



SACIM MEETING 2021

SUPPORTING MIGRANT  
MAMAS & BABIES

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Annie Leone, MSN, CNM



- ❖ About HRC Babies at Borders
- ❖ Reasons for Asylum
- ❖ Stories from the Mothers
- ❖ Health Status
- ❖ Suggestions for Policy
- ❖ Successful Program Models

# AGENDA

# HUMANITARIAN RESPITE CENTER BABIES AT BORDERS

- ❖ Main migrant shelter in Rio Grande Valley
- ❖ Families seeking asylum, directly from CBP or ICE
- ❖ Impact of “Remain in Mexico” policy
- ❖ Funded by Every Mother Counts, UNICEF, Community for Children
- ❖ 413 mothers (pregnant, newly postpartum) & 50 infants in 2020
- ❖ Clinical evaluation, social history, referral
- ❖ Enroll in Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)



# SEEKING ASYLUM

- ❖ Family/friends murdered by gangs
- ❖ Intimate Partner Violence
- ❖ Pregnancy result of rape
- ❖ Harassment/extortion/death threats
- ❖ Kidnappings
- ❖ Poverty and lack of opportunity
- ❖ Destruction from natural disaster
- ❖ Reunification with family members



# STORIES FROM THE MOTHERS

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Fabiana



# STORIES FROM THE MOTHERS



Yesica

# STORIES FROM THE MOTHERS

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Seydi



# STORIES FROM THE MOTHERS

Laura





# HEALTH STATUS

- ❖ Insufficient care or no care at all
- ❖ Low (health) literacy
- ❖ UTIs and vaginal infections
- ❖ Threatened preterm labor after journey
- ❖ Postpartum blood pressure issues
- ❖ Risk factors for depression/anxiety/PTSD
- ❖ Fear of seeking care due to legal status
- ❖ Very high risk of COVID exposure



# BORDER POLICY ACTIONS

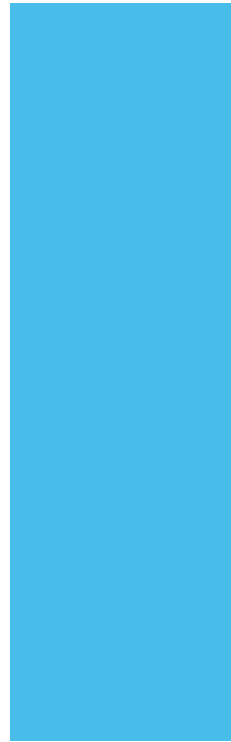
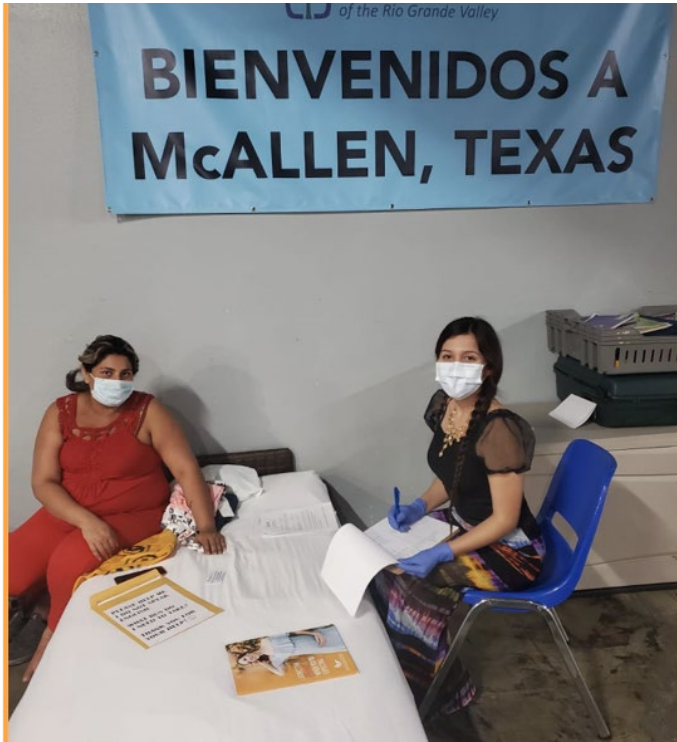
- ❖ End separation at border from father of baby
- ❖ Accept ALL pregnant mothers at border
- ❖ Stop CBP from confiscating meds and MRs
- ❖ Clinicians & therapists/counselors in all shelters



