



• The “Information for Immigrants” project: A collaborative effort to support Boulder County’s immigrant families

A report to the Boulder County
Commissioners from Marjorie McIntosh,
Meca Delgado and Jim Adams-Berger

June 27, 2017



What is it?

A collaborative, largely volunteer-supported effort to provide useful information and complete critical documents in a safe setting in response to growing concerns about the potential impacts of Federal immigration policies on affected Boulder County community members.



A Growing Need

- The Partner Agency Survey conducted by EFAA in spring, 2017 asked its partner organizations what gaps they see in community services.
 - Out of 10 possible choices, “Immigration Issues” was ranked second, after Affordable Housing.
- A number of concerns were being voiced in the community from affected populations.
- Service organizations were reporting decreased participation by these populations which was attributed to fear of possible deportation.

Why a Response was Needed

- Thousands of immigrant families with one or more undocumented members are frightened of federal policies and related enforcement, but lack information on how to gain protection for themselves and their children.
- Although there are sources of information/advice, not all families have access to them, and many of the statements are complex and intimidating.
- Available resources are not well integrated and their recommendations are difficult to put into action.

Guiding Principles of the Work

- The provided information should be limited to the most essential and useful contents.
- The information had to be 100% accurate.
- To the greatest extent possible, information should be communicated by members of/from the community.
- Participants needed to leave with something tangible:
 - not just information, but something that could be used to help them if something were to happen to a family member.

The Primary Resource: Developing the “Information Packet”

- Identified the most essential information
- Drafted the packet in English – *draft, draft, draft!*
- Obtained feedback from immigration lawyers, estate lawyers, Notaries, and prospective users – *refine, refine, refine!*
- Once completed, translated into Spanish and had these reviewed by multiple native Spanish speakers – *tweak, tweak, tweak!*



Sections of the Packet

- Know Your Rights!
- Creating a Family Preparedness Plan, including two legal documents (a Guardianship form for children, and a financial Power of Attorney form)
- How to Get Help from a Lawyer

The Basic Approach

- Recruit volunteers
 - Spanish speakers to convey the information
 - Notaries to verify the contents of completed paperwork
 - Volunteers to bring refreshments and support the completion of paperwork
- Recruit sites
 - Non-profits
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Government agencies
- Hold forums in the community
 - Provide the information in both Spanish and English
 - Provide opportunities to complete critical paperwork

Preparation for Forums

- Identify two assistants to line up the requested number of volunteers and presenters for each specific event.
- Train presenters on how to convey packet information.
- Manage forum information on line for all organizers - information about events and volunteers/Notaries.
- Send out announcement flyers for use by hosting organizations.



FORO INFORMATIVO PARA INMIGRANTES

¿Está usted u otras personas en su familia preocupados por su estatus migratorio?

¿Le gustaría saber mas acerca de sus derechos cuando está tratando con agentes de ICE y tomar decisiones en este momento para ayudarlo a protegerse a usted y a su familia?

En el Foro para Inmigrantes, usted recibirá información acerca de:

- Conozca sus derechos
- Hacer un plan de preparación para la familia
- Contactar un abogado

Tendremos personas en la junta para ayudarlo a llenar el Plan para la Familia, incluyendo una forma legal de custodia para quien vaya a hacer el cuidado de sus niños en caso de que usted no este aquí y una forma Poder Legal para quien se vaya a hacer cargo de sus finanzas.

Si quiere firmar estos documentos en el Foro, decida antes de venir que persona que usted quiere nombrar como guardián de sus hijos y quién encargarse de sus finanzas. Hable con ellos para asegurarse que están de acuerdo a aceptar estas responsabilidades. Traiga sus nombres y números de teléfono al Foro.

Si usted trae la identificación necesaria al Foro, puede recibir una seguridad al tener acceso a un Notario Público de los EEUU que confirme la autenticidad de sus documentos. La identificación personal debe incluir una foto y firma que coincida con la persona que la usa.

Cuándo:

Dónde:

Patrocinada por:

y Información para el Proyecto De Inmigrantes Info4Immigrants@bouldercounty.org



INFORMATION FORUM FOR IMMIGRANTS

Are you or other people in your family worried about their immigration status?

Would you like to know more about your rights when dealing with ICE agents and take steps right now to help protect yourself and your family?

At the Immigrant Forum, you will get information about:

- Knowing your rights
- Making a Family Preparedness Plan
- Contacting a lawyer

We will have people at the meeting to help you fill out a Family Plan right there, including a Guardianship legal form for who will take care of your children if you are not here, and a Power of Attorney form for who will handle your finances.

If you want to sign these documents at the Forum, decide before coming which person you want to name as the guardian for your children and who you would like to handle your finances. Talk with them to be sure they are willing to accept these responsibilities. Bring their names and telephone numbers to the Forum.

If you bring the necessary identification to the Forum, you can get extra security by having a U.S. Notary Public authenticate your documents. The ID must include a photo and signature that match those of the person using it.

