

# Diversity and Racial Trauma

Working with Immigrant and Refugees

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By: Attorney Samantha Salamon

## Presenter: Samantha Salamon

- Work at Asian Services in Action (ASIA) as the department manager of both the Ahimsa and Legal Services Departments.
- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Middle Eastern studies.
- Lived and worked in Dubai, UAE for 2 years
- Developed a passion for the immigrant and refugee communities
- Utilized Social Work background to work with survivors from these communities

# Asian Services in Action, Inc.

Locations: Cleveland and Akron

Founded by 5 Chinese women immigrants

Comprised of 8 different departments:

- Children, Youth & Family Services
- International Community Health Center
- Legal Services
- Sustainability Services
- Aging and Adult Services
- Interpreting and Translation Services
- Ahimsa
- Community Engagement

The Children, Youth, & Family Services Department, known as CYF, is focused on providing activities specialized to children and youth.

# Children, Youth, & Family Services

CYF provides programming for pre-K through 12th-grade development, acculturation, academic support, and enrichment through a culturally competent lens by creating opportunities for positive peer experiences and leadership building. As ASIA's oldest social services department, we arrange language-specific peer support groups for women, parenting education, and advocacy for refugee/immigrant parents of children and youth.



# Legal Services

**We offer statewide services and consultations from our offices in Northeast Ohio. Additionally, we provide interpreters for those whose primary language isn't English.\* Our services include:**

- Consular processing;
- Applying for U.S. citizenship or Naturalization certificate;
- Applying for or renewing a green card;
- Applying for Employment Authorization Document;
- Applying for travel documents/re-entry permits;



- Immigration case follow-up with USCIS representation;
- Family-based immigration case including fiancée visas (K-visa);
- Humanitarian immigration benefits including Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), self-petitions, U/T visas; *and more*

# Aging and Adult Services



With particular attention to those with limited English proficiency, our staff provides a wide range of services for clients such as nutrition and safety education, emergency food support, community resources, and meaningful service opportunities.

Through financial literacy programming, health screenings and outreach to homebound seniors, we are able to arrange extra support for those who need it most. Ultimately, the goal is to empower older adults to flourish through participation in civic life.

# International Community Health Center

**ASIA-ICHC delivers comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare on a sliding scale to all community members, especially those who face economic or language barriers to care.**

We accept Medicaid and Medicare, and [Sliding Fee Discounts](#) for essential services are offered based on family size and income (we collect a nominal fee based on family size and income). The ICHC welcomes [donations](#) to help us continue to provide low income and underserved community members with critical medical services and information.



# Sustainability Services

**The Sustainability Services Department provides newly-arriving, low-to-moderate income, limited English proficient AAPI adults and their dependents with linguistically and culturally accessible services across Northeast Ohio.**



Our team of bilingual caseworkers can provide culturally appropriate assistance to our clients so they get on a path to self-sufficiency. Team members are located in Akron and Cleveland and comprehensive, professional case management services. We offer services such as vocational skills training, supportive counseling, job placement, and retention services, and much more.



# Interpreting and Translating Services

## The Interpreting and Translation Services

Department provides a range of multilingual

services across Northeast Ohio. These include:

- Face-to-face interpreting
- Phone interpreting
- Virtual interpreting
- Document translation
- Proofreading and editing
- Cross-cultural training
- 40-hour medical interpreter training course

# Community Engagement

**Participation in the democratic process is the most powerful way to have your voice heard, and it is at the core of our mission in the community.**

Some of the primary goals of the Civic Engagement department are promoting voter education and registration; encouraging constituents to be informed on the issues impacting the AAPI community; helping those constituents contact their legislators; and joining with statewide partners to raise awareness around issues of importance to the greater AAPI network of Ohio.



# Ahimsa

Ahimsa is an initiative that advocates for self-love and empowerment for everyone. Ahimsa provides quality culturally and linguistically appropriate information, health, and social services to individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Ahimsa's advocacy services are confidential and free\*.

## Services

### ADVOCACY

- Legal Advocacy
- Medical Advocacy
- Safety Planning
- Crisis Hotline
- Case Management
- Language Assistance
- Benefit Assessment
- Financial Planning
- Emergency Shelter Referral
- Housing Referral
- Counseling and Support Services
- Support Groups

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Representation of Victims in Criminal Court Under Marsy's Law
- Obtaining Protection Orders
- Immigration Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Family Law (Divorce, Custody, Juvenile)
- \*Fees may apply



COURAGE

# Understanding “Culture”

**Culture:** An umbrella term that describes characteristics of a particular group which encompasses social norms, beliefs, language, arts, laws and habits of individuals within that group.



# General Principles when Working with Immigrants and Refugees

1. Various cultural backgrounds
2. Linguistic barriers
3. Immigration concerns
4. Community/religious pressures
5. Societal pressures



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