

LHC Monthly Town Hall

Healthcare Impacts of Immigration Enforcement

March 5, 2026

Please introduce yourself:

Write your name, organization, and email in the chat.

Por favor preséntate:

Escribe tu nombre, organización y correo electrónico en el chat.

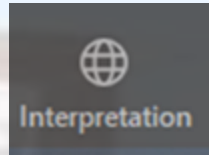


LATINO HEALTH COLLECTIVE
Bringing Latino Voices Together

How Today's Meeting Works / Como Funciona Esta Reunión

- Simultaneous interpretation available

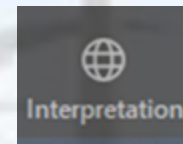
- Choose your preferred language (English/Spanish) when you join the meeting.



- We will pause for discussion, Q&A
- Include events or announcements in the chat

- Traducción simultánea disponible

- Seleccione su idioma (Español/Inglés) cuando se une a la reunión



- Tendremos espacio para conversación, preguntas y respuestas
- Comparta anuncios en el chat

Today's Agenda / Agenda Para Hoy

1. Welcome
2. Invited speakers
 - Philadelphia FIGHT: Dr. Leah Scherzer, Kate Cerrone, NP
 - Pediatric Primary Care: Dr. Kate Yun, Dr. Danah Rios
 - Philly Health Cares: Dr. Marc Altschuler, Tina Tran
3. Community discussion
4. Resources & announcements

Philadelphia FIGHT

Dr. Leah Scherzer is a pediatrician and serves as the medical director of the pediatric and young adult clinic at Philadelphia FIGHT. She received her medical degree from Brown University and completed her Pediatric Residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. She then spent 3 years in Botswana and South Africa with the Baylor Pediatric AIDS Corps training local health professionals about pediatric HIV.

After more than 10 years back at St Christopher's where she saw patients and mentored residents and medical students, she joined Philadelphia FIGHT in July 2023. She feels honored to care for patients from all walks of life and regardless of insurance status. In October 2017 she passed the ALTA language certification for providers and is certified to complete medical visits in Spanish. She completed her Lactation counselor training in September 2019. Leah loves to travel and experience new cultures with her husband and 9 year old daughter.

Kate Cerrone is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Philadelphia FIGHT, certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In addition to direct patient care Kate has assumed the roll of Global Health Clinical Advisor to maximize the experience of immigrants, refugees and people who do not speak English as their first language. Kate has traveled extensively, taking on meaningful Public Health Projects in Ecuador, Chile, Brazil, Cambodia, Haiti and Malawi. She is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese and aspiring to be conversational in Italian. Kate is also a certified yoga instructor completed in Goa, India.

Kate has degrees in Nursing and Public Health from Rutgers, Drexel, and LaSalle. Most importantly Central 264!!! Kate loves traveling the world with her husband Sergio and two children, Lucas (5) and Alma (1).



Philadelphia FIGHT

Latino Health Collaborative Presentation

March 5 2026

Leah Scherzer, MD and Kate Cerrone, CRNP

- FIGHT = Field Initiated Group HIV Trials
- Started in 1990 when no one was treating HIV in the community to bring HIV research and treatment into the community setting
- NOW: an HIV clinic, adult primary care clinic, dental clinic, behavioral health clinic, pediatric and adolescent clinic and soon a clinic for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Care for all regardless of insurance status with a sliding scale
- Over the years increasing numbers of patients from Latin America
- Currently across FIGHT we see more than 7,800 about 15% of whom are Spanish speaking.



Who we are

- DJ is a now 6 yr old who moved here 3 years ago from Ecuador
 - At birth cleft lip and palate. Lip was repaired in Ecuador hospitalized for a month there. No option for cleft palate repair, never got speech therapy.
 - Mom, Dad and 3 yr old DJ arrived in August 2023 with hope of getting it repaired
 - Came to FIGHT in October 2023, attempted to get charity care at CHOP, referred to Shriner's Hospital repair done Feb 2024
 - Since then has been getting speech therapy and fup at Shriner's
 - Thriving in kindergarten since Sept 2025



Case#1

Dad Deported

- In December 2025 mom reported that Dad was deported
- Mom unable to stay in the US alone and decided to return to Ecuador flight booked March 4 2026
- Shriner's has international team who will continue to follow her and if needed will fly her back to PA for further surgeries
- Gave mom all her medical records and vaccines records
- Has contact via Whatsapp with Shriner's for continued care

- Family with mixed status younger children born here, parents undocumented
- Harder for family to come to appointments – scared to take public transit, relying on costly ubers
 - Trying to do as much as possible via televisits
 - Group appointments together with dental and medical on same day
- Afraid to apply for EMA and also Medicaid if qualifies for fear of ICE getting demographic information



