program is on pause.

00:53:35.022 --> 00:53:37.022

Last year, the...

00:53:37.022 --> 00:53:43.580

Presidential determination, the president gets to decide how many refugees come into the United States every year.

00:53:43.580 --> 00:53:46.510

The last year the Biden administration, we were at 125,000.

00:53:47.080 --> 00:53:51.080

Um, and we came really close to doing that across the country.

00:53:51.879 --> 00:53:57.879

Right now, the President was supposed to make a determination before October 1st, which is the start of the federal fiscal year.

00:53:57.879 --> 00:54:04.687

He did not. However, um, our sources are telling us that it could be as low as \$7,500.

00:54:06.434 --> 00:54:12.434

And in our experience, we know that when a ceiling is set, you're going to get a little bit less than that ceiling.

00:54:12.357 --> 00:54:14.357

Just because of processing

00:54:15.135 --> 00:54:18.135

time, and other complications that come into play.

00:54:19.336 --> 00:54:27.336

So they don't even let in any refugees, and these are people who have been vetted. They've been interviewed multiple times, they have passed a medical screening.

00:54:27.434 --> 00:54:33.434

The only refugees that they are interested in letting in are white Christian South Africans.

00:54:35.091 --> 00:54:42.091

Um, so we're... we're devastated at the Refugee Center about the refugee resettlement program. We worked really hard to build

00:54:42.092 --> 00:54:48.822

Um, a robust team giving wraparound services, including housing and employment counseling,

00:54:49.538 --> 00:54:54.538

It really is the... I mean, if you're coming as a refugee, you are at such an advantage.

00:54:55.154 --> 00:55:03.154

I mean, they have so many more resources, or did, before... as compared to somebody who's crossing the border without inspection.

00:55:03.228 --> 00:55:07.228

I mean, it's just a world of difference, and now that's been decimated.

00:55:07.472 --> 00:55:15.472

Um, so I know this is, you know, hard conversations, but I just, um, I say this just to make you all aware of...

00:55:16.671 --> 00:55:18.671

that the change is coming from all directions.

00:55:19.254 --> 00:55:24.254

And it is very much on purpose. They've been planning this for the last 4 years with Project 2025.

00:55:24.554 --> 00:55:28.554

And it is a relentless, um, attack.

00:55:29.693 --> 00:55:39.693

on immigrants. Um, and, you know, we're here to do our part, whatever way we can. Like I said, I really appreciate your support and this opportunity to speak to you this evening.

00:55:39.555 --> 00:55:41.555

Thank you.

00:55:49.232 --> 00:55:51.232

Thank you, Doc. Sorry, thank you.

00:55:51.407 --> 00:55:54.407

Executive Director Wilson, um...

00:55:54.947 --> 00:55:57.947

I think now is the time where we open up the floor for...

00:55:59.355 --> 00:56:01.355

great dialogue, questions...

00:56:01.285 --> 00:56:03.285

comments and thoughts.

00:56:07.046 --> 00:56:09.046

Yes, yes.

00:56:09.046 --> 00:56:11.156

Get on it. You can go ahead.

00:56:11.549 --> 00:56:17.549

Um, so I was... it's top of mind for me, um, I was speaking to a group of students last night, and um...

00:56:18.221 --> 00:56:21.221

this crisis was very much on their mind, and something that...

00:56:21.720 --> 00:56:25.720

Um, I'm hit again by my conversation with them, and echoed here.

00:56:25.866 --> 00:56:29.866

Um, is that these are man-made crises?

00:56:29.866 --> 00:56:32.176

Right? These aren't natural disasters.

00:56:32.471 --> 00:56:38.471

Uh, these are things that we have created, right? We make people undocumented.

00:56:38.916 --> 00:56:40.916

Because of our processes.

00:56:42.113 --> 00:56:47.113

Somebody crossing the border does not make them undocumented. It's because we refuse to update our system.

00:56:48.075 --> 00:56:50.075

to document them. It's our failure.

00:56:50.446 --> 00:56:52.446

And that goes on Democrats,

00:56:53.517 --> 00:56:58.517

and Republicans. I think... so, to me, I... the reaction of sympathy doesn't make much sense.

00:56:59.314 --> 00:57:03.314

Because it's people who are elected in our name who have created this crisis.

00:57:04.005 --> 00:57:08.005

Um, I also think it's interest... I mean, one other thing before I move on.

00:57:09.280 --> 00:57:11.280

These immigration laws that we now have that...

00:57:12.246 --> 00:57:15.246

have created this crisis. We're modeled after the Jim Crow era.

00:57:16.672 --> 00:57:23.672

Jim Crow. It's not just that they are immigrants and we don't like brown people, it's that we see brown people as an economic unit.

00:57:24.937 --> 00:57:35.937

Just in the same way that black people were the foundation of the economy. They relied on black people for free labor, even to some points refusing to, um, to plow their fields with the latest technology.

00:57:35.938 --> 00:57:37.786

Because they wanted to rely on slave labor.

00:57:38.599 --> 00:57:40.599

So, too, in our food system today.

00:57:41.295 --> 00:57:43.295

Um, so again, we maintain this...

00:57:43.695 --> 00:57:45.695

This system, through our consent,

00:57:45.845 --> 00:57:49.845

Through who we have elected, so I really would like to make that clear, and also to highlight

00:57:50.870 --> 00:57:53.870

we need to move from sympathy, um, in the way that we discuss this.

00:57:54.397 --> 00:57:57.397

So, in that line, um, my question to...

00:57:57.762 --> 00:57:59.762

Um, the panelists today is, um, what...

00:57:59.948 --> 00:58:02.948

asks do you have from state and local government?

00:58:02.947 --> 00:58:07.086

Um, being the local side myself, um, I know it's...

00:58:07.283 --> 00:58:16.283

It can feel ambiguous to say a local government. So, when I say local government, I'm thinking not just county board, which is... I'm vice chair of, but also your sheriff's department.

00:58:16.125 --> 00:58:18.125

Um, your court system.

00:58:18.950 --> 00:58:20.950

Um, your treasurer, that...

00:58:20.951 --> 00:58:26.643

Anything that falls under those umbrellas, I'm interested to hear any, um, and see any gaps that you might see.

00:58:33.366 --> 00:58:37.366

Well, I... I think we're seeing... we're gonna see a huge gap in, um...

00:58:38.574 --> 00:58:40.574

The need for, um, housing,

00:58:40.673 --> 00:58:44.673

money to pay for housing and money to pay for food.

00:58:44.591 --> 00:58:46.591

Um,

00:58:46.812 --> 00:58:53.812

it's possible that there's been some rumblings, you know, we, um, are partners with the state,

00:58:54.814 --> 00:58:59.814

As an Illinois Welcoming Center, and there's some rumblings of them getting some emergency direct assistance.

00:58:59.651 --> 00:59:01.651

But I don't know that that's...

00:59:02.274 --> 00:59:06.274

definite right now, and I certainly don't know how much that would be.

00:59:06.881 --> 00:59:10.881

Um, but yeah, the need is going to be so great. I mean, I would think from...

00:59:10.882 --> 00:59:13.346

And then from our... you mentioned

00:59:14.112 --> 00:59:16.112

sheriff's, uh, office,

00:59:16.111 --> 00:59:18.571

Um, adherence to the Illinois Trust Act.

00:59:19.673 --> 00:59:22.673

Um, and I really appreciate that.

00:59:22.775 --> 00:59:28.775

I think it was months ago, there was a meeting when all of the leaders of the various departments in our area

00:59:29.310 --> 00:59:32.310

committed to the Illinois Trust Act, and...

00:59:32.288 --> 00:59:34.288

Um...

00:59:35.120 --> 00:59:38.120

I... I don't know how much...

00:59:38.574 --> 00:59:41.574

That will affect one of our, um...

00:59:41.725 --> 00:59:45.725

our undocumented clients as feeling better, but

00:59:46.343 --> 00:59:49.343

It definitely makes me feel better, and...

00:59:50.090 --> 00:59:52.090

If we can say to our clients,

00:59:53.885 --> 00:59:56.885

Look, our local departments are not going to cooperate with ICE,

00:59:56.885 --> 00:59:59.154

I mean, hopefully that is some...

01:00:00.017 --> 01:00:02.017

some solace, um...

01:00:02.092 --> 01:00:04.092

I mean, we're just gonna need...

01:00:05.207 --> 01:00:08.207

people to understand how, um...

01:00:09.231 --> 01:00:12.231

what a target is on the back of immigrants right now.

01:00:12.594 --> 01:00:18.594

And to try and be as generous and give them as much space as possible.

01:00:18.654 --> 01:00:20.654

Uh, because they really, literally, are under attack.

01:00:24.145 --> 01:00:31.145

Yeah, I mean, I think if it hasn't become clear already, and I know this is something that Lisa and I have discussed in private as well, is that

01:00:31.472 --> 01:00:36.472

we were all already in crisis before the second election, and...

01:00:38.192 --> 01:00:41.192

it's hard to even imagine where we're gonna go from here.

01:00:41.160 --> 01:00:43.160

We were already...

01:00:43.627 --> 01:00:48.627

really having a hard time putting people in homes. We were already really having a hard time feeding people.

01:00:48.998 --> 01:00:52.998

We were already feeling the weight of trying to connect people to legal services,

01:00:54.019 --> 01:01:01.019

the organizations here locally and everywhere else were already feeling completely saturated, and...

01:01:01.366 --> 01:01:06.366

now that has just picked up, and we don't even know how much that's gonna be multiplied by, so...

01:01:06.459 --> 01:01:08.459

I think just kind of reiterating that.

01:01:08.804 --> 01:01:12.804

I'm obviously navigating a lot of these things for the first time, but something that

01:01:13.873 --> 01:01:18.873

keeps me up at night is, like, where is the measure of accountability locally?

01:01:18.872 --> 01:01:20.956

So, we've seen...

