3rd Annual WNY Refugee Health Summit

On April 2, 2016, in partnership with the Strategic Advisory Group for Refugee Health and the 2016 Summit Planning Committee, the University at Buffalo's Office of Global Health Initiatives and Community for Global Health Equity co-sponsored the 3rd Annual WNY Refugee Health Summit.

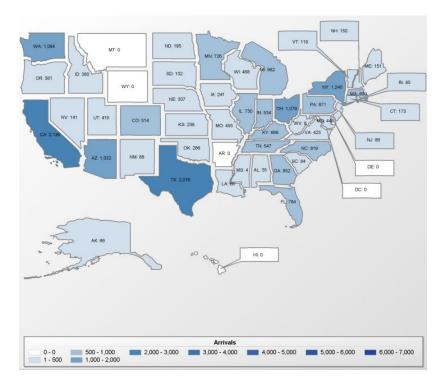
Goal:

To examine barriers and explore solutions to culturally engaged health care provision for refugees in Buffalo

Agenda:

Welcome and Background Keynote Panelists Continuing Education Training

Some Background Statistics:



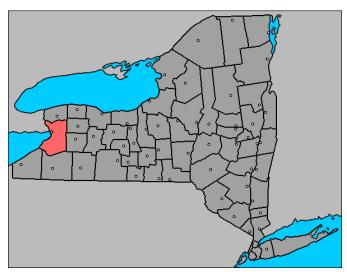
The United States welcomes 85,000 new arrivals to the United States every year

California, Texas, and New York welcome the highest numbers of refugees

In FY 2014 New York State welcomed 4,085 refugees who originated from 60 countries around the world

Upstate NY resettles 95% of refugees entering New York State

Erie County resettles the highest number of refugees for all counties across the state, 30% or 1,200-1,500 refugees each year



Agencies Supporting Buffalo's Diverse Communities

Community

- Buffalo Immigrant and Refugee Empowerment Coalition (BIREC)
- Burmese Community Services
- Burmese Community Support Center
- H.E.A.L. International, Inc.
- Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo
- Office of New Americans
- Partnership for the Public Good
- Refugee Roundtable Group
- Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Summit Working Groups

Resettlement Agencies

- Catholic Charities of Buffalo
- International Institute of Buffalo
- Jewish Family Services of Buffalo and Erie County
- Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.

University at Buffalo

- Academies
- Civic Engagement and Public Policy
- Corporate and Foundation Relations
- Community for Global Health Equity
- School of Architecture and Planning
- School of Dental Medicine
- School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- School of Public Health and Health Professions
- School of Social Work

Clinical Care

- Community Health Center of Buffalo
- Erie County Health Department TB Clinic
- Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN)
- Jericho Road Community Health Center
- Lakeshore Behavioral Health
- Mercy Comprehensive Care Center
- Mobile Healthcare Partners
- Neighborhood Health Center
- WNY Center for Survivors of Torture

Summit Working Group Updates

Cultural and Linguistic Competency and Preventive Care

The Cultural and Linguistic Competency working group led by May Shogan (International Institute of Buffalo) and Gina Prescott (UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences), partnered with the Preventive Care working group led by Kim Griswold (UB Family Medicine) and received funding from the UB Community for Global Health Equity to pilot an educational program at the University at Buffalo that trains Nursing, Medical, and Social Work students to properly care for diverse populations via employment of refugees as standardized patients and interpreters.

Provider Recruitment

Led by Michael Noe (UB Public Health and Health Professions) and Abdi Farah (Community Health Center of Buffalo), the Provider Recruitment Working Group identified several priority areas of focus for the coming year:

- Inventory language and cultural resources that are currently available to providers
- Identify and disseminate best practices in refugee healthcare
- Develop relationships with potential specialty healthcare providers
- Survey providers" willingness to care for refugee populations and assess their language capacity
- Develop a pipeline for refugees and immigrants entering the healthcare professions to connect them with training and potential employment

Mental Health

The Mental Health Working Group is led by Isok Kim (UB Social Work) and Ali Kadhum (Lakeshore Behavioral Health). This group meets every 3rd Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm. Some of their ongoing activities include:

- Develop a mapping tool to identify gaps in mental health care for use by agencies and professionals
- Support the peer mentoring model objectives of the WNY Center for Survivors of Torture to encourage more involvement from refugee leadership
- Support research related to refugee trauma and mental health
- Promote nontraditional and culturally relevant mental health and wellness programs
- Promote self-care initiatives for people who work and volunteer in the refugee trauma field

Community Efforts to Improve Health and Wellness for Refugees

The 2016 Summit provided a display space for projects that are improving health and wellness for refugees living in Buffalo and Erie County, including some of the following:



Focused Learning for Youth (FLY)

An after school program organized by Jericho Road Community Health Center, FLY is designed to enrich the lives of middle school students through academic and extracurricular learning in a fun and safe environment



Burmese Community Behavioral Health Survey

Developed by Isok Kim, UB Social Work, the survey was designed in collaboration with the Burmese Community Support Center, Burmese Community Services, and many active Burmese refugee community leaders to gather baseline behavioral health information among the Burmese refugee community in Buffalo.

Green Shoots for New Americans

This refugee agricultural program developed by Journey's End Refugee Services provides land for farmers to adapt their growing skills to Buffalo's climate and to market and improve their English.