Case #2

Family Plan

- Working with families to create a plan in case parent is deported
 - Resource guide: [Plan De Preparación Familiar](#)
 - Don't want to have conversation in front of the children – have our BHC or other team member sit with kids while we have conversation with parent
 - Time consuming and emotionally charged for both patient and provider



PLAN DE PREPARACIÓN FAMILIAR

Cómo las familias inmigrantes pueden prepararse de manera más proactiva para las emergencias migratorias que surjan

NOVIEMBRE 2024

Cada familia debe tener un Plan de Preparación Familiar en caso de una emergencia. Es fundamental que las familias inmigrantes piensen en el futuro y establezcan planes más concretos para las emergencias que puedan surgir. Por ejemplo, este paquete detalla las diferentes opciones de cuidado infantil disponibles en caso de que un padre este ausente, dónde encontrar servicios de inmigración de confianza en su comunidad y cuáles son sus derechos constitucionales en presencia de un oficial de inmigración.

Este paquete está dividido en diferentes secciones que brindan orientación sobre la preparación familiar, independientemente de estatus migratorio. También brinda asesoramiento adicional a familias indocumentadas y/o de estatus mixto.

Para obtener más recursos comunitarios de inmigración, visite ilrc.me/resources.

NOTA

TENGA EN CUENTA QUE HEMOS CREADO UNA VERSIÓN MÁS BREVE Y CONDENSADA DE ESTE PLAN DE PREPARACIÓN FAMILIAR Y SE PUEDE ENCONTRAR EN: ILRC.ME/FAMPREP

20 Pages in total

LA DECLARACIÓN JURADA DE AUTORIZACIÓN DEL CUIDADOR

El uso de esta declaración jurada es autorizado por la Parte 1.5 (a partir del artículo 6550) de la División 11 del Código de Familias de California.

Instrucciones: El completar los números del 1 al 4 y firmar la declaración jurada es suficiente para autorizar la inscripción de un menor de edad en la escuela y para autorizar el cuidado médico relacionado con la escuela. También se requiere completar los números del 5 al 8 para autorizar cualquier otro tipo de cuidado médico. Sólo complete los puntos 5 a 8 si es pariente del niño. Escriba prolijo.

El menor nombrado a continuación vive en mi casa (la del cuidador) y yo tengo 18 años de edad o más.

1. Nombre del menor: _____
2. Fecha de nacimiento del menor: _____
3. Mi nombre (adulto que da la autorización): _____
4. Mi domicilio: _____
5. Soy el abuelo, tía, tío, padrastro, hermano, hermana, hermanastro, hermanastra, medio hermano, media hermana, sobrina, sobrino, primo hermano, tía abuela, tío abuelo, bisabuelo, tío abuelo del menor o el cónyuge de una de estas personas.

Pediatric Primary Care

Dr. Danah Rios, MD, MBA is a primary care pediatrician and Associate Clinical Professor with 23 years of dedicated service to a diverse local community. Having cared for many of her patients from birth through adulthood, one of her proudest professional milestones has been the privilege of caring for the children of her original patients — a testament to the trust her community has placed in her over two decades. It is this depth of longitudinal relationship that informs the clinical observations and talking points she presents today.

Healthcare Impacts of Immigration Enforcement

Pediatric Primary Care

Latino Health Collective Town Hall

March 5, 2026

Danah Rios, MD, MBA

OVERVIEW

**Observations
compiled from direct
clinical observations
within a pediatric
practice**

**Reflect experiences
of children across
the spectrum of
immigration status
— including U.S.-
citizen children in
mixed-status
households**

**Supported by
peer-reviewed
literature**

Themes



Barriers to Accessing Healthcare

**Impact on Mental Health
(Children and Caregivers)**

Unique Observations in Pediatric Practice

Community-level Stress and Safety Concerns

Barriers to Accessing Healthcare

- Patients declining or delaying routine visits and specialist appointments due to fear of public exposure — impact on children with chronic conditions
- Families experiencing lapses in insurance, WIC, and home health services; reluctance to re-engage with government programs
- Erosion of trust in the privacy in the medical system, reducing proactive care-seeking and disclosure
- Longstanding patient-provider relationships are a critical asset; providers with less established relationships may face greater difficulty accessing the full scope of patient concerns

Mental Health Impact Parents & Caregivers

- Some describe the current climate as more psychologically taxing than the COVID-19 pandemic — no clear endpoint, risk of sudden family disruption
- Symptoms of hypervigilance, avoidance behavior, sleep disturbance, emotional dysregulation
- Families actively altering travel routes and avoiding perceived high-risk areas — state of chronic vigilance is a source of toxic stress

Mental Health Impact Children & Adolescents

- Heightened anticipatory anxiety about parental detention or deportation — including fears of leaving school, taking on financial responsibilities, or caring for siblings
- Parentification - Children assuming adult responsibilities: escorting siblings to appointments, grocery shopping, collecting medications
 - Interferes with academic engagement and age-appropriate social development