01:01:21.668 --> 01:01:26.668

what Chicago has accomplished, and I say accomplished because I'm genuinely proud to be.

01:01:26.883 --> 01:01:28.883

in that close of a proximity.

01:01:28.882 --> 01:01:32.937

to a city that has handled the immigration crisis the way that it has.

01:01:33.925 --> 01:01:41.925

if it isn't something that's known already, ICE is in our communities at least once a week, if not twice a week, and it is picking up.

01:01:43.145 --> 01:01:50.145

Um, and it's not... I think that there's an understanding out there, maybe a misconception, that it's like, well, they're only coming after criminals.

01:01:50.257 --> 01:01:52.257

And they're only coming with warrants.

01:01:53.228 --> 01:02:02.228

That's not the case. Um, you know, just last week, there was two spotted vehicles driving around with 8... with ice written right on them.

01:02:02.775 --> 01:02:10.775

Um, we were only able to confirm that they took one person, but they spent quite a long time riding around locally, so...

01:02:11.247 --> 01:02:14.247

When I look at that, I see they're testing the waters.

01:02:14.294 --> 01:02:16.294

They're trying to see how much

01:02:17.134 --> 01:02:19.134

pushback they're gonna get doing what they're doing.

01:02:19.133 --> 01:02:22.661

And so, when I reference the measure of accountability,

01:02:23.298 --> 01:02:30.298

I don't think it is fair for local service immigrations, nonprofits to have to be coming up with the solutions.

01:02:30.748 --> 01:02:33.748

And it's not a matter... to me, in this... I mean...

01:02:34.268 --> 01:02:39.268

I'm not trying to elicit fear, but it's not a matter of if. It is a matter of when.

01:02:40.185 --> 01:02:44.185

Things will get more chaotic here. Does that mean it's gonna get as chaotic as Chicago?

01:02:44.333 --> 01:02:51.333

I don't know, but if they're coming every week and it's picking up, it's just a matter of time before it starts to really create disruption. And so...

01:02:51.537 --> 01:02:53.537

We have to prepare for that.

01:02:53.523 --> 01:02:55.523

So, you know, um...

01:02:56.313 --> 01:02:58.313

I think you guys probably saw the

01:02:58.489 --> 01:03:03.489

Um, the Illinois Secretary of State talking about how ICE is not allowed to switch its license plates.

01:03:04.123 --> 01:03:07.123

So, where is the measure of accountability for that?

01:03:07.265 --> 01:03:13.265

If someone in the community sees an ICE member changing their license plate after a deportation, or before, or whenever,

01:03:14.025 --> 01:03:16.025

Where do we go with that information?

01:03:17.153 --> 01:03:26.153

If our neighbors are on the streets protesting, and I'm not talking about a No Kings rally where the government is aware of what we're doing, but I'm talking about local manifestations,

01:03:27.570 --> 01:03:34.570

then where's the measure of accountability when our community members start getting hurt? Where's the measure of accountability when non-immigrants

01:03:35.220 --> 01:03:40.220

who are trying to put themselves between what's going on, start getting taken away.

01:03:41.105 --> 01:03:49.105

Um, so I'm in a position now where I'm having a lot of conversations with a lot of different people, a lot of people running for, you know, things like Congress and local government, and...

01:03:50.452 --> 01:04:00.452

I'm really learning the vastness and the amount of resource that this community has, the amount of potential, the amount of intelligence, the amount of awareness,

01:04:00.648 --> 01:04:02.648

So,

01:04:03.049 --> 01:04:13.049

I do think we're in the position to ask, like, what can you guys, and when I say you guys, I don't just mean this board, but I mean the City of Champaign, the city of Urbana, like, what can you guys do for us?

01:04:13.798 --> 01:04:16.798

Because for us, it's like, we're just waiting for the crash.

01:04:17.854 --> 01:04:23.854

Um, that's a lot to carry. That's also a lot for entry-level case managers to be wondering themselves.

01:04:24.473 --> 01:04:32.473

Um, so I think inevitably we have to start planning. We can't wait to respond until it gets too bad that we don't know what to do next.

01:04:36.903 --> 01:04:45.903

Alright, um... Can I finish that up just real quick? Yep, okay. Um, I guess I want to follow up, um, and challenge, um, people who are watching this feed. I know I encourage, um,

01:04:45.903 --> 01:04:48.623

the young people who I spoke to last night to tune in.

01:04:48.725 --> 01:04:56.725

Um, I think these are, uh, interesting responses and sharp responses. Something I encourage... I know that, um, every member of the county board

01:04:57.343 --> 01:05:01.343

And every government official is in the county level is doing it, are looking to other

01:05:01.757 --> 01:05:07.757

counties and localities to see how they are, within the state of Illinois, because our laws are unique to us,

01:05:08.453 --> 01:05:10.453

how they are responding to this man-made crisis.

01:05:10.688 --> 01:05:15.688

And so, if you are in communities, this is how we pass 12 weeks paid parental leave for all Champaign County employees.

01:05:15.670 --> 01:05:17.670

We saw that DuPage County was doing it.

01:05:18.444 --> 01:05:24.444

If you come across an example, and we'll be doing this as well, send it to us. Send it to your representative on the county board.

01:05:25.622 --> 01:05:27.622

And we will do everything we can to mirror that policy.

01:05:31.892 --> 01:05:36.892

Um, so just a couple of things, and I guess I'll preface this by saying, um,

01:05:37.788 --> 01:05:42.788

Please believe my heart and my intentions. I don't want to misspeak.

01:05:43.389 --> 01:05:49.389

Something that spoke to me when you spoke about, um, Mad Made... man-made tragedies.

01:05:50.311 --> 01:05:54.311

Wow, that really is true. You know, so many times, I think we have...

01:05:54.666 --> 01:05:57.666

the right intentions, but we're causing all this havoc.

01:05:57.934 --> 01:06:03.934

Um, you know, everyone who's, you know, on these boards, who've watched these meetings, whatever,

01:06:03.934 --> 01:06:07.703

Um, know that I sometimes have a differing...

01:06:08.524 --> 01:06:12.524

um, political party and things like that, and, you know, someone

01:06:12.644 --> 01:06:15.644

made a comment, and I was like, you know, we need to...

01:06:16.431 --> 01:06:22.431

not stay in our boxes anymore. Just because I typically identify as a republican or conservative,

01:06:22.408 --> 01:06:27.408

doesn't mean that I don't want to join you hand-in-hand, because...

01:06:28.011 --> 01:06:31.011

There's things going on out there that are inhumane.

01:06:31.917 --> 01:06:37.917

You know, and so, it makes me cringe when I hear things that, you know, our president is saying. I'm like,

01:06:37.917 --> 01:06:40.778

Can someone shut his mic off? I mean...

01:06:41.738 --> 01:06:43.738

Do I think that's his heart?

01:06:43.998 --> 01:06:47.998

I want to hope it's not, but I don't know. I'm not his... I'm not him.

01:06:47.999 --> 01:06:54.690

Um, again, but that goes both ways. Um, you know, I had seen the quote about, you know,

01:06:55.204 --> 01:06:58.204

The Democrats, for 12 times, have voted down this snap thing.

01:06:59.280 --> 01:07:02.280

True, but then I also realized

01:07:02.465 --> 01:07:08.465

12 times, maybe the Republicans didn't say, okay, maybe we can compromise on this.

01:07:08.893 --> 01:07:13.893

So, I just... I'm so sick of the news media, the social media, all that. It's just...

01:07:13.893 --> 01:07:19.979

We have to kind of join hands, say you're a little different than me, but let's talk this out.

01:07:21.046 --> 01:07:24.046

That was kind of one, sorry, trajectory I just took.

01:07:24.674 --> 01:07:27.674

I do have a couple questions, and if this is something that...

01:07:28.318 --> 01:07:34.318

would be better, um, for you to cover, like, after the meeting or something. I just have some general, like, questions, um, just because I don't know.

01:07:34.381 --> 01:07:40.381

So, um, I've seen the posts before where, you know, hey, ICE is in town, beware.

01:07:40.607 --> 01:07:42.607

da-da-da-da. So...

01:07:43.630 --> 01:07:46.630

Typically, are they coming in and just kind of

01:07:46.766 --> 01:07:51.766

profiling, or do they have a list of individuals they're looking for? Because...

01:07:52.649 --> 01:07:55.649

Some media is trying to say, oh, we're trying to get out...

01:07:56.580 --> 01:07:59.580

And I think you'd even spoke on it, Maria, about we're trying to get rid of the

01:07:59.562 --> 01:08:01.562

that illegal, you know...

01:08:02.664 --> 01:08:04.664

convicts, the bad people.

01:08:04.640 --> 01:08:06.640

Or are they just coming in and saying,

01:08:07.106 --> 01:08:09.106

Right? The color of your skin, or the way you talk.

01:08:10.044 --> 01:08:12.044

I want to talk to you. I mean, so I guess just...

01:08:12.045 --> 01:08:14.022

um, kind of...

01:08:14.592 --> 01:08:17.592

how are we seeing ice maybe in our community?

01:08:17.469 --> 01:08:22.469

Um, and then another thing was just, um, I think you'd also talked about...

01:08:23.514 --> 01:08:28.514

We need to have hope. Um, and right now, there's not a lot of hope in many avenues right now.

01:08:29.251 --> 01:08:31.251

Um, you know, I was talking to...

01:08:31.845 --> 01:08:37.845

Um, Elaine, you know, I work for General Mills, and so obviously there's a lot of concern in the stores I'm going into.

01:08:37.764 --> 01:08:39.764

In regards to all this change with SNAP.

01:08:40.704 --> 01:08:50.704

Um, General Mills partnered with Walmart, we've got some special lower-priced cereals coming in the back door in hopes that maybe you can afford \$2.97 if you can't afford the \$4.45s.

01:08:50.571 --> 01:08:55.571

444 size. I mean, um, we're sending an extra soup, because that's a lower...