When:

Where:

Sponsored by:

And the Information for Immigrants Project, Info4immigrants@bouldercounty.org

What Happens at a Forum?

- Trained presenters go over the packet, in Spanish and sometimes English, using a bilingual PowerPoint.
- Volunteers bring food/drinks, help people fill out the two legal documents, and serve as witnesses.
- Volunteer Notaries stamp the documents.
- Childcare is provided if requested.

Results: Packet Distribution

- 750 copies printed and used at our events in Boulder County or handed out for other events.
- Electronic files sent as requested to:
 - Eight (8) immigration-focused organizations in Boulder County.
 - Groups in four (4) other Colorado counties/school districts.
 - The Consuls of Mexico, Peru, and Guatemala (by Stan Garnett).
- Many participants shared the packets with friends and neighbors.

Results: Forums

- Between early March and late May, 19 events were held for immigrants at various locations in Boulder, Longmont, and Lafayette
- Co-sponsored by other organizations
 - Schools and pre-schools
 - Non-profits
 - Social service agencies
 - A few churches
- Estimated number of participants: 500

Results: Volunteers

A total of **120 people** contributed their time and skills, in different and sometime multiple ways:

Activity	Volunteers
General organizers or helped to prepare the packets	15
Organized events on-site	25
Trained as presenter and/or actually presented	34
Signed up as volunteer for events and/or actually volunteered (a few have not been asked yet for specific events)	36
Agreed to help as Notary and/or did so	17

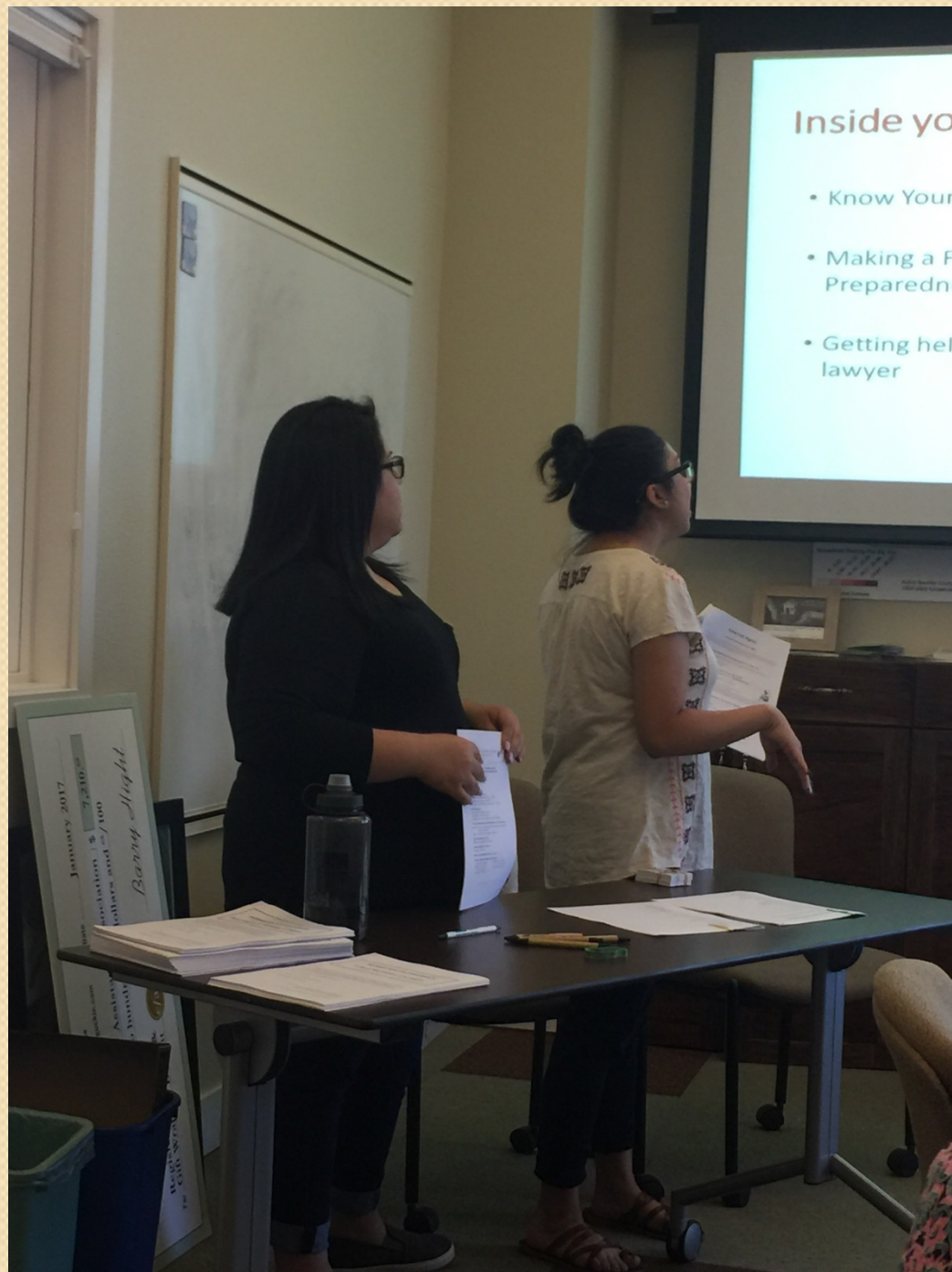


A SMALL EVENT AT MANHATTAN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BOULDER, MAY 8.

