

# STAGES OF MIGRATION FRAMEWORK

Theoretical lens developed by Diane Drachman; uses a stage development conceptual construct to understand the impact of migration on human behavior; can also be used to develop programs that are responsive to the needs of migrant populations

- Premigration
- Transit
- Resettlement
- Return to country of origin -  
transnationals

# PREMIGRATION

- Separation
  - From friends, family, community
- Leaving
  - Familiar environment
- Decisions
  - Who gets left behind
- Loss
  - Significant others, status
- Trauma
  - Fleeing a life threatening situation

# TRANSIT

## What are the safety conditions of travel?

### ■ SAFE Transit

- Commercial plane, trains, bus or boat
- Regularly scheduled, dependable arrival at destination
- Well-known routes of travel that include traveler amenities: food, water, rest stops

### ■ UNSAFE Transit

- Illegal border crossing
- Perilous sea journey in an unsafe, overcrowded boat
- Crossing a desert or a river on foot
- Being locked in a railway boxcar or freight truck

# TRANSIT

## DURATION OF THE JOURNEY

### ■ SAFE Transit

- A matter of hours, days or weeks
- Arrival and departure follows a regular schedule

### ■ UNSAFE Transit

- Living in a transitory situation (refugee camp) for weeks, months or years
- Being held in a detention center
- Waiting on the border

# TRANSIT

## THE COST OF TRAVEL

- Who pays?
- What is the cost?
- Must the cost be repaid? How? By whom?

# RESETTLEMENT CULTURAL ISSUES

- New immigrants often have different views on:
  - Health care
  - Mental health
  - Education
  - Help-seeking behavior
  - Child-rearing practices
  - Government authority
  - Family values

# RESETTLEMENT: RECEPTION

- How does the host country view you?
- Are there stereotypes about you and your group?
- Is your group relatively unknown?
- Are there earlier immigrants from your group to whom you will be compared?
- To what extent are services offered to you and your group?

# RESETTLEMENT: Individual Expectations

- What did you think it was going to be like?
- What is the reality?
- Does the family you left behind have expectations of you? Can you meet them?
- Can you go back?

# RETURN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- Many immigrants, legal or not, return to their country of origin
- Reason for return
  - Voluntary
  - Involuntary
- Transnationals
  - Networks, activities, patterns of life encompass dual worlds

# MIGRATION EXPERIENCES

- Problems More Common for New Immigrant Groups:
  - Depression
  - Suicidal ideation or attempts
  - Substance/alcohol abuse
  - Parent-child conflict
  - Domestic violence
  - Child abuse

# MIGRATION EXPERIENCES

- Common Strengths in New Immigrant Groups:
  - Resilience
  - Ability to cope with adversity
  - Strong family values
  - Independence
  - Focus on goals and objectives
  - Sense of community
  - Informal networks of support

# How Does the Stages of Migration Framework Inform Practice

- Consonant with ecological systems theory
- Assessment is viewed through the lens of person, situation, environment
- Transactions across systems of support, culture, beliefs, ethnic community and macro policies
- Facilitates strengths perspective
- Necessitates understanding of immigration status, policies and regulations

# How Does the Stages of Migration Framework Inform Policy?

- Understand challenges and barriers that confront migrating populations
- Normalizes human need and response to services
- Infuses cultural competency with an understanding of migration
- Focus on resiliency, strengths and empowerment

# BENEFITS OF THE STAGES OF MIGRATION FRAMEWORK

- Allows social workers to:
  - Distill commonalities and differences between immigrant groups
  - Consider political, social and cultural factors in migration experiences
  - Obtain knowledge of needs, experiences particular to each group
  - Examine the relevance of previous knowledge
  - Develop appropriate services to meet the needs of new immigrants