01:08:55.995 --> 01:08:57.995

you know, cash-out ring.

01:08:58.506 --> 01:09:04.506

Um, and so it affects me, even though, like, I don't get SNAP, I... it doesn't... day-to-day effect.

01:09:05.147 --> 01:09:10.147

But it's affecting my job, it's affecting the managers I deal with, it's the people I see on the streets. I'm thinking,

01:09:10.267 --> 01:09:17.267

you know, I just need to make a donation of cash to Illinois Food Bank, rather than, oh, here's some things out of my pantry.

01:09:17.458 --> 01:09:19.458

you know. Um, so I keep telling people,

01:09:19.888 --> 01:09:22.888

A dollar equals \$10. Give cash to your food banks.

01:09:23.404 --> 01:09:25.404

Um,

01:09:25.978 --> 01:09:27.978

And I thought I had one more idea, but just, I...

01:09:29.182 --> 01:09:33.182

I think in so many ways, we just need to lock arms and try to help each other, and...

01:09:33.493 --> 01:09:37.493

Um, one of the reasons why I continue to be on this board is I'm trying to...

01:09:38.522 --> 01:09:41.522

Um, make myself a better, more educated person, and again,

01:09:42.167 --> 01:09:45.167

Um, you know, I hear things on ice, and I'm like...

01:09:45.668 --> 01:09:47.668

Well, yeah, they're just trying to get the bad guys out.

01:09:48.125 --> 01:09:54.125

But I'm starting to not believe that either. So, I would love if you can kind of, either now or later, someone can inform me of...

01:09:54.903 --> 01:09:57.903

What is the reality that we're seeing maybe in our communities?

01:09:57.903 --> 01:10:04.176

Yeah, I mean, I obviously want to show up with integrity and tell you that, like, the answers that I give you are...

01:10:04.368 --> 01:10:14.368

from my personal experience, and from the circles that I'm able to receive information from, and the experiences that I have, but I think this is a question that you should ask to anybody.

01:10:15.250 --> 01:10:18.250

who works directly with immigrants, because it's a very complex system.

01:10:18.475 --> 01:10:31.475

Um, like Lisa, for example, is able to break down the actual law in a way, whereas, like, I tend to lean more, maybe, into, like, the emotional experience that immigrants are having, right? We all kind of have different places where we feel

01:10:32.364 --> 01:10:37.364

Stronger, and so I'll just answer my part, but I think that, like, I'm happy to hear that you're, like,

01:10:38.547 --> 01:10:40.547

just tell me, you know? Like...

01:10:40.444 --> 01:10:45.444

Um, to your first point, I can tell you, like, as an immigrant myself, like,

01:10:46.919 --> 01:10:51.919

it's funny how much the United States gets caught up in seeing immigration as, like,

01:10:52.533 --> 01:10:59.533

a bipartisan issue, like, where it's like, oh, it's like Republicans hate immigrants, and Democrats love them, when...

01:10:59.984 --> 01:11:04.984

that's not our truth, necessarily, so, like, we don't necessarily...

01:11:04.985 --> 01:11:08.806

Um, benefit greatly from having Democrats

01:11:08.858 --> 01:11:14.858

in office, in the sense that there's still mass deportations, for example, that occurred under Obama.

01:11:14.857 --> 01:11:22.016

And so when you're talking about locking arms, it's like, if we're seeing due process be violated anywhere,

01:11:22.765 --> 01:11:25.765

that's something all of us should be scared about.

01:11:25.944 --> 01:11:34.944

That's not an opinion-based thing, that's, like, our constitutional rights are all of a sudden up for debate, and that should be a problem that we all

01:11:34.944 --> 01:11:37.722

look towards, um, to your second

01:11:37.904 --> 01:11:40.904

point that I think was about, like, how ICE is showing up locally.

01:11:40.904 --> 01:11:47.649

I think it was a... it was definitely a narrative that got into a lot of people's heads of,

01:11:47.783 --> 01:11:49.783

Well, they're only taking the criminals.

01:11:49.912 --> 01:11:51.912

Um...

01:11:51.911 --> 01:11:56.745

The criminalization of black and brown people in this country is one of the

01:11:56.814 --> 01:12:01.814

biggest issues. Like, we could probably sit and have a whole discussion just about that.

01:12:02.641 --> 01:12:08.641

In and of itself, um, this, in my opinion, is another attempt to do that. It's to kind of label

01:12:08.723 --> 01:12:14.723

These are criminals, and so, like, we need to get them out of here. So, even you guys were hearing me earlier talk about

01:12:15.337 --> 01:12:19.337

Um, clients that are fleeing government persecution, that are fleeing

01:12:20.110 --> 01:12:23.110

conditions that almost anyone would want to run from.

01:12:23.653 --> 01:12:25.653

Um, sorry, this is...

01:12:26.447 --> 01:12:29.447

heavy and emotional, and my brain gets kind of overwhelmed.

01:12:29.417 --> 01:12:31.417

But...

01:12:31.408 --> 01:12:36.408

If we in the United States, let's say we... there, of course, are...

01:12:36.743 --> 01:12:38.743

criminals who are immigrants, right?

01:12:39.141 --> 01:12:49.141

So, if the idea is, let's just deport them back to where they come from, and I'm talking about hard crimes, human trafficking, murder,

01:12:49.142 --> 01:12:51.383

things that we can all kind of agree on.

01:12:51.723 --> 01:12:53.723

this is dangerous, this is a big problem, right?

01:12:54.033 --> 01:12:57.033

If they just get deported back to their country,

01:12:57.498 --> 01:12:59.498

How is that solving the problem?

01:13:01.890 --> 01:13:05.890

You get what I'm saying? So, like, they're just getting sent right back into the same tunnel

01:13:05.891 --> 01:13:12.767

to create more harm from where they came, and to maybe even come back in. Who knows?
I don't think that's a good solution.

01:13:13.405 --> 01:13:15.405

Um, second,

01:13:16.051 --> 01:13:18.051

I don't know if you know this, but if you...

01:13:18.446 --> 01:13:23.446

immigrate into the United States, and you get deported, and you come back in, then you're
a felon.

01:13:23.586 --> 01:13:25.586

It's called felon Reentry.

01:13:26.006 --> 01:13:33.006

So, something as simple as being deported and then having to find your way back into the
country makes you a felon in this country.

01:13:33.760 --> 01:13:35.760

Um...

01:13:35.898 --> 01:13:40.898

I wish, honestly, that I could, like, say to you, yes, here are all the deportations that
happened.

01:13:40.899 --> 01:13:44.085

They've only happened to people that are really committing serious crimes.

01:13:45.128 --> 01:13:50.128

There was a Monday morning once where they just pulled over a truck of workers that were going to work,

01:13:50.128 --> 01:13:53.100

at, like, 4 in the morning, and they took 10 of them.

01:13:53.765 --> 01:13:59.765

None of them had warrants, none of them were... like, there are people in the community who rigorously do this work.

01:14:00.235 --> 01:14:07.235

who look these names up, who trace where they are, who... like, something that, for example, I don't have time to do, right?

01:14:08.817 --> 01:14:11.817

There was not a single one that they could find anything on.

01:14:12.611 --> 01:14:18.611

And when each... each member that was taken is the main breadwinner in their family.

01:14:19.483 --> 01:14:24.483

So now you've got a family, children, that, you know, a lot of them become our clients,

01:14:25.233 --> 01:14:28.233

that are completely destabilized, because one morning,

01:14:28.662 --> 01:14:33.662

you know, the main bread... main breadwinner went to work and then didn't come back.

01:14:34.573 --> 01:14:41.573

Um, most of the time is when we find out about ice, we're finding out about it through kids in middle school and in high school.

01:14:42.558 --> 01:14:50.558

who see it in their neighborhoods. The reason that most people don't know that ICE is in town is because they're going into areas where only black and brown people live.

01:14:50.448 --> 01:14:52.448

Where only immigrants live.

01:14:53.267 --> 01:14:58.267

So it's not really affecting you if you live in an area... I mean, even myself, I'm privileged. I live near Harvest Market, right?

01:14:59.948 --> 01:15:02.948

I... I... I don't see ice driving by where I'm at.

01:15:03.982 --> 01:15:05.982

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is that, like,

01:15:06.891 --> 01:15:16.891

One, even the theory of we're only taking criminals is problematic and flawed and is not being handled in a way that is actually about justice. It's not actually about protecting anybody.

01:15:16.892 --> 01:15:22.987

And two, what... based on what I'm seeing, and if you look at it at, like, a national level, what's going on,

01:15:23.172 --> 01:15:29.172

For what possible reason would children be zip-tied to each other?

01:15:29.868 --> 01:15:33.868

And then pulled up into a helicopter in Chicago.

01:15:34.960 --> 01:15:37.960

What possible thing could those children have done

01:15:37.960 --> 01:15:43.538

to deserve that. So, when you... when you break down the deportations,

01:15:43.835 --> 01:15:49.835

I don't think there's any way you could leave with a conclusion that they're just trying to get rid of the bad guys.

01:15:50.346 --> 01:15:52.346

They're bad guys because they're immigrants.

01:15:52.700 --> 01:15:54.700

Whether they're doing the bad stuff or not.

01:15:55.204 --> 01:16:01.204

So, I'm not gonna take up too much time, but yeah, I think it's a narrative that really does need to be challenged.

01:16:01.430 --> 01:16:03.430

Um, because it's dehumanizing.

01:16:05.397 --> 01:16:08.397

Parents are in line waiting to pick up their kids from preschool.

01:16:09.723 --> 01:16:13.723

And their kids are stuck at school wondering when their dad is gonna come pick them up.

01:16:16.168 --> 01:16:22.168

Yeah. And if they really cared about the criminal aspect of it, then they would follow due process, and they're not, so...

01:16:22.501 --> 01:16:24.501

Yeah.

