

Catholic Charities USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

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DISASTER RESPONSE

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Unaccompanied Minors Crisis – an Informational Webinar

Session Logistics

- Please mute your phone
- Do not place the call on hold
- Share your questions, ideas, and comments
  - "Raise hand" icon
  - Use the "Chat" feature to submit questions at any time

Agenda

- Introductions
- Situation Overview
- CCUSA Involvement
- Opportunities for Catholic Charities and Partner involvement
- Questions
- Next Steps



Introductions

- Speakers:
  - Kim Burgo

    Senior Director, Disaster Response Operations

    Catholic Charities USA
  - Kathleen Oldaker

    Director, Disaster Response Operations

    Catholic Charities USA

Introductions

- Subject Matter Experts:
  - Kristyn Peck

    Associate Director of Children's Services

    Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
  - Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ

    Executive Director

    Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

    Diocese of Brownsville, Texas

Introductions

- Other Catholic Partners:
  - Sr. Ann Sholz, SSND
    Leadership Conference of Women Religious
  - Bruce Compton
    Catholic Health Association
  - Jim Butler
    St. Vincent de Paul, USA
  - Kim Mazyck and Tina Rodousakis
    Catholic Relief Services

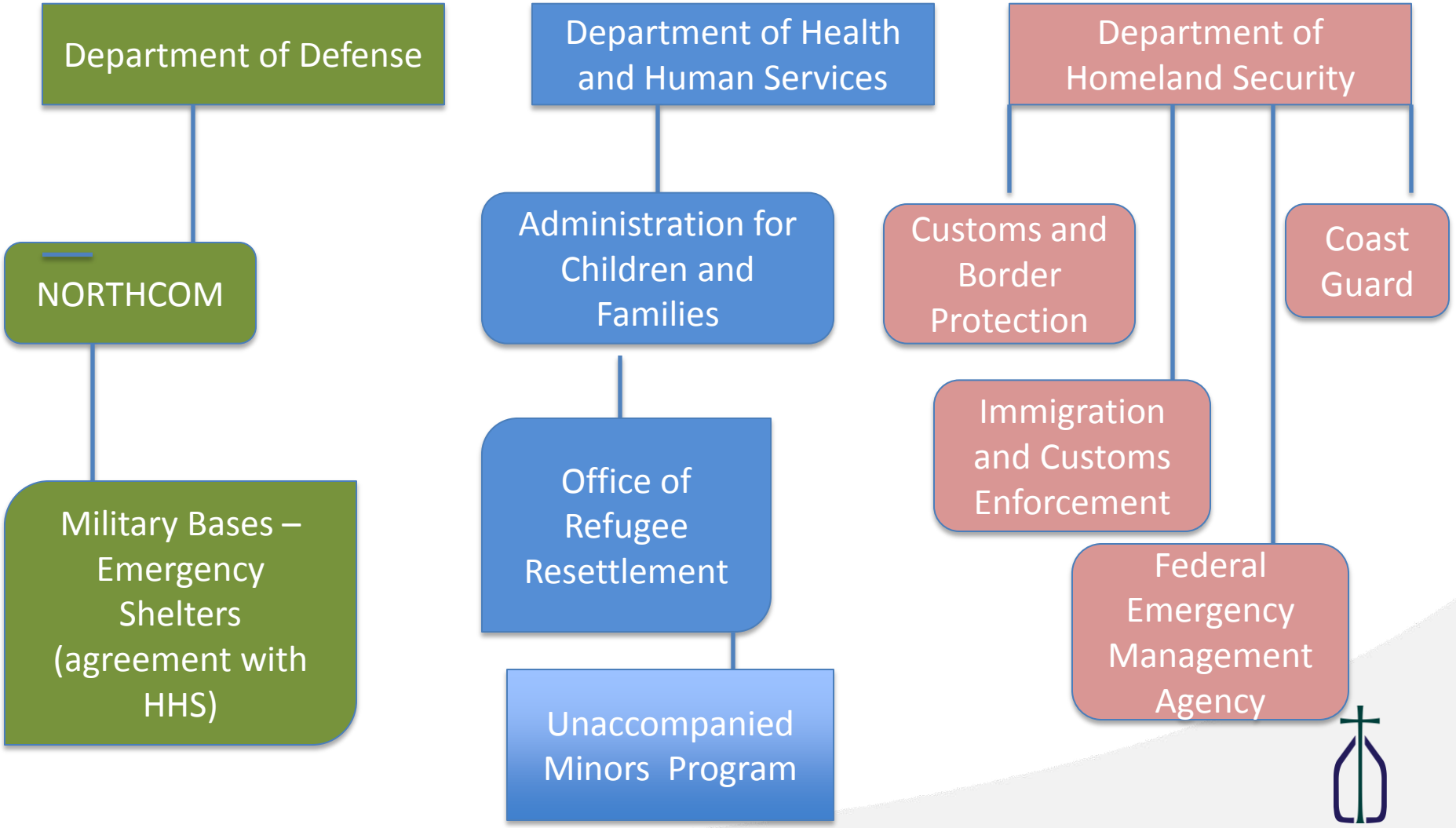
Situation Overview

- Mass influx of unaccompanied minor children into the US
  - Mostly from Central American countries
  - Range in age from 0 – 17 years old
    - Many more boys than girls
    - Highest percentage of children 13 – 17 years (over 50%)
  - More than 47,000 crossed border into US since October 2013