Mental Health Impact Children & Adolescents

- Increased distress driven by heavy social media use and continuous exposure to enforcement-related content
- Chronic anxiety leading adolescents to withdraw from school, home, and social life
- Adolescent patients may be making life decisions that are driven primarily by fear and misinformation rather than informed choice
 - military enlistment
 - premature workforce entry
 - deferring college due to fear of listing parents on financial aid

The Pediatric Dyad

- Children and parents are frequently not communicating openly — each engaging in deliberate protective silence to avoid burdening the other
- Both child and parent suffering in isolation — patients report worrying alone and crying privately at night
- Mutual protective silence makes standard screening less reliable — patients may appear intact but carry significant psychological burden

Community-Level Stress & Safety Concerns

- Several children have reported targeted bullying in school
- Reports of "bounty hunter"-type activity within communities — extending threat into everyday environments
- Grassroots support networks (e.g., school pickup programs) have emerged but are underutilized — families unwilling to self-identify to access them
- Evidence for support models that are anonymized, low-barrier, and trusted-intermediary based

Summary

Providers

- Have noted the "chilling effect" — affecting care access and benefit utilization
- Significant impacts on mental health
- Standard screening/encounter may miss distress — both children and caregivers are suffering in silence
- Evidence of community-level stress
- Clear need for accessible, mental health support integrated into pediatric care
- Support systems should be designed with anonymity and low barriers in mind

Philly Health Cares

Marc Altschuler, MD is a Professor in Family and Community Medicine, practicing in Philadelphia since 2004. In conjunction with the Nationalities Service Center (NSC), they created the Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative which brought together 3 existing refugee resettlement agencies with many academic medical centers in Philadelphia, ensuring that the most medically-complex refugees arriving in the US could have access to care in Philadelphia. He also has collaborated with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and has been recognized nationally and internally for his work, including having his work designated as a Center of Excellence for Refugee Care since 2016. In 2021, Dr. Altschuler founded the Wyss Wellness Center in South Philadelphia in partnership with SEAMAAC, to offer a dedicated health center to the larger refugee and immigrant community. Dr. Altschuler and his team at Wyss became the largest medical home for Afghan refugees who arrived in Philadelphia after Operation Allies Welcome



**Committed to
Equitable Health
Care Access**



phillyhealthcares ...

24 posts 168 followers 189 following

Nonprofit organization

Independent non-profit organization of healthcare professionals & patient advocates committed to equitable access to... more

www.phillyhealthcares.org

PhillyHealth Cares (PHC)

Mission:

PhillyHealth Cares is dedicated to eliminating barriers to healthcare through advocacy, education, and awareness - empowering patients and clinicians alike, guided by the belief that healthcare is a human right.

Who We Are:

PhillyHealth Cares is an independent non-profit organization of healthcare professionals and patient advocates based in the greater Philadelphia area committed to equitable access to quality healthcare for all. We are a registered 501(c)(3) and are not affiliated with any university, hospital, or business.

- Website:

<https://www.phillyhealthcares.org/>

- Information video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7zvqzdd9s76jj5we9us0r/Philly-Health-Cares-v12.1.mp4?rlkey=rjov02v6fi3ox1mk8c679e4lg&e=1&st=ydxm101t&dl=0>

Educational Resources

Visit our website www.phillyhealthcares.org for:

1. Patient Resources
2. Healthcare Providers' Resources

Examples of those resources include:

- Non-US Citizens (ICE Waiver Form, Immigration toolkit)
- LGBTQIA+
- Reproductive health
- Other general resources (clinics, webinars, educational materials)

Upcoming Webinar

March 5, 2026 - 7:30-8:30pm

Registration Required:

https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jlgbmKpYQkCS9VoX1XkNrQ#/registration

Safety First: Best Practices for Enforcement Interactions in a Healthcare Setting

Thurs March 5th
7:30p | Zoom Webinar



Jaya Ramji-Nogales
Professor of Law, Temple
University



Brenda D. Nogales
Garcia, LL.M.
HIAS Pennsylvania



Kerry Krauss, MD
PhillyHealth Cares Education
Director



Daniel Shay, Esq
Healthcare Attorney

[Scan or click
here to
register](#)

Zoom link will be sent
via email prior to
meeting



Ways to Connect with PHC!

<https://www.phillyhealthcares.org/i-want-to-connect-with-phc>

- Email us to ask a question
- Volunteer with us
- Follow our social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Youtube)



What are you seeing this month?

- Are you seeing new challenges?
- Are there localized, mutual-aid efforts you see working?
- Are there emerging needs we should track? Beyond Immigration enforcement?

¿Qué observan este mes?

