

**Webinar: Community-Driven Policy Advocacy: Upholding the Dignity of
Immigrant Children and Families
Thursday, July 30, 2020 | 1-2pm EDT**

Panelist Biographies

Angela Kelly

Coordinating Team Member, Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment (BIJAN and/or "Beyond")

Angela Kelly is a member of the coordinating team of the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN, a.k.a. "Beyond"), a grassroots network of individuals, faith communities, and activist groups working together with those most targeted by ICE locally to reduce the escalating harm and racism of immigration detention and deportations. BIJAN provides accompaniment in many forms, including at court and ICE check-ins, through a bond and legal defense fund, and by offering community support to those released from ICE jail. Through these efforts, BIJAN also builds relationships to organize in solidarity with the wider movement to #FreeThemALL. In addition to her involvement with BIJAN, Angela serves as Senior Associate for Justice Education at the UU College of Social Justice, is trained as a mental health clinician, and has worked with a variety of peace, justice, youth-focused and community-building initiatives.



Cindy C. Liou, Esq.

State Policy Director, Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)

Cindy C. Liou, Esq. is the State Policy Director at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a national non-profit working to provide legal counsel to unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children in the United States. Prior to this role, she served as the Deputy Director of Legal Services at KIND. Previously, she was the Director of the Human Trafficking Project at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, where she also co-counseled several civil litigation cases on behalf of human trafficking survivors, and represented survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault,



elder abuse, and hate crimes. She continues to provide consulting and training on topics ranging from human trafficking, domestic violence lethality, to best practices on how to collaborate in cross-disciplinary teams to support survivors of violence. She is formerly the Co-Chair of the Policy Committee of the Freedom Network to Empower Trafficked and Enslaved Persons (USA), a network of over 40 individual and member agencies representing trafficking survivors, and the winner of their 2018 Paul and Sheila Wellstone Award. She is also the recipient of the 2013 San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking Modern Day Abolitionist Award for Policy and Advocacy. Cindy is the co-author of several articles, the second edition of the manual *Representing Survivors of Human Trafficking*, and the first edition of *T Visas: A Critical Immigration Option for Survivors of Human Trafficking*. She previously handled a variety of pro bono cases at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC, ranging from asylum to police misconduct cases. Cindy is a graduate from Stanford Law School and the University of Washington.

Wendy Miron, LCSW

Senior Director of Social Services, Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)

Wendy Miron, Senior Director for Social Services, leads an exemplary national team in the design and implementation of Trauma-Informed frameworks that advance best practices to working with unaccompanied minors who are receiving legal representation. Committed to bearing witness to the resilience and cultural wealth of communities, Wendy is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over fifteen years of clinical and management experience in the non-profit sector working with immigrant youth and families in organizations across New York City including Sanctuary for Families, Union Settlement, Mental Health Providers of Western Queens and as a consultant at Safe Passage. Prior to joining KIND, Wendy served as Program Director for the Parenting and Child Development Program at LSA Family Health Service in East Harlem, NY. She has been an active member of local and national coalitions that promote child wellbeing and equity in immigrant communities, including work with the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) and Vital Villages' Networks of Opportunities for Child Wellbeing (NOW), as well as being part of Anchoring Achievement in Mexican Communities. Wendy has presented at various symposiums and conferences throughout the years on best practices in working with migrant families, and therapeutic interventions for children impacted by trauma. Wendy was born and raised in Guatemala and migrated to South Florida at the age of ten. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University, an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Religious Studies from Florida International University, and a graduate program in Parent Infant Mental Health and Trauma from Adelphi University.



Liza Schwartzwald, JD

Manager of Education Policy, New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)

Liza Schwartzwald is the NYIC Manager of Education Policy. She focuses on Early Childhood Education and Care, Adult Literacy, and the Two-Generation Approach, and works to uplift educational opportunities for immigrant families and English Language Learners in New York in a holistic and integrated way. She previously worked as a Policy and Advocacy Associate at United Neighborhood Houses, where she worked on the Families United for Learning and Literacy (FULL) family literacy initiative.



Liza holds a dual bachelors degree from Florida Atlantic University in History and Interdisciplinary Humanities, an MSW from Fordham University, and a JD from Emory University School of Law. She is barred to practice law in New York State.

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

Director of Operations, Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroitter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization’s College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.



About the Webinar

What would it look like if our systems and institutions honored the dignity and voice of all Black, indigenous, and children of color and their families? This webinar explores dignity and beloved community in policy advocacy praxis, specifically within the context of ongoing efforts to protect, uphold, and defend the dignity of immigrant children and families. COVID-19 and heightened attention to structural racism have shed further light on the heavy toll of our nation's fractured systems, coupled with state-sanctioned violence and intertwined systems of detention and incarceration, on the health, wellbeing, safety, and livelihood of immigrant communities. Learn from advocates across the country who are working to dismantle structural racism not only within the immigration system, but other sectors, institutions, and programs -- from public health and early childhood, to education and legal -- that serve immigrant children and families. Speakers will highlight strategies that local coalitions have led to advocate for legislation and policy change, center community voice, and create supportive networks.