01:16:25.609 --> 01:16:28.609

Well, and I kind of have encouraged, um,

01:16:29.345 --> 01:16:31.345

You know, even maybe even during the, um,

01:16:32.591 --> 01:16:35.591

election time, you know, sometimes we just need to sit down,

01:16:36.116 --> 01:16:43.116

with two people. And actually, Lynn actually spoke on this the other day, because I said, oh, you know, so-and-so... we're so far apart, and she's like, no, you're not.

01:16:43.109 --> 01:16:46.109

if you really sat on, you two are very close together, just...

01:16:46.755 --> 01:16:49.755

you still have that R&D, you know, and...

01:16:50.228 --> 01:16:52.228

So I'm learning now, sometimes I will...

01:16:52.216 --> 01:16:57.216

be vulnerable and ask the questions and say, hey, I don't know, so can you tell me from your experiences?

01:16:57.368 --> 01:17:00.368

And recently, I spoke to, um...

01:17:00.388 --> 01:17:05.388

a gentleman, and I asked him, I said, you know, I don't feel comfortable just asking anyone this question, but I was like,

01:17:06.828 --> 01:17:09.828

Do you know any people who are here?

01:17:10.900 --> 01:17:12.900

that are not legal. And he's like,

01:17:14.826 --> 01:17:20.826

His own wife. And it about breaks my heart, because the mom... she's the mom of three beautiful children.

01:17:20.777 --> 01:17:26.777

But because she came in here, I think, as a child. But she has a work permit, but he said,

01:17:26.966 --> 01:17:29.966

at any time. They might be like, get out, and I'm like...

01:17:30.024 --> 01:17:33.024

That's your wife. And so I think that's where maybe...

01:17:33.024 --> 01:17:37.280

Um, it... because I asked the question, I realized,

01:17:37.565 --> 01:17:46.565

I'm a lot more directly affected by this than I thought. And again, I don't believe the narrative that we're only getting the criminals out. I don't think that's accurate either, but...

01:17:46.816 --> 01:17:48.816

That's what's... what's being spun.

01:17:49.522 --> 01:17:51.522

by some people's, oh, we're only getting the bad ones out.

01:17:52.108 --> 01:17:54.108

No, you're not. And with my...

01:17:55.176 --> 01:17:57.176

you know, past, you know, volunteerism with, you know,

01:17:57.517 --> 01:18:02.517

Um, you know, public education, so for that as a school board president. You know, I hear so many people are like,

01:18:02.704 --> 01:18:05.704

Well, ice in the school. So, first of all, I know they can't do that.

01:18:06.280 --> 01:18:08.280

But it doesn't eliminate the fear.

01:18:08.616 --> 01:18:10.616

And the constant worry of,

01:18:11.521 --> 01:18:20.521

Are they gonna show up here? Is Dad gonna pick me up, or are they gonna pick up Dad on... you know, so I get it and stuff, so I just... I'm so thankful for the agencies that...

01:18:21.247 --> 01:18:26.247

are doing the things they can. I'm very much like Emily, you know, what else can we do to help?

01:18:26.985 --> 01:18:31.985

what can, you know, the county board... what can... you know, and I... and I've said, what can I personally do?

01:18:32.505 --> 01:18:39.505

Um, so I just... And this body, too. Just want to chime in. This body here. Yes, yes, you know, so I just really think that, um,

01:18:40.363 --> 01:18:45.363

Having these difficult conversations is so important, and so I really appreciate, you know,

01:18:45.641 --> 01:18:49.641

Um, our presenters tonight, I really appreciate, um,

01:18:50.166 --> 01:18:55.166

your clients and stuff who've obviously, in confidence, shared stuff with you, experiences with you.

01:18:55.295 --> 01:18:58.295

So that you can come on their behalf and say, hey,

01:18:59.185 --> 01:19:05.185

Here's the reality, here's what's going on. Well, here's what we need help with. So, thank you, huge kudos to all of you for what you do, because it's...

01:19:06.326 --> 01:19:09.326

It's not a job that when you leave your office at 5 o'clock, your day's over.

01:19:10.312 --> 01:19:14.312

probably at 2AM, you're thinking of someone that you spoke to at 2 p.m.

01:19:14.720 --> 01:19:17.720

So, I really appre... yeah, yeah!

01:19:25.556 --> 01:19:27.556

So, you know...

01:19:28.030 --> 01:19:30.030

After hearing everybody...

01:19:30.030 --> 01:19:32.573

Uh, everybody's, you know, comments and...

01:19:33.065 --> 01:19:35.065

Uh, just hitting...

01:19:35.801 --> 01:19:38.801

all the information about what's going on in the community, and...

01:19:39.681 --> 01:19:43.681

thinking about what we as a mental health board can do, you know, some of the things I...

01:19:44.385 --> 01:19:46.385

I think about is, you know, obviously,

01:19:47.450 --> 01:19:52.450

Um, what Mrs. Jimenez said about, you know, having a Spanish A meeting in town.

01:19:52.980 --> 01:19:54.980

having a domestic violence support group in town.

01:19:55.631 --> 01:19:59.631

you know, from a pediatric perspective, I think about a few things, you know, how do we...

01:20:00.825 --> 01:20:04.825

improve the feeling of safety for community members, especially children.

01:20:05.550 --> 01:20:08.550

Um, how do we help them with parental loss?

01:20:09.344 --> 01:20:11.344

Parent gets deported. How do we...

01:20:12.581 --> 01:20:14.581

you know, have support groups in schools for children.

01:20:15.211 --> 01:20:17.211

And to help with this, because...

01:20:18.201 --> 01:20:23.201

something in pediatrics is adverse childhood experiences, and this is one of them.

01:20:23.179 --> 01:20:25.179

Um, multiple of them.

01:20:25.670 --> 01:20:29.670

Uh, and that's going to increase the risk of the long-term health of...

01:20:30.561 --> 01:20:32.561

those children, and how their brain develops.

01:20:32.604 --> 01:20:34.604

Um...

01:20:34.689 --> 01:20:37.689

in many different ways, in terms of...

01:20:38.440 --> 01:20:40.440

you know, cardiovascular risk, heart attacks and stroke.

01:20:40.885 --> 01:20:44.885

Increase aggression, increase violence, uh, increase anxiety, depression.

01:20:44.885 --> 01:20:47.388

Increased risk of cancer, um...

01:20:48.506 --> 01:20:54.506

And if you have 6 or more of adverse childhood experiences, it decreases your life expectancy by 20 years.

01:20:54.989 --> 01:20:56.989

Um...

01:20:58.494 --> 01:21:01.494

So, I guess, for me, I think about what...

01:21:02.935 --> 01:21:04.935

we can do maybe in the future is...

01:21:04.935 --> 01:21:11.005

you know, looking at how we can support agencies to develop some of these programs.

01:21:11.817 --> 01:21:14.817

Um, so that maybe we can try to blunt some of the...

01:21:15.763 --> 01:21:17.763

the effect, uh, the long-term effect.

01:21:18.104 --> 01:21:21.104

Uh, and then if there's any other low-hanging fruit that we can...

01:21:21.104 --> 01:21:24.104

address, definitely, I want agencies to...

01:21:25.040 --> 01:21:27.040

Definitely communicate that to us and to staff.

01:21:27.980 --> 01:21:31.980

And if there's any blind spots that we're not hitting, definitely I want to make sure that we're addressing those.

01:21:33.081 --> 01:21:35.081

Um, it's not anything that's going to...

01:21:35.081 --> 01:21:38.801

be fixed overnight. You know, learning about the issue is one part of it.

01:21:39.492 --> 01:21:44.492

Finding solutions is another part, and implementing them in the long-term plans of these is going to take many years.

01:21:45.186 --> 01:21:47.186

So, just having that thought.

01:21:48.127 --> 01:21:50.127

process in mind of that this is a marathon, not a sprint.

01:21:50.890 --> 01:21:52.890

Um...

01:21:52.891 --> 01:21:55.035

Do we know, uh, from

01:21:55.401 --> 01:21:58.401

agencies, if there are

01:21:59.550 --> 01:22:01.550

If there is money available, do you...

01:22:02.282 --> 01:22:05.282

feel that there is community members that would be able to create some of these...

01:22:05.425 --> 01:22:07.425

support groups, um...

01:22:08.077 --> 01:22:10.077

for these families and community members.

01:22:11.441 --> 01:22:16.441

Yeah, I mean, I plan on using a lot of the money that we receive to make that possible.

01:22:17.202 --> 01:22:23.202

Um, but obviously these things are being built for the first time from the ground up, so, like, they will take time.

01:22:23.900 --> 01:22:27.900

It'll take trial and error. Um, I mean, just, for example, getting...

01:22:27.879 --> 01:22:32.879

10 immigrants the other day to sit down for an immigrant Advisory Committee meant

01:22:32.879 --> 01:22:36.458

Finding a location that had a play area for kids,

01:22:36.611 --> 01:22:42.611

Getting volunteers to set up those activities so the kids could be entertained and the moms could be far away from the kids.

01:22:43.466 --> 01:22:51.466

It meant getting food together, it, you know, securing transportation for every single family member. These are just barriers that our immigrants' families, like, have to...

01:22:51.460 --> 01:22:56.460

jump through, so it's not just as simple as, like, yep, we're gonna have a support group on November 10th, and...

01:22:57.284 --> 01:23:02.284

it means we have to do a lot of the legwork, and that's okay, but that is gonna take time, and it's gonna take a lot of effort.

01:23:02.476 --> 01:23:04.476

Which is okay. But, yeah.

01:23:06.662 --> 01:23:09.662

Well, one of the problems that we have as a group is we're...

01:23:10.886 --> 01:23:16.886

by definition, a reactive group. You know, people come to us, and then we can give them money.

01:23:16.886 --> 01:23:19.337

And I think... but we don't...

01:23:19.899 --> 01:23:22.899

found the groups, but I... so I've been sitting here...