    - Currently 9,600 in system nationwide (CBP and HHS)
    - 100+ coming across border each day

Federal Interagency Coordination

- On June 2, President Obama asked Secretary of Homeland Security to develop Interagency Unified Coordination Group to assist CBP and ORR with this crisis
  - Federal Coordinating Official is FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate
  - Joint efforts of Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Defense

Federal Involvement



Sequence of Custody



- Child is apprehended by Customs and Border Patrol
- Immigration processing begun
- Meals provided
- Initial Health screening conducted





- Child may be transferred to short term multi-Federal agency center
- Full medical check conducted by HHS. Immunizations given
- Emergency Shelter assignment



Sequence of Custody



•ICE/Coast Guard transfer child to Emergency Shelter (run or contracted through Office of Refugee Resettlement).
• Should be done within 72 hours – though taking longer with higher numbers of new minors coming into CBP custody.
•Also delay in sending children to Department of Defense facilities due to mandatory 72 hour waiting period post-vaccinations.

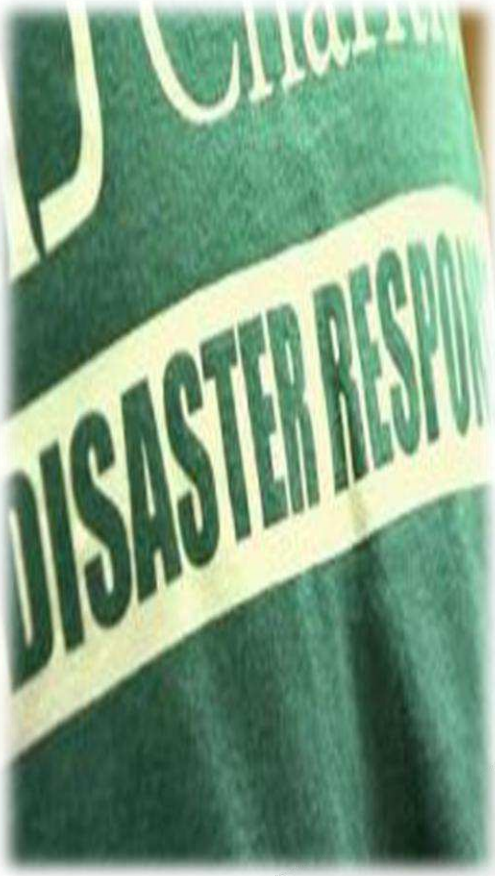




•Child is provided adequate supervision, continued medical care, counseling services, and Family reunification services while in Emergency Shelter
•Family Reunification is either in the US or country of origin. Child can be sponsored to remain in the US pending outcome of immigration process.

CCUSA Involvement

- Asked by FEMA to staff National Response Coordination Center
  - Providing technical expertise and information gathering
- Connecting potential Catholic Charities network resources with the response effort



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FEMA NRCC ?









