



2014 CCE Summer Internships

CATEGORY ARCHIVES: REFUGEE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER PROJECT

August 20

Posted on **August 20, 2014** by **Emily Nina Satinsky**

I've been working hard on putting together the final report. However, even in this last week, I'm continuing to hear a few responses from programs about interviews, so as I have those, I will be needing to make lots of revisions to include their feedback. This morning I'll be talking to a representative from the child-care training program in Boise, Idaho. I've heard numerous times that that program is one of the most successful so far so I'm excited to hear what what they've done to form such a strong program.

I've also been working to collect a few materials from different stakeholders. One of the child care providers in Utica, Geri, who I interviewed, just emailed me the entire policy handbook that she goes through with parents. This could be a good example or aid for refugees starting businesses. Katie Howell from the Syracuse program is also providing me with a few more specific details about their training program and will hopefully be able to send a vocabulary form that helps with some of the child-care specific vocabulary for refugees.

The Syracuse program provided me with contact information for a Somalian refugee who has been providing child-care for about 4 years. I called and because of the language gap, had a really difficult time conveying who I was and why I was calling. When I talked to the daughter, though, she was able to help translate and I will be going there Saturday to talk to them. As I was hoping I would get to speak to and work with a number of refugees this summer, I'm really excited that I will at least have this one opportunity to do so.

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August 17

Posted on **August 17, 2014** by **Emily Nina Satinsky**

Last Monday I attended a training session on financing and banking in Syracuse. Some of the refugees at the session have gone through the earlier program training and some are still working to receive their certification while others weren't successful during earlier stages and have opted to become legally exempt providers. There was no interpreter at the session so it was really interesting observing the range of English levels in the class and watching the interactions of the refugees both with one another and with the teacher. One woman seemed to follow everything the teacher explained, answering questions and asking knowledgeable questions as the training progressed. The remainder of the class, however, quietly talked to each other in their native language for the majority of the session; the few times they attempted to answer questions, their comprehension of English and their verbal proficiency in the language seemed very poor. Seeing this language barrier first hand, helped demonstrate just how big of a lingual challenge the program presents.

I have been waiting to hear back from a few training programs to see if I can still interview them, so in the mean time, I'm working on finishing up the report. Unfortunately, the responses from the interviews make up the most substantial part of the report, so I won't be able to write up and analyze those answers until the programs get back to me.

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August 7

Posted on [August 7, 2014](#) by [Emily Nina Satinsky](#)

I'm looking forward to attending a training session in Syracuse this coming Monday. I will sit in on a session on Banking and Financing for refugees who have already completed the 20 hour pre-pre service training through the Syracuse program. This will be my first look at an actual program and will give me a better feel for the types of training programs that refugees go through during the process of becoming licensed. Further, it will help me understand ways in which the MVRCR can shape their own programs and make use of interpreters.

In addition to the training session, I have a few interviews set up with programs from other areas of the country. Friday I will be talking to the program in Milwaukee, finding out about their successes and challenges. At the beginning of next week I will talk with a well-established program in Boise that has been around 3 years (comparatively longer than other programs). Hopefully the training session and interviews will give me more material to continue my report.

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July 31

Posted on **July 31, 2014** by **Emily Nina Satinsky**

As part of my IRB request form, I mentioned that I was planning to distribute a survey to the Refugee Center in Utica. Passed out during ESL classes, the survey would ask questions concerning employment, children, and interest in getting licensed for child care services. For awhile I had been waiting for a response from the Center concerning a sample survey I had drafted and finally heard back this week. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like I will be able to use the survey at the agency and will again have to find other avenues to approach the project and the need assessment. This whole summer has been a big learning experience for me — I've learned how persistent you need to be in getting responses from various sources and I've learned the importance of resilience. A number of my original plans and goals for this internship haven't gone as expected so I've repeatedly had to come up with new ideas.

Although I do not yet have a response from Rochester as to whether or not I can interview refugees in their programs, I recently talked with the program in Syracuse. In two weeks I will be going to Syracuse to both observe a training session and talk with a Somali refugee who successfully received her license and runs a small child care business. Additionally, since the Office for Refugee Resettlement has given a number of grants for this Microenterprise Project to agencies across the country, I have been emailing some of these other organizations. While they abide by different regulations for their respective states, I'm hoping contact with these programs can help me better establish different barriers and success stories. I've had a number of difficulties and obstacles during my research but am still hoping I can come out with meaningful information.

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July 22

Posted on **July 22, 2014** by **Emily Nina Satinsky**

I spent the past week finalizing plans for the survey and interviews with refugees in training programs in Rochester and Syracuse. The IRB is finally submitted after a number of drafts and revisions to my project. Unfortunately, I've still been waiting on a response from the MVRRCR on the survey so I'm not sure that will end up working out. I thought it would be interesting to interview some family child care providers in the area to hear their thoughts on the job and understand what they see as the obstacles and challenges within the business. I had one of these interviews yesterday and found it really useful so I plan to have a second conversation today.