01:23:22.900 --> 01:23:25.842

thinking of how we can...

01:23:26.780 --> 01:23:28.780

support conversations.

01:23:28.758 --> 01:23:30.758

That will lead to...

01:23:31.264 --> 01:23:35.264

those gaps being filled by the agencies that we help.

01:23:35.481 --> 01:23:40.481

You know, and some of that is in... probably in committee meetings that... that our staff go to.

01:23:40.944 --> 01:23:47.944

with other agencies. But I... and I don't know the answer right now, but it's something I want to think about, how...

01:23:47.945 --> 01:23:52.179

we... and I think we've done a good job of funding things that...

01:23:53.191 --> 01:23:55.191

in another community might not be funded.

01:23:55.540 --> 01:23:57.540

Um, uh, so...

01:23:58.519 --> 01:24:00.519

But how do we...

01:24:01.525 --> 01:24:05.525

plant the seeds to say, this is something

01:24:06.795 --> 01:24:08.795

your agency needs to do, or...

01:24:09.346 --> 01:24:15.346

If it were, and we can't promise either, we can't say, well, if somebody would do that, we'll fund it, because, you know, the process is to

01:24:15.894 --> 01:24:19.894

specific for that, so I think that's something for us to think about.

01:24:19.886 --> 01:24:21.886

Um, how...

01:24:22.386 --> 01:24:25.386

how we can help generate.

01:24:25.948 --> 01:24:27.948

programs that...

01:24:27.844 --> 01:24:29.844

That need to be generated.

01:24:33.667 --> 01:24:39.667

I think Awad has a comment to make. Uh, we have some robust conversation going on.

01:24:40.021 --> 01:24:43.021

Uh, in the chat. So, a wide jump in there.

01:24:45.299 --> 01:24:51.299

Thank you so much, um... I think one way that we can help from now is.

01:24:51.332 --> 01:24:58.332

Again, planting the seed. If the Middle East and North Africa is a category on the census for 2030.

01:24:58.315 --> 01:25:02.315

We can start pondering now on ways in which we can help.

01:25:02.083 --> 01:25:07.083

To be ahead of the game at getting federal grants to help these communities.

01:25:07.083 --> 01:25:10.599

before they become public. And this is something that we can completely help with.

01:25:23.798 --> 01:25:26.798

Are there any other comments on the chat, or anything like that?

01:25:35.440 --> 01:25:37.440

I think Dr. Fisher and, uh...

01:25:37.881 --> 01:25:41.881

Miss Wilson was, uh, exchanging some conversation. I don't know if...

01:25:41.881 --> 01:25:45.298

Here

01:25:45.298 --> 01:25:46.328

Dr. Fisher, you want to speak on it, or you're okay with everything?

01:25:47.495 --> 01:25:49.495

Uh, thanks, Leon. Um...

01:25:49.975 --> 01:25:53.975

I just was asking about, um, you know,

01:25:54.899 --> 01:26:00.899

I have a lot of family in the Chicago Land area, and friends, um...

01:26:01.554 --> 01:26:05.554

uh, many, uh, friends who are in schools, um,

01:26:06.528 --> 01:26:13.528

And it's just been really hard. Um, but anyways, I have no... you know, and I've been to some trainings about, um...

01:26:14.008 --> 01:26:27.008

like, uh, different levels of training, um, that happen, and from my understanding, um, this network of support and action and collective action has been start, you know, started, like, in

01:26:28.301 --> 01:26:39.301

I think they said, like, 2011 or 2012, and then just really got activated in 2018, 2019. So they have many years, I guess, they've been doing a lot of

01:26:39.680 --> 01:26:43.680

work to prepare for this moment, so they have, you know...

01:26:44.116 --> 01:26:55.116

kind of this initial level of actions, people see things in the community, they're out, they've got whistles, um, and they're actively, you know, trying to scare off ICE.

01:26:55.829 --> 01:27:08.829

And then when they witnessed something, they send it to this rapid response team, which, my understanding, which then is the folks that can, you know, are trained a little bit more, that can kind of come and be a witness, uh,

01:27:09.160 --> 01:27:17.160

Um, and get information to, uh, from people who are being actively detained and or family members that are there, left there.

01:27:17.162 --> 01:27:29.377

And then there's this whole family support network of, like, resources around the Chicagoland area that, um, can try to help, um, kids and families, um, address and, you know,

01:27:30.405 --> 01:27:35.405

neighbors, um, get the support that they need. And I was just asking,

01:27:35.835 --> 01:27:40.835

Do we... I mean, I haven't heard anything about that here.

01:27:40.851 --> 01:27:46.851

Um, and, and, um, I just was asking, do we have, like, something replicable here?

01:27:48.954 --> 01:27:50.954

Yeah.

01:27:50.954 --> 01:27:51.135

And I think Ms. Wilson, you said, um, yeah, that there is.

01:27:51.136 --> 01:28:02.674

So the Family Support Network that you're talking about, and the rapid response, that is mostly coordinated by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and they are in the Chicago area.

01:28:03.725 --> 01:28:07.725

But they have, you know, grantees and partners throughout the state, including us.

01:28:08.307 --> 01:28:14.307

Um, and also the immigration project. I know there is a rapid response team of sorts locally,

01:28:14.793 --> 01:28:18.793

Um, I will have to see if they are...

01:28:19.814 --> 01:28:22.814

want to be contacted directly, or if it's a case where...

01:28:24.245 --> 01:28:29.245

You call the number, um, for the Illinois Coalition, and then they say, okay, they're in Champaign,

01:28:29.246 --> 01:28:34.336

we're calling over to Immigration Project, and they're getting their rapid response team ready.

01:28:34.402 --> 01:28:41.402

Um, and just so you know, too, I mean, within our own offices, I know that we've taught a lot of Know Your Rights

01:28:42.563 --> 01:28:48.563

Um, seminars, we've distributed a lot of Know Your Rights information. We've also, um, trained our staff on...

01:28:49.015 --> 01:28:53.015

drills in the event that ice were to come into our, um, office space.

01:28:53.438 --> 01:28:57.438

Um, who would do what? Who would start filming? Who would...

01:28:58.139 --> 01:29:06.139

you know, get on the phone, and if needed, to call, um, you know, Champaign Police, where we're located in Champaign. We've gone

01:29:06.860 --> 01:29:08.860

very detailed into

01:29:08.859 --> 01:29:16.045

what our emergency response would be, and a big part of that is, of course, trying to keep our clients safe.

01:29:16.453 --> 01:29:18.453

Um, we also have, um...

01:29:19.335 --> 01:29:27.335

If anybody reports to us that ICE is within a mile of our office, somebody from our office is physically going to go out and check that out.

01:29:27.469 --> 01:29:34.469

Because then we will... if they are in the area, we want to be able to call clients, contact clients, and say, don't come here today.

01:29:35.136 --> 01:29:38.136

Come another time, ice is in the area, don't come here today.

01:29:38.514 --> 01:29:42.514

So, I think there are a lot of people who are trying to...

01:29:43.773 --> 01:29:49.773

uh, you know, act as a rapid response team, I'll have to check in with them and see, um, what they would prefer.

01:29:49.457 --> 01:29:51.457

the public to do.

01:29:51.533 --> 01:29:53.533

So, thank you.

01:29:53.534 --> 01:30:05.358

Yeah, no, thank you. I think that would be great, uh, because one thing that, like, the boards could do, um, and certainly the city and the county, you know, I don't know, or maybe they... I don't know, but, you know, is INFORM,

01:30:06.766 --> 01:30:14.766

Um, kind of what the plan is. If you are just a community member out and about, what you can do, because I think, like, so many people are not in tune on...

01:30:15.389 --> 01:30:21.389

you know, the... all the things that are happening so, uh, intensely in the Chicagoland area.

01:30:22.083 --> 01:30:24.083

Um...

01:30:24.084 --> 01:30:29.104

Yeah, I would say something, you know, that you can always do, because it's legal to do it in Illinois in a public space, is record.

01:30:28.774 --> 01:30:30.774

pain. Mm-hmm.

01:30:32.403 --> 01:30:36.403

Um, one of the other things I had a question about, um, uh, is...

01:30:36.729 --> 01:30:41.729

Do we know, um, have... I know that they've committed to the, the, um...

01:30:42.453 --> 01:30:44.453

Sheriff's Office have committed to the Trust Act,

01:30:44.481 --> 01:30:49.481

Has there been any statement from the county board or the executive

01:30:49.969 --> 01:30:53.969

Um, or, you know, the mayors about, um...

01:30:55.150 --> 01:30:59.150

One, uh, ICE not being able to use any public facilities.

01:30:59.150 --> 01:31:10.395

Um, and would that be, uh, helpful? Just thinking about, you know, what... you know, when someone asks, like, what's your ask for us, and then somebody... I think one, um...

01:31:11.799 --> 01:31:21.799

Someone said, like, well, we need government to do more. Um, so that was one thing, is like, you know, can we make a statement, or have we made a statement that they can't use any public buildings? And then...

01:31:22.462 --> 01:31:26.462

Um, law enforcement, have they committed to

01:31:26.529 --> 01:31:29.529

If they witness, um...

01:31:30.530 --> 01:31:38.530

um... immigration officers, um, you know, switching plates and doing all kinds of aggressive things that are...

01:31:39.130 --> 01:31:42.130

illegal? Are they, you know, where's...

01:31:42.558 --> 01:31:44.558

the line, um, for...

01:31:44.920 --> 01:31:47.920

law enforcement, local law enforcement here.

01:31:47.919 --> 01:31:50.971

Yeah, that's... that's a great question.

01:31:51.510 --> 01:31:56.510

I do know that local law enforcement, while they express their, um,

01:31:56.514 --> 01:32:01.514

Support for the Trust Act. They also said that they cannot alert us.

01:32:01.590 --> 01:32:03.590

If they know ICE is in town.