Interagency Goal

- Every child who enters CBP custody should have a bed within 12 hours
  - Aim to reach this goal by June 30th.
  - Need 10,000 additional beds
- Clear the "bottlenecks":
  - Remove children faster from CBP holding facilities and eliminate backlog
  - Ensure enough facilities/beds within HHS system and staff available to conduct Family Reunification efforts.

Opportunities for Involvement

Staffing

- Case Workers/Case Managers
- Licensed Clinicians (LCSW preferred)
- Immigration Lawyers
- Medical Staff – physicians, dentists, nurses
- Current facilities in OK, CA, TX, and VA
- Cost will be reimbursed
- Minimum 2 week deployments
- All bilingual and passed background check

Opportunities for Involvement

Facilities

- 2 Options:
  - CC/Partner owned and operated Emergency Shelter
  - CC/Partner with facility available for lease
- Types of facilities:
  - Office space, schools, retreat centers, etc.
- Must be available for 120 days as an Emergency Shelter

- Requirements:
  - Ideally 300 beds or more
    - Can be school or office space that has 40,000 square feet of open space
  - Within 50 miles of major city (200,000+ population)
  - Able to be fenced or have adequate security
  - ADA and NEPA compliant
  - Unoccupied

Opportunities for Involvement

Spiritual/Emotional Care

- Providing pastoral care to those in CBP custody at holding facilities along southwestern US border
- Also opportunity within HHS centers across the country.
- Providing support, comfort, and spiritual care to this largely Catholic community.

Humanitarian Needs

- Food, clothing, and toy donations
- Human interactions (big-brother/big-sister type)
- Follow up care for children post-release
- This area is still in flux and concrete activities will be identified once Emergency Shelters are operational.

Who to Contact

- Facilities:
  - CCUSA will assist with this process:
    - Email Katie Oldaker (koldaker@catholiccharitiesusa.org) with potential facility options to begin the discussion.
    - We will need: facility name and address, who owns the property, contact information and a description
    - CCUSA will provide viable options to FEMA contacts. FEMA will work with GSA to vet the property and will provide recommendations to HHS. HHS makes final approval on any property.
    - Property will be leased or contracted through HHS.

Who to Contact

- Staffing:
  - Please send an email to Kristan Schlichte with specifics on staff available and qualifications.
  - kschlichte@catholiccharitiesusa.org
- Emotional/Spiritual Care:
  - Your Diocese will be contacted directly, should the opportunity arise
- Humanitarian Needs:
  - Stand by. We will alert you when needs and logistics are determined

The 2nd Disaster

- Hundreds of individuals (mothers and children, men, and women) also entering the US.
- Detention centers are full and processing can take up to a week.
- Busloads of immigrants are being dropped off at local bus stations in the Rio Grande Valley by Customs and Border Patrol – have not showered in days, haven't been able to sleep, do not know how to purchase bus tickers, have language and cultural barriers.
- Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley is responding. - Parish hall open in McAllen

Conclusion

- This situation is fluid.
- Please be patient as we work with government partners to find appropriate solutions to assisting the unaccompanied minor populations.
- CCUSA will keep you updated as we receive more information



Conclusion

QUESTIONS?

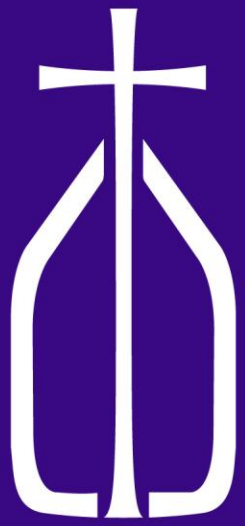
Contact Information

- Do you have staff to support?

  - Contact Kristan Schlichte
  kschlichte@catholiccharitiesusa.org

- Do you have facilities for use as Emergency shelters?
  - Contact Katie Oldaker
  koldaker@catholiccharitiesusa.org

- Are you interested in long-term support to this effort through operation of a permanent shelter?
  - Contact Kristyn Peck, MRS-USCCB
  Kpeck@usccb.org



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