# POLICY IMPACTING ACCESS TO CARE

- ❖ Immediate entry into healthcare system at border
- ❖ Networking/support systems like MCN
- ❖ Allow FQHCs to accept all prenatal patients
- ❖ Expand CHIP and Medicaid
- ❖ More robust routine postpartum care
- ❖ Contraception access & coverage





# SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM MODELS

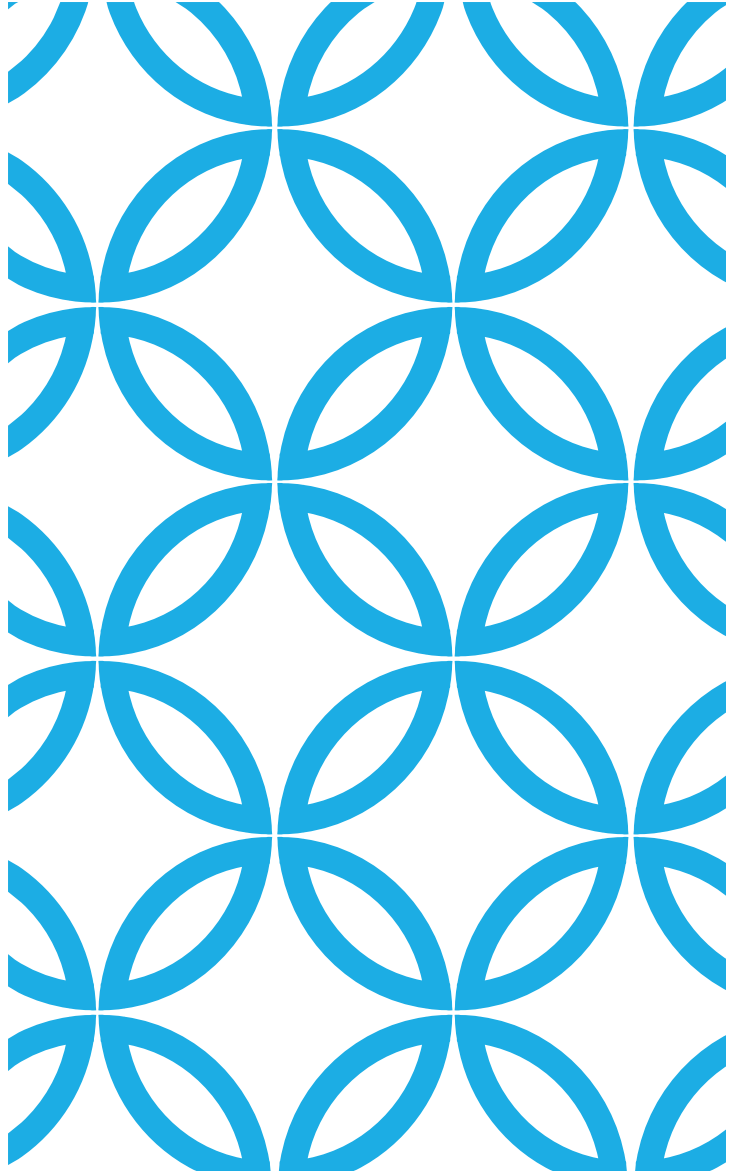


- ❖ Migrant Clinicians Network
- ❖ Special Care Access Network
- ❖ Washington state expanded coverage
- ❖ Centering group care model
- ❖ Nurse Family Partnership

# BETTER PREPARING OUR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

- ❖ Mandatory curriculum for providers (trauma informed care, racism/bias, trafficking)
- ❖ Peer support networks





QUESTIONS?

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Thank You!