01:32:04.338 --> 01:32:08.338

So it kind of goes both ways. As far as using, um...

01:32:09.302 --> 01:32:12.302

government buildings, yeah, that would be a great...

01:32:13.425 --> 01:32:16.425

thing, if they could make that statement, saying that ICE is not welcome to use

01:32:16.376 --> 01:32:18.376

Um,

01:32:18.916 --> 01:32:21.916

any government facilities in Champaign or Urbana?

01:32:21.917 --> 01:32:23.886

or the county.

01:32:27.826 --> 01:32:33.826

Thank you for letting me chime in, Mr. Bryson, because I was probably not going to unmute, so I appreciate the invitation.

01:32:34.491 --> 01:32:40.491

So I wanted to... so, um, again, I'm Vice Chair of the Champaign County Board. Um, I want to address a few things that have been said here.

01:32:40.798 --> 01:32:42.798

Right? The Trust Act is state law.

01:32:43.506 --> 01:32:46.506

Um, there have been statements, there have been, um...

01:32:47.584 --> 01:32:49.584

conferences in which local, um,

01:32:49.976 --> 01:32:53.976

police departments and the sheriff's departments have talked about the implications, and...

01:32:53.976 --> 01:32:59.660

and educated the community on that, but it's not an option for them. Uh, like, a public statement is a public statement, but...

01:33:00.313 --> 01:33:04.313

They're held... they can't... the federal government cannot hijack local resources

01:33:05.140 --> 01:33:11.140

to enforce their laws that they made, right? That's on their dime, not ours. We're not donating money to the federal government.

01:33:11.141 --> 01:33:14.717

Um, so there is that. I can say, um, that has not been...

01:33:14.929 --> 01:33:21.929

Um, okay. Police officers not communicating, um, to me about ICE activity has not been my experience.

01:33:22.537 --> 01:33:27.537

Um, I can tell you we have a sheriff who is dedicated to working with our community and...

01:33:28.295 --> 01:33:30.295

Um, is serious about getting

01:33:30.887 --> 01:33:36.887

accurate information to our migrant communities so they can have a sense... they know when to panic.

01:33:36.887 --> 01:33:44.172

Right? I think that's key. It is important to note that ICE is not obligated to report to local law enforcement.

01:33:44.593 --> 01:33:48.593

But that does not mean that local law enforcement cannot communicate to local groups.

01:33:48.971 --> 01:33:50.971

Right? So I wanted to highlight that.

01:33:50.971 --> 01:33:53.190

Um, I also wanted to mention...

01:33:53.882 --> 01:34:01.882

I think use of county buildings is important, um, and something that the County Executive's Office is currently working on. Um, we will pass a...

01:34:02.549 --> 01:34:07.549

resolution, um, that would make plain. You cannot use county buildings to enforce.

01:34:08.067 --> 01:34:18.067

Um, ice activity. I think the next step is gonna need to be from the cities. You cannot use police department parking lots to launch your ICE activities.

01:34:18.066 --> 01:34:22.420

So it's got to be multi-level. Um, and so the follow-up suggestion that I would make, and...

01:34:22.958 --> 01:34:25.958

I don't know, I think these kind of study sessions are really helpful and generative for this reason.

01:34:25.959 --> 01:34:28.631

I think we don't have a working group amongst...

01:34:28.996 --> 01:34:30.996

Well, elected officials and local groups, yet.

01:34:31.103 --> 01:34:33.103

on how to respond to this.

01:34:33.221 --> 01:34:35.221

Um, I was... I...

01:34:35.537 --> 01:34:40.537

I've mentioned a few times, um, researching, looking at other local solutions, that's work that

01:34:41.160 --> 01:34:44.160

Um, other local officials could do in the same room.

01:34:44.637 --> 01:34:47.637

I think with that ask if we're really serious about it,

01:34:48.017 --> 01:34:55.017

a working group that's truly gonna do something would require staff support, so if that's something that we are interested in, I know who

01:34:55.017 --> 01:35:00.735

I would ask in the county executive's Office and our grant coordinator, right, ways to fund things.

01:35:01.715 --> 01:35:05.715

I would encourage members of the Urbana City Council and the Champaign City Council to think

01:35:06.120 --> 01:35:09.120

In the same lines, who would you send?

01:35:09.120 --> 01:35:13.053

what kind of staff resources can you commit? And then working forward from that.

01:35:13.703 --> 01:35:15.703

I know who I'll be following up with.

01:35:19.094 --> 01:35:22.094

Um, so, this question goes out to anyone. So,

01:35:22.094 --> 01:35:27.162

Um, if someone is going to, say, a county

01:35:27.460 --> 01:35:30.460

The county courthouse, because they have a speeding ticket.

01:35:30.773 --> 01:35:32.773

Technically, can ICE

01:35:33.193 --> 01:35:35.193

apprehend them there.

01:35:35.414 --> 01:35:40.414

what about, like, at the federal courthouse? I mean, I guess that's kind of one of my questions at this point.

01:35:41.815 --> 01:35:44.815

it seems ICE feels like they have no boundaries.

01:35:44.294 --> 01:35:46.294

Yeah.

01:35:46.294 --> 01:35:47.346

And... and is that technically...

01:35:47.837 --> 01:35:52.837

how it legally is, or can they not be? Like, at the county courthouse?

01:35:53.833 --> 01:35:56.833

But they could be at the federal courthouse. I guess that's kind of my question.

01:35:57.237 --> 01:36:02.237

Um, so under previous administrations, there was something called, you know, safe spaces.

01:36:02.594 --> 01:36:04.594

And that included...

01:36:05.098 --> 01:36:07.098

the courts, schools,

01:36:07.097 --> 01:36:09.345

And any kind of medical facility.

01:36:16.127 --> 01:36:20.127

The Trump administration has pushed back against all of that, so that's why ICE has been showing up

01:36:20.128 --> 01:36:20.176

Um, at the courthouse,

01:36:20.129 --> 01:36:22.129

They show up outside.

01:36:20.176 --> 01:36:20.200

Um, or outside. They can't go in.

01:36:23.177 --> 01:36:26.177

And so, we've been advising people, if you have to go to court,

01:36:26.673 --> 01:36:31.673

Take somebody you trust with you, and hopefully an advocate that

01:36:31.837 --> 01:36:35.837

you know, knows what they're doing so that you can be protected, but...

01:36:36.581 --> 01:36:38.581

They haven't been going into

01:36:38.615 --> 01:36:43.615

The facilities, but they've certainly been hanging out around the facilities, including

01:36:44.661 --> 01:36:46.661

Um, schools up in the Chicago area,

01:36:47.275 --> 01:36:52.275

um, churches, those were also formerly safe spaces. They're hanging out outside of churches.

01:36:53.375 --> 01:36:57.375

Um, so yeah, unfortunately, those used to be safe spaces, they are no longer.

01:37:00.960 --> 01:37:07.960

I also know that there has been apprehensions from ICE at our local courthouse right across the street for both criminal and civil matters.

01:37:09.392 --> 01:37:12.392

As far as I know, that has not continued, um...

01:37:13.821 --> 01:37:18.821

I think it was very captured, and it went viral, and so I, you know...

01:37:19.129 --> 01:37:22.129

But that definitely took place in our local community.

01:37:28.473 --> 01:37:30.473

Everyone looks really tired and sad.

01:37:30.604 --> 01:37:33.604

I always feel a little, like... I'm like...

01:37:34.435 --> 01:37:37.435

No, but I mean, you did speak about hope earlier, and...

01:37:37.539 --> 01:37:42.539

you know, just kind of, like, looping around to what I talked about earlier with, like, co-regulation, like,

01:37:42.955 --> 01:37:50.955

This is a co-regulated space, even if we're all tense, and this is hard to talk about, and probably hungry, and winding down, like...

01:37:51.743 --> 01:37:59.743

when I walk into these spaces, like, I do... I... part of me leaves feeling heavier, but part of me does leave feeling lighter.

01:38:00.481 --> 01:38:14.481

Um, sharing the load is, like, super, super, super important, and I think for so long, immigration has been something that has been, like, left to the revolutionaries, and I think we're in a time right now where we're all starting to actually take more responsibility for it, so...

01:38:15.236 --> 01:38:19.236

I'm just really grateful that we're able to have this conversation. I hope it's not the last one that we have.

01:38:19.992 --> 01:38:31.992

Um, because things will change, things will alter, they'll get more intense, or, you know, we'll make progress one way or another, and so continuing to have the conversation is really important to me specifically, and I think I probably speak to the other panelists when I say that as well.

01:38:35.034 --> 01:38:37.034

Thank you for those encouraging comments.

01:38:37.034 --> 01:38:44.127

Um, this is Anne Robin. I'm a local physician, and I'm the medical director of Champaign-Urbana Public Health, which has been working

01:38:44.127 --> 01:38:48.215

Um, intensively with our refugee and immigrant populations.

01:38:48.215 --> 01:38:54.370

Um, I just want to remind everybody here, is anybody here a full-blooded Native American?

01:38:55.376 --> 01:38:58.376

or descendant of Native Americans?

01:38:59.574 --> 01:39:01.574

Anybody in this room, on Zoom?

01:39:03.202 --> 01:39:07.202

We're all descendants of immigrants, every single one of us.

01:39:07.312 --> 01:39:09.312

And...

01:39:09.792 --> 01:39:13.792

the people that came recently are no different than the people that came

01:39:14.360 --> 01:39:20.360

Previously, we're all a mixed lot. Some of us are wonderful people, some of us are less wonderful people.

01:39:20.572 --> 01:39:22.572

Um, we're all people with needs.

01:39:22.627 --> 01:39:25.627

Uh, we're all people with talents and abilities.

01:39:26.457 --> 01:39:28.457

Um, and we're all community members.

