

Proposed Itinerary for Immigration Forum, Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21

The Border in Crisis: Houston Responds

Friday evening 6:00-8:00 pm: Opening Reception and Art Exhibit with Silent Auction; Remarks by Rev. Dr. Helen Boursier from 6:30-6:50 (Wine and Cheese served)

Saturday 8:15 am-2:00 pm:

8:15-8:45 Registration and Coffee, Tea, and Water (with online registration through EventBrite)

8:45-9:30 Keynote Hope Frye, JD, Executive Director, Project Lifeline

9:30-10:15 Panel One: ‘How bad is it really?’ Conditions of Detention

Anne Chandler, JD, Moderator (Tahirih Justice Center)

Hope Frye, JD (conditions at various facilities where children are detained)

Claudia Mercado, MD (founder of La Frontera Clinic, Laredo)

Sara Ramey, JD (conditions for adults held at Pearsall)

Voice of an Asylum-Seeker

10:15-10:35 Break

10:35-11:20 Panel Two: ‘What’s so bad about them just staying in Mexico?’ The new policies of metering, MPP, and TCP and their effects on asylum seekers (timeline banner as backdrop)

Anne Chandler, JD, Moderator

Sara Ramey, JD (brief description of policies)

Team Brownsville (effects on asylum seekers)

Voice of an Asylum-Seeker

Rev. Bautista Simon, Christ Church Cathedral (spiritual perspective on what he witnessed and what he has learned about situation)

11:25-12:10 Panel Three: “Why don’t people just stay in their home countries?” The factors pushing migration to the US and the stories behind those factors

Anne Chandler, JD, Moderator

\*Academic –[NEED TO CONFIRM]

Sara Ramey, JD (stories of clients)

\*Louise Zwick, Casa Juan Diego (?) (stories of migrants staying at the Casa)

Voice of an Asylum-Seeker

12:10-12:30 Light lunch served

12:30-1:15 Panel Four: “How can we make a difference?” Local opportunities for getting involved and making a personal difference

Anne Chandler, JD, Moderator

Dona Murphey, MD

Voice of an Asylum Seeker (difficulties of life after detention)

Greg McDonell, Northwoods UU Church, The Woodlands (Establishing a Sanctuary Church)  
(Extra time for sure)

Louise Zwick or Dawn McCarty, Casa Juan Diego (Extra time if they don’t speak on Panel 3)

Elva Alvarez, Houston Rebel Alliance

Team Brownsville

Rep from Willow Meadows Baptist Church (re planning trips and donations to HRC, and what they do)

Cynthia Watts Aulds, CCHT (re putting together snack bags with human trafficking info in them)

1:15-2:00 “Fair of Local Opportunities” for networking and individual conversations/information on the various local opportunities