

**Uncage and Reunite Families Coalition Committee
Minutes
September 2, 2020**

Attendees:

Pat Stoneburner, Linda Bates, MaryJo Miller, Carolyn O'Connor, DJ Jacobs, Kay Grams, Alexis Rodriguez, Roberto Reveles, Dianne Post & Esther Lumm

Meeting was called to order by Esther Lumm

Approval of 8-5-2020 of minutes was delayed (members did not receive them)

Treasurer's Report by D.J.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$1937.30 |
| Deposit | 200.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Go fund me – NMD COVID Bond Fund | 200.00 |
| UPS – Mail Box Fee | 233.63 |
| Monthly Service Fee | 14.00 |
| Total Expenses | 447.63 |
| Current Balance | \$1689.67 |

Legal

Dianne reported

Attached is the summary on the two new lawsuits against the latest DACA rules.



Dianne's summary of new
DACA rules laws

Best Western Hotels signed on with ICE to accept migrant children.

Concerns:

What kind of care are these children receiving?

How long is their stay?

Some children are not being returned to their country of origin but returned to Mexico.

This is a violation to human rights.
Children have no legal representation.
Refuse to let them file an asylum application.
There is no evidence of reuniting with family.
Who gets custody of the children once expelled?
Unlike what Chad Wolf said that housing children in hotels has been happening for decades - nothing like this has even happened before.

Suggested URFC write a letter to Best Western and do a press release.
Dianne will draft a letter and Carolyn will do a press release.

Humanitarian

Mary Jo reported:

Refugee Aid continues to deliver supplies to Calexico where they have 2 storage units.

Volunteers continue to donate food, clothing, masks, time and money because of COVID-19 it has become challenging to cross the border. Mexico is usually resistant to bring clothes across because they want you to purchase in Mexico. However, volunteers, after paying a fee, were able to deliver clothes for adults and kids. They took lots of pictures of them in their new clothes - will send pictures and can post on web.

Working with the Hispanic churches to distribute food boxes to undocumented families. Many are reluctant to go to food banks that require addresses and sometimes ID. There is a desperate need for clothing for kids and adult, especially with the cold weather coming.

Asked churches if they wanted to reach out to the homeless and help distribute personal packets, churches agreed. Homeless don't care for backpacks just prefer plastic bags.

Update on Welcome Center

Mary Jo reported:

Welcome Center has converted to a new model. There are some families the administration won't expel because of cost, usually, families from Africa or India. These families will stay longer at the Welcome Center. Currently they have 10 families.

Advocacy

Kay reported:

She sent a letter to Senator Sinema addressing issues in the senate hearing with Chad Wolf.



AAR letter - Senator
Sinema.docx

Kay report on MJRC

The Migrant Justice & Relief Coalition (MJRC) will be folded into the Asylum Assistance Roundtable (AAR). The AAR is compiled of members from different organizations. They meet via Zoom every Monday at 11:30.

Kay & Mary Jo reported:

The meeting with McSally's office didn't go well.

On August 21, 2020 AAR had a conference call with Rob Berstein, McSally's, **EXPERT** on immigration issues and Anne Medina-Doak, the Hispanic Outreach Manager. Meeting was scheduled for an hour to discuss migrant children in hotels and DACA. When Kay was presenting issues on migrant children, Rob was argumentative, rude, defensive, and misinformed about these issues. He stated that he communicated with ICE, and the information Kay was presenting was not accurate. After 30 minutes, Rob said he had another conference call. Saul didn't get to present DACA issues. Kay followed up with Rob sending him all the information including the **ASK which it to stop expelling migrant children**. He has not responded. URFC members suggested MJRC should go public and expose them.

Anne did follow up and said she would reschedule with Saul and Mary Jo if she wanted to participate. **Roberto suggested that AAR/MJRC send a letter stating they reject the attempt to divide a community of concerned citizens. Also, express disappointment that the credibility of the group was questioned.** Mary Jo said, because there are some members who suggested we not address this behavior and just stick to the issues, she will take it to the group for a vote.

Pat Reported on CCMJ:

The Catholic Coalition for Migrant Justice meeting with Senator Sinema's staff, August 19, 2020 on Restoring Asylum, DACA/Dreamers, and COVID-19 Package 4.14, members met with the Senator's Immigration Policy Advisor, Eric Bursch, by zoom. He is staff director of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The ASK on Restoring Asylum included defunding anti-asylum policies and making a public statement the prolonged suspension of access to asylum at the southern border, and to make a public statement opposing the expulsion of child asylum-seekers and the treatment of unaccompanied children and asylum-seeking families in light of COVID-19. reported on the Catholic Coalition for Migrant Justice Meeting with Sinema's staff, Aug. 19, 2020 by zoom. 14 members met with the Senator's Immigration Policy Advisor Eric Bursch, Staff Dir.

The ASK on DACA/Dreamers included passing legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and Dreamers without compromising the safety and livelihoods of their families, and to make a public statement opposing the DHS memorandum of July 28, 2020.

The ASK on COVID-19 Package 4 included five specific requests on free access to testing and treatment, cash rebates for those who file taxes with TIN's, automatic extension of work permits, placing restrictions on immigration detention and enforcement, and halting new public charge rules.

Asked if he saw any problems with the Senator acting on the CCMJ ASKS, Eric Bursch responded that from listening without taking notes to our presentations, there are not problems with all that we suggest. However, he will review CCMJ's ASKS in writing, and get back to us on progress.

Old Business:

Pat Reported

Comment on Update on expelling children from hotels (partly included in advocacy):

On August 26, 2020, a court-appointed independent monitor presented a Filing of interim report on the use of temporary housing under Title 42. The report ends on page 17 with the Recommendation: Exclude Single Minors from the Temporary Housing Program. (Temporary housing refers to Family Residential Centers and hotels.) Report attached.



flores.docx

New Business:

Election activities:

Esther is making calls and texting in English and Spanish. She posted an article on Hispanic Forum Facebook, encouraging 18 to 35 year old minorities to vote and how it will affect them if Trump is reelected.

Pat making calls and brought up the issue of texting.

Esther said you could send out as many as 100 texts with the press of button
Question was brought up because we are a 501(c)3 is it legal to get involved with campaigns.

Dianne said what we can't do is campaign for a candidate but we can express options on issues.

Alexis reported:

Promise Arizona (PAZ) is seeking to reach 50,000 voters phone banking. Targeting minorities and need volunteers.

Contact information:

bit.ly/pazvolunteer

Request of posting on URFC web site. URFC had a request to post a Go Fund Me request to help with bail money for a father that was picked up by ICE. Group voted 8 to 1 that this was not a good idea because it would open us up to all kinds of issues.

DJ made the suggestion that as an alternative we could post request on our individual web sites.

Roberto is in contact with social workers in detention centers that are looking for host families to house migrant children who are turning 18 and aging out of the system. A host family is responsible to house and feed and help them continue their education until their court appointment. Mary Jo

works with the Florence project, and Esther said she would share this information with a family who is interested.

Linda reported:

On Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6 PM – 7:30 PM, Arizona Resisters is hosting a Zoom meeting. Adrian Fontes will host a meeting called “We Got This”.

Roberto suggested they have a more catchy title. Linda will discuss with Adrian. For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1231732057171745/Next>

Next meeting 10-7-2020