01:39:29.194 --> 01:39:34.194

So, I could go on and on, but I think that if we remember that we are all

01:39:35.194 --> 01:39:38.194

Descendants of immigrants, except for those very few,

01:39:38.827 --> 01:39:42.827

Um, who are descendants of the original Native population,

01:39:43.017 --> 01:39:51.017

Um, and we need to be working together as a community. I really like your idea of having a working group, and I think that

01:39:51.017 --> 01:39:54.807

Um, as little as this seems,

01:39:55.284 --> 01:40:00.284

To get together and spend 2 hours talking about these things, and we go away, and there's still

01:40:00.732 --> 01:40:02.732

The problems are huge.

01:40:03.029 --> 01:40:06.029

Um, the fact that we're talking about them is good.

01:40:06.211 --> 01:40:08.211

And we need to continue.

01:40:08.854 --> 01:40:11.854

Talking about them and figuring out how to do things.

01:40:11.855 --> 01:40:13.962

about them. Thank you.

01:40:17.400 --> 01:40:20.400

I also wanted to chime in, um, I think, um...

01:40:20.850 --> 01:40:22.850

I mean...

01:40:23.396 --> 01:40:26.396

I don't even know totally what's gonna come out of my mouth, but...

01:40:26.690 --> 01:40:29.690

Um, I appreciated, Emily when you talked about, like,

01:40:30.472 --> 01:40:33.472

This is a problem we created.

01:40:33.831 --> 01:40:37.831

through our systems, and it requires a systems response, and...

01:40:38.113 --> 01:40:43.113

as our boards, we are part of the system, and I have been thinking about, like,

01:40:43.112 --> 01:40:45.168

ways that we can think about

01:40:45.680 --> 01:40:52.680

our priorities more broadly. Like, when we think about strengthening the behavioral health workforce, that also includes

01:40:53.596 --> 01:40:56.596

making sure that our behavioral health workforce

01:40:57.012 --> 01:41:00.012

understands these issues, or we're recruiting people.

01:41:00.012 --> 01:41:03.553

who do understand these issues, recruiting bilingual therapists,

01:41:03.777 --> 01:41:05.777

And, um...

01:41:06.437 --> 01:41:09.437

incentivizing agencies who do that.

01:41:09.738 --> 01:41:12.738

you know, with our resources.

01:41:13.106 --> 01:41:19.106

Um, it means thinking about, like, the hotlines that we fund, whether through an agency or

01:41:19.106 --> 01:41:23.751

More broadly, do... are they equipped to respond?

01:41:23.846 --> 01:41:25.846

to individuals.

01:41:26.931 --> 01:41:35.931

Um, from the various communities that are being targeted right now? Are they equipped to respond to individuals in crisis, including suicidal crisis? Because

01:41:37.024 --> 01:41:42.024

In my therapy job, I mean, and all the therapists I know, there's a lot of people who...

01:41:42.632 --> 01:41:44.632

are at the edge right now.

01:41:46.216 --> 01:41:50.216

And I think, you know, that's really important, too. But I also think it...

01:41:50.436 --> 01:41:52.436

it is an individual problem.

01:41:53.035 --> 01:41:55.035

because it involves...

01:41:55.738 --> 01:41:57.738

individual human beings dehumanizing

01:41:57.969 --> 01:42:04.969

other human beings. And I don't understand how somebody can look at another human being and not see them.

01:42:05.592 --> 01:42:11.592

As a person, and to keep hearing this word illegal, illegal, like, as though...

01:42:12.535 --> 01:42:14.535

The person in front of you is not a person!

01:42:14.887 --> 01:42:19.887

is wrong, and so I implore everyone, especially white people,

01:42:19.887 --> 01:42:22.727

Please talk to the other people in your lives.

01:42:24.133 --> 01:42:28.133

And challenge them on this. It can be done very gently, but like...

01:42:30.270 --> 01:42:34.270

that is conditioned, and it can be unlearned.

01:42:35.214 --> 01:42:37.214

So, I just also...

01:42:37.647 --> 01:42:39.647

wanted to say that, and...

01:42:39.726 --> 01:42:41.726

just, um...

01:42:41.694 --> 01:42:45.694

as I, you know, have sat in other meetings, like, I want...

01:42:47.394 --> 01:42:50.394

I want this to be a community where

01:42:50.571 --> 01:42:53.571

everybody belongs, and that is something that...

01:42:53.782 --> 01:42:59.782

we don't get to earn the designation of a safe... we have to earn the designation of a safe community of...

01:42:59.975 --> 01:43:04.975

safe spaces. Um, but I know sitting here on this board, that's the...

01:43:05.211 --> 01:43:07.211

position I take, and um...

01:43:07.191 --> 01:43:09.191

I just...

01:43:09.917 --> 01:43:14.917

thinking about what can we do as a system, and what can we do as individual people is...

01:43:22.496 --> 01:43:27.496

Well, uh, is there any other comments or questions?

01:43:27.782 --> 01:43:29.782

Online or any?

01:43:29.841 --> 01:43:31.841

Uh, Leon, is there anyone else online?

01:43:32.862 --> 01:43:37.862

All right, well, um, with that, I would like to thank everybody for being here.

01:43:37.862 --> 01:43:41.879

you know, everybody's insight is very valuable, and...

01:43:41.880 --> 01:43:44.937

you know, uh, I hope everyone came away...

01:43:44.936 --> 01:43:48.499

Uh, learning something, and, you know, with more...

01:43:48.566 --> 01:43:50.566

questions, um...

01:43:51.264 --> 01:43:54.264

for the future, obviously, I agree, I think we should have, you know...

01:43:54.476 --> 01:43:56.476

future sessions on this, so we can...

01:43:58.039 --> 01:44:01.039

think more about possible solutions, answers for the long term.

01:44:01.517 --> 01:44:07.517

Um, so with that, I'll move to, uh, the public participation and agency

01:44:08.686 --> 01:44:11.686

inputs, we'll leave it to 5 minutes if there's any.

01:44:11.691 --> 01:44:13.691

Are there agencies that want to...

01:44:14.087 --> 01:44:18.087

Um, uh, make a comment, uh, we'll limit it to 5 minutes.

01:44:19.062 --> 01:44:24.062

Seeing none, we'll move to Board Announcements and input. Is there any board announcements?

01:44:24.063 --> 01:44:29.163

Oh, I wanted to note the... do we want to talk about the, um, the survey? Oh.

01:44:31.345 --> 01:44:33.345

Yes.

01:44:35.233 --> 01:44:37.233

I guess Leon or Lynn?

01:44:41.058 --> 01:44:44.058

Well, there are other materials in the packet that I hope...

01:44:44.953 --> 01:44:46.953

are helpful, that, um...

01:44:46.953 --> 01:44:48.750

Each of the presenters

01:44:49.681 --> 01:44:54.681

give us a little bit of information about their organizations and links to other information.

01:44:55.651 --> 01:45:02.651

So, if... if that's interesting to you all, it's in there. And then we did a... we did develop a survey. This was...

01:45:02.512 --> 01:45:04.512

I'm trying to get to it.

01:45:04.651 --> 01:45:06.651

Oh my gosh.

01:45:07.966 --> 01:45:11.966

Okay. This was Leon Bryson and Maria.

01:45:11.965 --> 01:45:17.788

putting... put this together, and then we, uh, managed it in the same way that we did the...

01:45:18.138 --> 01:45:23.138

the survey of LGBTQIA plus individuals, which had...

01:45:24.009 --> 01:45:30.009

Over a hundred responses. I was not at all surprised that we didn't have very many responses to this.

01:45:30.009 --> 01:45:35.273

Um, I did think it was interesting, and it confirmed something that I think...

01:45:35.517 --> 01:45:40.517

Some of you have told us before that people maybe don't read and write in Q'anjob'al, they speak it,

01:45:41.692 --> 01:45:48.692

But they read and write in Spanish. So we had a lot of Spanish responses, and about half of them mentioned that they speak Q'anjob'al.

01:45:48.656 --> 01:45:50.656

So I thought, okay, well...

01:45:51.598 --> 01:45:59.598

they're... it's only 9 people, but they proved the point. So anyway, it's a very small sample, and therefore I didn't include charts, but I did...

01:46:00.191 --> 01:46:04.191

Um, include all of the comments, because that is really where we get...

01:46:04.157 --> 01:46:07.157

where we learn so much. So this is, like...

01:46:08.409 --> 01:46:11.409

Google Translations with, like...

01:46:11.413 --> 01:46:15.413

are very minimal knowledge of Spanish and French.

01:46:15.890 --> 01:46:19.890

to support, you know, little adjustments to what Google came up with.

01:46:19.890 --> 01:46:26.290

But I think you can get the gist, and you shared already some of... that you had in your... in your...

01:46:26.710 --> 01:46:29.710

Group meeting, some similar...

01:46:30.127 --> 01:46:33.127

like, not surprising responses about...

01:46:33.938 --> 01:46:35.938

what people thought was gonna happen.

01:46:36.357 --> 01:46:40.357

And then what happens... some of these people have been here over 10 years, and... sorry, anyway.

01:46:42.245 --> 01:46:44.245

I was just gonna say, you know, it's like...

01:46:45.071 --> 01:46:47.071

the way we went about it was...

01:46:47.459 --> 01:46:52.459

pulling the questions that we thought would be most effective,

01:46:53.397 --> 01:47:07.397

So, I guess, in order to answer survey questions like this, I think you have to be able to zoom out of your own experience and almost be able to take, like, an eagle-eye view of your life.

01:47:07.674 --> 01:47:11.674

And for various factors, that's not something that...

01:47:11.984 --> 01:47:15.984

I think a lot of immigrants, specifically with, like, a lower level of education,

01:47:15.983 --> 01:47:21.341

are able to do easily, or they've never been asked to reflect, ever.

01:47:22.150 --> 01:47:24.150

Once on some of these questions, so...

01:47:24.868 --> 01:47:28.868

I know Lisa and I talked a little bit about it, and I'll let her speak about her specific...