Since I haven't been hearing back from people as quickly as I was hoping I would, I've been doing a lot of research on my own and typing some background information for the report. Lisa sent me some sample community reports which were fun to look at—I didn't realize how much design they incorporate! I'm excited to play around with the graphics for my final paper.

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July 4

Posted on **July 4, 2014** by [Emily Nina Satinsky](#)

At the beginning of this week I talked on the phone with Fannie Glover, the Early Care and Learning Council Educator. She is currently the task force leader for the Diversity Task Force working on a variety of Diversity and Inclusion issues including the challenges of registration faced by people for whom English is not their primary language. They are currently working on getting government approval for their diversity needs assessment projects, and thus, Fannie was not able to give me too much information on how they will be assessing need or carrying through with their projects. Since they will be hearing back about approval next week, she put me on a statewide sub-committee that will be assessing diversity needs if they get the government okay. I will be participating in a phone conversation with representatives from counties across New York at the end of the month. As part of that, I can potentially help them out wherever needed.

This week I also drafted questions for a short survey to hand out at English classes at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. I sent the questions to one of the women I met with a few weeks ago to see if they are okay and to see if I can go ahead and distribute them to start collecting quantitative data.

I'm still a bit concerned about finding a new way to approach my project since the interviews at the MVRRCR are a no-go but hopefully the survey, the Diversity subcommittee, and interviews in Rochester and Syracuse will work out. Happy Fourth of July everyone!!

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June 23

Posted on **June 23, 2014** by [Emily Nina Satinsky](#)

Last week I stayed in Oneida overnight so that I could work there and do visits two days in a row. Tuesday, I went to the Refugee Center for the first time and had an introductory meeting with two of the staff members there. They gave me a tour and a background on the Center, explained the different refugee populations present, and described the resettlement program within the United States. It was really interesting to learn more about refugees—I was surprised by how many specific details I wasn't previously aware of. They also told me about some of their special programming such as a Film Festival, "Unspoken" in October and monthly citizenship ceremonies so I plan to attend some of the events in the future.

The next day I visited a home-based child care center in the morning and in the afternoon, returned to the Refugee Center with Lorraine for a meeting more specific to my actual project. During the meeting, the MVRCR staff explained some of the barriers they already see in licensing the refugees and they discussed their past efforts in this area. Near the end of the discussion, they asked what my future steps were and I described that I planned to conduct interviews and hold focus groups with the refugees to quantitatively assess the need for such a program. Unexpectedly, the staff told me that I will not be allowed to do this. Since they have been working on trying to get this project started for years and have asked refugees and assessed interest numerous times, they felt that my interviews would frustrate the community if it didn't bring an actual training program with it. This definitely came as a sharp turn in the project so this week I will have to start brainstorming other approaches to the project and report.

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June 8 – Child Care Visit

Posted on **June 8, 2014** by **Emily Nina Satinsky**

Friday I returned to Oneida to meet with Lorraine Kinney-Kitchen and visit The Thea Bowman Center, a child care center located adjacent to the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. Many of the refugees send their children to the center as 50 to 60% of the kids are refugee children.



Lorraine and I went around with the director for about an hour

and she told us a number of stories about the children and their work. One of the rooms at the Center serves as a sort of therapy room for the kids going through domestic violence. Using different methods, the staff member works with the kids to get them to open up about their experiences. Additionally, all children are required to have medical exams every day to look for bruises and other injuries or issues that might have been neglected. It was really interesting to see the racial diversity and hear stories about kids 18 years and up who continue to maintain relationships and come to the Child Care Center.

In addition to visiting the Child Care Center and getting a glimpse at what child care experiences are like, my meeting with Lorraine was also extremely useful. I got a lot more background on the issue and learned about a number of barriers that refugees might face when trying to get registered as child-care providers. Apparently the

training to become registered takes 15 to 20 hours so translating that into a number of different languages would be extremely difficult. Additionally, some of the refugees, such as the Somali Bantu have no written language in their culture. Thus, certain parts of child care like reading labels on prescriptions become extremely difficult. I am excited to learn more, see the Refugee Center, and meet with more people!

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June 2 – Getting Started

Posted on **June 2, 2014** by [Emily Nina Satinsky](#)

A few weeks ago I started off my internship experience with a trip to Oneida where I sat in on a CCE staff meeting. Meeting workers and hearing about the branch's ongoing projects excited me about getting involved with this group of people and starting off my research. Since, I have met with my advisor, Lisa McCabe a few times to flesh out how I will get started. Due to the nature of the interview and focus group process, I am unable to start research until an IRB request form has been accepted. Currently I am working on finishing up the application, preparing a consent form, and making recruitment fliers. Later this week or early next week I will return to Oneida to drop in on and observe a child care service in the area. I think seeing a center first-hand will help me better understand the sorts of barriers and limitations that might interfere with the refugees' ability to start home-based child care services.

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