

# Building Bridges **ONLINE**

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

Three Online Sessions | CEUs Available

For the first time ever, join Building Bridges online from the safety and convenience of your home. Held every Tuesday for three weeks, these conversations highlight some of the timeliest issues facing refugee and immigrant populations today.

Each session is \$75, or \$200 for all three. CEUs available.

Learn more at [www.lssnd.org/buildingbridges](http://www.lssnd.org/buildingbridges)



## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**SESSION 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 10-11:30 A.M.**

### THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Megan Bracy, *Director for Refugee and Migrant Services, LIRS*



In this session, Ms. Bracy will weave her own personal stories of refugee resettlement into the ever-changing and challenging resettlement environment in the U.S., describing the more recent dramatic changes in policies and reduction to refugee admissions.

Megan Bracy is the Director for Refugee and Migrant Services at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). In this role, Megan manages a portfolio of programs that support the initial welcome and long-term integration of newcomers through intensive case management, workforce development and upskilling; programming for youth; services for migrants seeking asylum at the southwest border and across the country, and detention visitation through a large network of congregations and community groups. She also oversees a national employment technical-assistance program for refugee service providers. Megan has over 15 years of experience serving refugees and immigrants.

**SESSION 2: TUESDAY, APRIL 21 | 10-11:30 A.M.**

### LESSONS LEARNED IN COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCE USE IN AN IMMIGRANT OR REFUGEE BACKGROUND COMMUNITY

Tonya Horn, *Assistant Professor, St. Catherine University-University of St. Thomas School of Social Work*



Tonya Horn will share lessons learned in the process of working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary task force and Karen community leaders to develop and implement responses to harmful substance use in the Karen community. She will also share general lessons learned about developing successful partnerships with immigrant-background communities to address community needs.

Tonya is an assistant professor of social work at the University of St. Thomas and the faculty coordinator for the Area of Emphasis in Practice with Immigrants and Refugees. Her practice and research have comprised four interest areas: refugee mental health, refugee substance abuse, health equity and refugee-community organizing and self-help. She is also currently the project director for the Karen Chemical Dependency Collaboration. In partnership with KCDC, she co-developed a culturally specific substance-use group therapy for Karen men and has been involved in community-based prevention, education and other supportive services for adults and youth.

**SESSION 3: TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | 10-11:30 A.M.**

### THE CHANGING FACE OF IMMIGRATION IN 2020 AND THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Olufemi Adisa, *DOJ-Accredited Representative, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota*



Olufemi Adisa will discuss how U.S. immigration policy and the current COVID-19 pandemic has affected immigrants in 2020.

Olufemi is a Department of Justice-Accredited Representative at Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota in Fargo, North Dakota. He is a graduate of the University of North Dakota's School of Law and has a Master's of Public Administration from Hamline University.