01:47:28.868 --> 01:47:31.342

Um, experience and take on it, but...

01:47:31.938 --> 01:47:39.938

I do think it's something that would be worth sitting down specifically to try to create in a new way that might be...

01:47:40.145 --> 01:47:45.145

more receptive, like, just all across the board, all across the immigration spectrum.

01:47:45.239 --> 01:47:47.239

Um, because it wasn't...

01:47:48.350 --> 01:47:53.350

the feedback from staff was that it was not particularly easy to do and to distribute.

01:47:57.717 --> 01:48:00.717

Yeah, I would agree with that, and I think, I mean,

01:48:01.133 --> 01:48:06.133

Ever since I started working in the immigrant space, uh, you know, obviously,

01:48:06.686 --> 01:48:12.686

You get funding from grantors, and grantors want to see, you know, data, um, and surveys of

01:48:13.191 --> 01:48:16.191

well-being is often a way of getting that data.

01:48:16.191 --> 01:48:19.518

It's so difficult, and it is so...

01:48:20.071 --> 01:48:22.071

Um, it's so time-consuming for our staff.

01:48:22.798 --> 01:48:28.798

It's incredibly time-consuming. I mean, when you think about... when you go to a social service agency,

01:48:29.933 --> 01:48:37.933

And you're dealing, you know, you're at the DMV, and you're dealing with something, if you're, you know, changing the title, or something that involves a little bit more, or you're going to...

01:48:37.934 --> 01:48:45.547

you know, you've taken your mom to a doctor's appointment, and now the social worker is coming to talk to you about, you know, what the options are after she fell, and...

01:48:46.814 --> 01:48:48.814

When you're translating all of that,

01:48:48.828 --> 01:48:52.828

I mean, add times 3 to that appointment.

01:48:53.740 --> 01:48:56.740

Because by the time you have the back and forth,

01:48:56.895 --> 01:49:02.895

And then somebody has to speak in chunks so that the interpreter can interpret.

01:49:02.895 --> 01:49:06.447

Um, and same thing with the survey. I mean, we...

01:49:07.156 --> 01:49:10.156

when people are coming in our door, they, you know, they have a...

01:49:10.618 --> 01:49:17.618

They usually have something specific in mind that they need. We then ask them additional questions, and we make an assessment, and do an intake,

01:49:20.327 --> 01:49:25.327

But they're usually in our office for quite a while, and sometimes with young children who are running all over the place,

01:49:25.327 --> 01:49:27.606

And, um, it is not easy at all.

01:49:28.749 --> 01:49:30.749

to then take that additional time,

01:49:31.149 --> 01:49:37.149

to really translate a survey and get their answers, especially if they're long form.

01:49:37.229 --> 01:49:39.229

answers.

01:49:39.240 --> 01:49:41.240

Um, like that.

01:49:43.631 --> 01:49:46.631

So, did... was it... it wasn't helpful to use the...

01:49:47.010 --> 01:49:49.010

the Spanish language...

01:49:49.230 --> 01:49:52.230

and French-language versions of the survey?

01:49:54.074 --> 01:49:58.074

I thought it might be better, um, but we really...

01:49:58.074 --> 01:50:00.265

we really didn't get much of a response.

01:50:02.029 --> 01:50:09.029

Yeah, I mean, I think it's less about the translation of language, and more so the translation of

01:50:09.399 --> 01:50:11.399

concepts that are...

01:50:12.712 --> 01:50:16.712

potentially reactivating to people's nervous systems that...

01:50:17.059 --> 01:50:20.059

require a lot of explanation. I mean, like,

01:50:20.059 --> 01:50:25.120

For example, like, I come from a country that gets made fun of for speaking more formally, right?

01:50:25.626 --> 01:50:34.626

And so, constantly at work, I find myself in situations where I'm like, I need to find a more simple way to say this, because if I say it the way it might just come across,

01:50:35.434 --> 01:50:41.434

they're not gonna be able to necessarily know what I'm trying to say. So, with every client, it's different.

01:50:41.932 --> 01:50:45.932

every background with every educational background, with every culture, I think that it's different.

01:50:47.088 --> 01:50:54.088

Um, I guess that's why I kind of said, like, sitting down and trying to create these in a more intentional... not that you guys weren't intentional.

01:50:54.522 --> 01:51:00.522

But in a more intentional way, with maybe feedback from what we think could be, um...

01:51:01.804 --> 01:51:10.804

you know, maybe it is maybe just 2, 3, 4 questions, or maybe it's just one question that's open-ended, or wherever it might be. I don't have the answers necessarily, but I think it's just...

01:51:11.231 --> 01:51:15.231

these are questions that are more than likely they've never considered before.

01:51:17.007 --> 01:51:27.007

So, I really didn't even want to do a survey. I was hoping for individual impact statements, and I think that's something we could receive and share at any time.

01:51:27.709 --> 01:51:31.709

Not just because we're in a hurry to put a board packet together, I think if...

01:51:31.636 --> 01:51:35.636

If people choose to share information with you, and...

01:51:35.819 --> 01:51:38.819

And say it's okay to share it with us and publicly,

01:51:39.728 --> 01:51:42.728

that I think we would just make space in a board packet for...

01:51:43.733 --> 01:51:50.733

I think if we opened it up to where we didn't have to use names, or even if we could use, like, a made-up name,

01:51:51.142 --> 01:51:59.142

I mean, I could probably sit here right now and just a lot of different, like, stories that I know would be really impactful for people to hear and learn.

01:51:59.749 --> 01:52:02.749

then it takes a little bit of pressure off of the client, and...

01:52:02.768 --> 01:52:06.768

Um, so yeah, that's something I can think about and work on. Well, but still, like,

01:52:07.612 --> 01:52:17.612

Given all the things that we've talked about and heard about tonight, like, I could... like, time matters, and maybe this is not a huge priority, but if there is an opportunity,

01:52:18.132 --> 01:52:22.132

Um, I just... I want to say, we're not going to put a barrier on this end.

01:52:22.103 --> 01:52:24.103

As far as sharing, so...

01:52:25.300 --> 01:52:27.300

I think...

01:52:27.586 --> 01:52:29.586

I think there's a comment, and it says, uh...

01:52:30.350 --> 01:52:33.350

Uh, we may want to consider short videos as well.

01:52:34.050 --> 01:52:36.050

in various languages and dialects as well.

01:52:39.756 --> 01:52:48.756

Yeah, that's a great idea. I... we... we have some WhatsApp groups with our clients based on, you know, different... different language, and for those that don't

01:52:49.009 --> 01:52:51.009

read, I mean, we just send an audio

01:52:51.493 --> 01:52:53.493

message.

01:52:55.685 --> 01:52:57.685

I mean, I think it is worth...

01:52:58.812 --> 01:53:06.812

obviously, like, this would be probably one of the most intimidating spaces that some of my clients have ever... I was honestly intimidated when I walked in. Um, but...

01:53:07.434 --> 01:53:18.434

Our local immigrant community needs to know, even if they don't understand how systems work, like, I mean, like, their positions and a board and all of these things make no sense to the average immigrant.

01:53:18.834 --> 01:53:28.834

But to know that the local community that does have power, does have authority, does have resources, cares to hear about their experience. And that's what I think is the most important thing about all of it.

01:53:30.902 --> 01:53:32.902

And I was gonna even say, you know, we...

01:53:33.154 --> 01:53:40.154

um, you know, as a board member, you know, I love quarterly reports, especially when they kind of, you know, share a few details.

01:53:40.938 --> 01:53:45.938

this would be a perfect opportunity, even if it was, you know, hey, one of my clients brought up this.

01:53:45.938 --> 01:53:51.155

this quarter, any... because that would maybe say, hey, is that something we need to dive deep?

01:53:51.813 --> 01:53:53.813

very informal would just be...

01:53:54.431 --> 01:53:56.431

I would love that, you know.

01:54:01.400 --> 01:54:04.400

Alright. Alright, um, I guess with that...

01:54:05.676 --> 01:54:09.676

Um, the last thing is, I guess, do we have any board announcements or input?

01:54:10.342 --> 01:54:12.342

I guess, Emily, if there's any board...

01:54:13.128 --> 01:54:15.128

Excellent. Alright. Uh, wait a minute.

01:54:15.793 --> 01:54:18.793

I just wanna... because I always go to the Community Coalition.

01:54:19.217 --> 01:54:21.217

Um, I'm just thinking...

01:54:22.465 --> 01:54:24.465

the Community Coalition needs to hear.

01:54:24.866 --> 01:54:31.866

about all of this, and so I hope maybe to get in touch with Tracy Parsons, if you could do that.

01:54:32.848 --> 01:54:34.848

And uh... and have him...

01:54:35.189 --> 01:54:37.189

put you guys on the...

01:54:38.063 --> 01:54:44.063

On the, uh, program, because that is such a huge cross-section of the

01:54:44.064 --> 01:54:46.556

Helping community every month.

01:54:46.879 --> 01:54:48.879

I think it really needs to.

01:54:48.879 --> 01:54:53.271

to be the business of the coalition to listen to this. We can do that right now.

01:54:54.557 --> 01:55:01.557

I'd also just like, uh, members of this body to repost a video from tonight. It seems like expanding the reach of what was discussed

01:55:01.982 --> 01:55:03.982

would be helpful to our entire community.

01:55:10.661 --> 01:55:12.661

Alright, um, I know people are...

01:55:13.514 --> 01:55:17.514

Um, feeling antsy, feeling ready to, you know...

01:55:17.846 --> 01:55:20.846

Um, take this discussion to...

01:55:21.161 --> 01:55:23.161

Um, you know, the next meeting when we...

01:55:23.609 --> 01:55:31.609

You know, think about all the information we've processed tonight, and think about other questions and possible answers for the future. So with that, I will move to adjourn.

01:55:31.889 --> 01:55:33.889

Thank you, everybody.