15 FAMILIES GOT THEIR DOCUMENTS SIGNED AND NOTARIZED

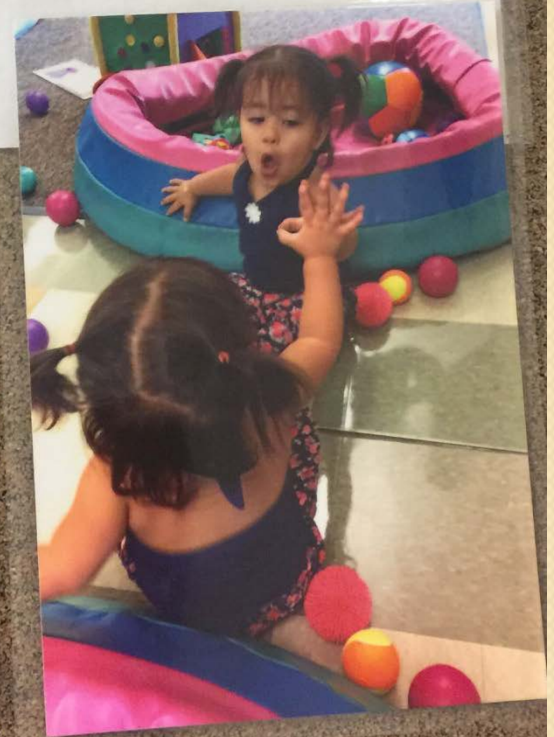
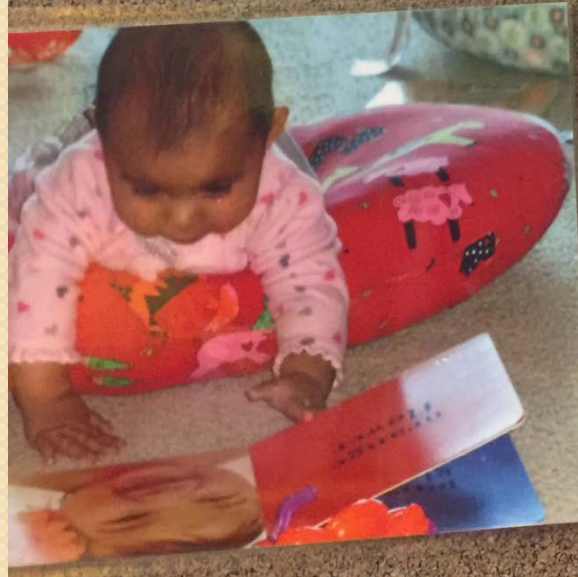
TWO HIGH- SCHOOL LATINAS PRESENTING AT EFAA

MAY 4, 2017



**IN THE CHILD-
CARE ROOM
AT ONE OF THE
EVENTS**

We believe each child is unique and we strive to meet each child's individual needs while giving them opportunities to grow and explore





Benefits of the Project - Participants

1. Discussion of how to create a Family Plan and the ability to sign the two documents on site and get them notarized. This brought some degree of reassurance, that their children would be okay if the parents were deported.
2. Ability to connect with others in the community who had similar concerns.
3. Realization that others, including allies, are concerned about immigrants' wellbeing and are willing to help them.

A Sample Note of Thanks

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for an incredible evening. Thank you for coming together to support our families. We had about 25 individuals benefit from creating their family plan and having their two documents notarized by Jody and Martha! Wow!

It will never feel "good" to sign a document like these, for anyone, but I am so grateful that information got out to parents and some decided to be proactive about creating this plan and setting something in place for their children and their finances. It was a great supportive and "light" environment. Thank you truly to all.

From Ana Silvia Avendaño-Curiel, Family Outreach Coordinator, University Hill Elementary School

Benefits of the Project – Anglo Volunteers

For Anglo volunteers and Notaries:

- Served an opportunity to interact with and learn from immigrants and their families about the challenges they are facing.
- Most of the volunteers had not had similar contacts before.

Where we are Headed Next

- A few events this summer, more in the fall.
- Reaching out especially to groups in Longmont and Lafayette, which we covered less fully this spring.
- Preparing a more user-friendly version of the packets that immigrants can understand and use on their own, without coming to a formal event.

We'd Especially like to Thank!

- The Boulder County Commissioners
- Ana Karina Casas
- Nancy Uvalle
- Diane Dvorin
- All our Forum volunteers and Notaries



Questions / Discussion