Refugee and Immigrant Breast Health Awareness Project

Funded by Susan G Komen, the International Institute has been conducting this project in partnership with UB and Roswell Park Cancer Institute to educate refugees and immigrants about breast cancer and the importance of screening and early detection through culturally competent, evidence-based education sessions.



New Americans Holistic Homes

Holistic Homes is a multilingual outreach program that engages Community Health Workers to conduct educational home visits to bring awareness to health topics like lead poisoning prevention, weatherization and pest control. Referrals are made to Erie County Department of Health and blood lead levels are scheduled with Jericho Road Community Health Center.





Western New York Center for Survivors of Torture

A partnership between Journey's End Refugee Services and UB Family Medicine, WNYCST aims to assist torture survivors and their families in the healing and recovery process by allowing survivors to attend to their health, build support networks, and lead productive and meaningful lives.

SCHOOL OF	SOCIAL WORK			About the School Education Faculty & Research Community Resources Hews & Event			
Buffal		ocial Research			SEARCH	Q	
Social Research > Institutes & Centers > Inneigrant and Refugee Research Institute (IRRI) > Researce Guide							
About Us	Institutes & Centers	Research Associates	Research Projects	Staff & Project Directors	News & Events		
	Research	Immigrant a	and Refugee	Resource G	uide		
Institute + At + Ox + Re	st and Refugee Research	This resource guide lists programs and services available to immigrant and refugee communities in the Buffalo region. If you would like to have your program or service listed, please fill out our Google form //, Questions? Contact us at avviring buffalo.edu. The Rauntable is a place for anyone who is involved in (or interested in) refugee and immigrant issues to gather and work collatoratively towards points change. The quester prevent is free and spen to the public. For information on the Rountable's shourd be points each directly.					
Engager > Institute and Prac	for Subtainable Global sent (ISGE) on Innovative Aging Policy tice (ILAPP) bate on Trauma and informed Care #TTIC)	Education Subcommittee Contact: Emily Brady	Economic Development Subcommittee Contact: Gamileh Jamil	Health Subcommittee Contact: April Arman	Resource Coordination Subcommittee Contact: Bryana DiFonzo		

Immigrant and Refugee Resource Guide

The Immigrant and Refugee Resource Guide, Coordinated by the UB Immigrant and Refugee Research Institute is an online resource available to the general public. The guide contains programs and services available to the refugee and immigrant communities in Buffalo and Western New York.

Barriers to and Facilitators of Culturally Competent Care for Refugee Patients



This project examined the literature regarding obstacles encountered by refugees in accessing and obtaining care that addresses their unique health needs. The principal barrier to culturally competent care was language: preventing refugees from seeking care and posing many safety risks for patients. Culturally sensitive communication, negotiation of treatment options and provision of individualized care are effective methods to strengthen culturally competent care.

Keynote Address: *Battling on Two Fronts: Trauma and Cultural Adjustment* Issam Smeir, DDS, MA, PhD, LPC

Dr. Issam Smeir, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, specializes in trauma treatment for refugees, victims of torture and severely abused and neglected children and has worked in over 40 countries around the world. He holds a doctorate degree in counseling and clinical supervision from NIU, and post doctorate training in global trauma with refugees from Harvard University. He is an expert in the Narrative Exposure Therapy approach. In 2008, he became the national clinical consultant for World Relief in the US working directly with refugees from 23 countries and training World Relief staff in areas of trauma and cultural competency. Dr. Smeir is an adjunct professor at Judson University.



2016 Summit Panelists

2016 panelists shared information about programs across Buffalo and Erie County that provide culturally and linguistically competent care for refugees.

From Camps to Country

Abdou Hamad Edris, Care Manager, Lake Shore Behavioral Health

Mental Health First Aid

Marlene Schillinger, Med, CEO, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County

WNY Center for Survivors of Torture

Salaheldin Elhag, MS, Program Coordinator, WNY Center for Survivors of Torture, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County

Forensic Evaluations

Kim Griswold, MD, MPH, UB Family Medicine, Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Medical Director, WNY Center for Survivors of Torture

Hospital Communications Assistance

Vicky Loretto, RN, Manager Hospital Experience, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo

Culturally Sensitive Hiring Strategies

Eva Bak, MS, MPA, Director of Administration, Bak USA Technologies

Continuing Education Training: Conflict and Peacemaking Across Cultures

Dr. Issam Smeir, DDS, MA, PhD, LPC

Acknowledgements

The Office of Global Health Initiatives and Community for Global Health Equity would like to thank the following organizations for their assistance in the planning and implementation of the 2016 Summit:

Bak USA

Bhutanese-Nepali Community Burmese Community Services Burmese Community Support Center Erie County Department of Health International Institute of Buffalo Jericho Road Community Health Center Jewish Family Services Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo National Grid New York State Health Department Office of New Americans Roswell Park Cancer Institute

University at Buffalo Academies Civic Engagement and Public Policy Corporate and Foundation Relations Community for Global Health Equity School of Dental Medicine School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences School of Public Health and Health Professions School of Social Work

Special Acknowledgements

Our Lady of Hope Youth Choir Buffalo String Works Dr. Erkin Özay's UB Architecture Studio School of Public Health and Health Professions IT Three Pillars Catering Balkan Dining Educational Opportunity Center Sadi Dhakhwa Alex Judelson 2016 Summit Panelists 2016 Keynote Dr. Issam Smeir 2016 Summit Sponsors