- ¿Observan nuevos desafíos?
- ¿Existen iniciativas locales de apoyo mutuo que estén funcionando?
- ¿Hay necesidades emergentes que debemos monitorear? Más allá de la aplicación de la ley migratoria?

Resources and Announcements / Recursos y Anuncios

Resources shared by Jasmie Rivera, PIC:

- [Tips for child welfare agencies preparing for or dealing with immigration enforcement](#), by Center on Immigration and Child Welfare Initiative
- [Preserve access to care and protect your patients from Border Patrol and ICE interference](#), by Physicians for Human Rights, National Immigration Law Center, and ACLU Border Rights Center.
- [FAQ on immigration enforcement for hospitals](#), by the Greater New York Hospital Association
- [Sample policy language for Health Centers](#), by ACLU North Carolina

Resources and Announcements / Recursos y Anuncios

Launching the LHC Directory:

- Membership based; [Member information submission form](#)
- Password protected; hosted on the LHC website.
- It is searchable and includes filtering tools by service type, geographic coverage, language, etc.
- Information in the directory includes (*required field):
 - First and Last name*
 - Email address*
 - Organizational affiliation(s)*
 - Position/Role*
 - Primary Language*
 - Other language(s)
 - Area(s) of Expertise
 - Geographic area covered
 - Brief description

Lanzamiento del Directorio del LHC:

- Basado en membresía; [Formulario de envío de información para miembros](#)
- Protegido con contraseña; alojado en el sitio web del LHC.
- Permite búsquedas e incluye herramientas de filtrado por tipo de servicio, cobertura geográfica, idioma, etc.
- La información del directorio incluye (*campo requerido):
 - Nombre y apellidos*
 - Correo electrónico*
 - Afiliación(es) organizacional(es)*
 - Puesto/Rol*
 - Idioma principal*
 - Otros idiomas
 - Área(s) de especialización
 - Área geográfica cubierta
 - Breve descripción

Resources and Announcements / Recursos y Anuncios

LHC Directory

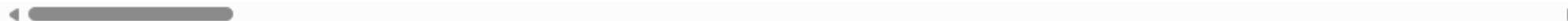
Show entries

Search:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First name, last name	Email address	Brief description
Maria M Rivas	maria.rivas0058@gmail.com	I am a leader in my community. I work and live in Kensington Area for 25 years. I am a Certified
Juan Siguenza	js5557@drexel.edu	I work as a data analyst for Center for family services. I manage a couple of databases and rep
Lis Santamaria	lis.santamaria@ftxcs.com	I am a Clinical Coordinator and Program Manager. I work for the agency Family Therapy and C
Jessy Foster	jessica@pahealthaccess.org	I work with PA Health Access Network (PHAN). We have a free helpline to help people navigate
Teresa Méndez-Quigley	Teresa@UpliftPhilly.org	
Greg, Seaney-Ariano	Gregory.Seaney@phila.gov	Manager in the City of Philadelphia's Department of Public Health, Division of HIV Health
Melissa Ramos	melissa.ramos@phila.gov	I am a Puerto Rican, born and raised right here in Philadelphia. I joined the Philadelphia Depart
David Heayn-Menendez	davidheaynmenendez@gmail.com	David Heayn-Menendez is a civic leader, community organizer, communications strategist, artis
Clara Jerez	cjerez@chs-adphila.org	Immigration Legal Services
Emma Restrepo	emma@2puntosplatform.com	I am a journalist and enthusiastic person, and the Founder of 2Puntos

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

[First](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)



Charla Virtual:

QUÉ HACER SI TE DETIENE LA MIGRA

En CRiSOL Mente queremos educar a la comunidad sobre sus derechos en caso que se encuentren con funcionarios de inmigración.



Anu Thomas, nos hablará sobre qué hacer para estar mejor preparados.

Directora Ejecutiva
Esperanza Legal Services

Aprenderemos sobre qué hacer
ANTES, DURANTE y DESPUÉS

Charla en ESPAÑOL
(English translation available)

Jueves
12 de Marzo
10 -11 AM

Zoom ID:
8719 5834 973



<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/87195834973>



Virtual Talk:

WHAT TO DO IF IMMIGRATION STOPS YOU

At CRiSOL Mente we want to educate the community about their rights in case they encounter immigration officials.



Anu Thomas, will talk to us about what to do to be better prepared.

Executive Director
Esperanza Legal Services

We will learn about what to do
BEFORE, DURING and AFTER

Talk in SPANISH
(English translation available)

Thursday
March 12
10 - 11 AM

Zoom ID:
8719 5834 973



<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/87195834973>



Thank You Everyone / Gracias

Next meeting/Próxima reunión:
Thursday, April 2, 2026

Zoom ID: 843 5791 0406

<https://drexel.zoom.us/j/84357910406>

For more information:

<https://www.crisolcontigo.com>

Or email us: lhc@drexel.edu



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