

Agenda
2007 Research Teleconference
Immigration & Child Maltreatment Prevention
Wednesday, June 27, 2007
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm CDT

- I. Welcome & Introductions— John K. Holton, Ph.D., Moderator—3 minutes
- II. Presentation—60 minutes
Rene Velásquez will provide “profiles” of the needs and types of immigrant families based on his local work in the San Francisco/Bay area. His interests concern addressing the health-related and socio-economic problems within immigrant families, among other child welfare issues.
Maria Vidal de Haymes, Ph.D., Professor of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago discusses what is happening in Illinois as a national example of entry points or “gateways” for immigrant families into American society. Particular concerns for risk factors associated with child maltreatment will be highlighted.
Sonia C. Velazquez, Vice-President, Children's Division of the American Humane Association will describe the work of the National Roundtable on Immigration—its mission, resources, work plan, and the emerging issues facing immigrant families.
Howard Davidson, Director, ABA Center on Children and the Law American Bar Association, will describe some legal issues related to child welfare services to abused, neglected, or abandoned immigrant children as well as to immigrant families. He will also present a set of policy goals for better services to this population.
- III. Questions from Listeners—10 minutes
- IV. Closing Remarks—2 minutes
Evaluation survey/Next Teleconference
- V. Teleconference Information
Dial-In Number: 866-241-5837
Conference ID # 8423647



Presenter Biographies

René Velásquez

René Velásquez worked in San Francisco as a key coordinator within the family support county-wide network system together with the Human Service Agency to develop a successful infrastructure to support families. After 25 years, he continues to advocate for the rights of Central American and other Latino immigrants in relation to immigration and social justice issues. For the last decade he focused on family support and coordinated with the Chicano/Latino Family Resource System's community partnership in San Francisco County to integrate various initiatives of the child welfare diversion programs. His experience as the former Executive Director of a Latino immigrant center, and the Director of a Teen Center for immigrant youth contributed to his duties as manager for the Differential Response contract, which provided Path 1 and 2 referral services for San Francisco County.

Sonia C. Velazquez

Since 2004 Sonia C. Velazquez, has served as vice president of the Children's Services Division at American Humane, where she provides program leadership and oversees professionals working in research and evaluation, systems improvement and practice advancement, child welfare training and policy, and child abuse prevention programs. She has recently spearheaded an initiative on child welfare and immigration, and is now the principal investigator of a five-year national research initiative on child welfare and fatherhood.

Her 26 years of experience include working throughout the United States and internationally with some of the largest child-focused development organizations serving millions of families and children. A native of Colombia, Ms. Velazquez worked for impoverished communities in various countries of Latin America as area director before assuming leadership positions in the headquarters of international child-focused organizations in the USA and England, and provided headquarters program leadership to offices in 45 countries around the world.

Until 2004 she was the director of the federally funded National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and has worked for many of the world's most respected child focused organizations, including Save the Children, Christian Children's Fund, Plan International, and Family Support America, where she served as Vice President.

Ms Velazquez graduate studies include a CSS Degree from Harvard University, executive courses at the Kellogg School of Management and the London School of Economics, and she holds a BA on Linguistics and Education.

Howard Davidson, J.D.

Howard Davidson has been actively involved with the legal aspects of child protection for over 33 years. He has directed the ABA Center on Children and the Law since its 1978 establishment. It provides extensive training, technical assistance,



consulting, and publications for lawyers, child welfare agencies, juvenile (dependency) courts, and programs that provide legal representation in these cases.

He has served as chair of the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect and is a founding board member of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He has authored many legal articles, book chapters, and other materials on child maltreatment. In the 1970's he spent five years as a legal services attorney exclusively representing children in juvenile court and created the Children's Law Project at Greater Boston Legal Services, one of the country's first children's law centers. In 2006 Mr. Davidson was asked by ABA President, Karen Mathis, to serve as co-staff director of a new ABA Commission on Youth at Risk.

