

30 de Noviembre 2023

El Semanario

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

Digital Edition

www.ELSEMANARIO.us

Healing Trauma **8**
Sanando un Trauma

Photo/Foto: Hunter Fore/Cronkite News

30 de Noviembre 2023
Volume No. XXXIV Issue 4

Chris M. Fresquez
President / CEO - Publisher

Toni C. Fresquez
Editor

Juan Carlos Uribe
Spanish Editor

Raya Tkachenko
Layout/Production

Karen Gutierrez
LiveSTREAM Journalist

THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 460428, Glendale CO 80246



800-886-4054
303-672-0800
720-368-5387 Fax



ADVERTISING
Display and Digital:
advertising@elsemanario.net
Classifieds:
classifieds@elsemanario.net



NEWS & INFORMATION
newsdesk@elsemanario.net



WEBSITE
https://www.elsemanario.us



PODCAST



LiveSTREAM



The views expressed in our commentary section
are the author's own and not necessarily those of
The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Table of Contents

Tabla de contenidos

Can Colorado Create a State DACA?	4
¿Puede Colorado Crear Una DACA para el Estado?	4
Society Is Beginning to Repay a Debt of Gratitude to Latina Mothers	5
La Sociedad Empieza a Pagar una Deuda de Gritud a Madres	5
I Help Seniors Get Health Care. Shouldn't I Be Able to Afford My Own?	6
Strength of a Volcano	6
Medicare Expands the Roster of Available Mental Health Professionals	7
Medicare Amplía Su Lista de Profesionales de Salud Mental	7
Tattoo Artist Heals by Erasing the Markers of Trauma	8
El Tatuador Se Cura Borrando las Marcas del Trauma	9
MSU Denver Secures Funding to Offer Paid Fellowships to Undocumented Students	10
MSU Denver Consigue Financiación para Ofrecer Becas Remuneradas a Estudiantes Indocumentados	10
Paid Family Leave Portal Goes Live for Colorado Workers	11
El Portal de Permisos de FAMLI Pagados Se Pone en Funcionamiento para los Trabajadores de Colorado	11
Students in Colorado Are Missing a Lot of School. How Much is Too Much?	12
Estudiantes en Colorado Están Faltando Mucho a la Escuela. ¿Cuánto es Demasiado?	12
ACLU Settles with Douglas County Schools Over Arrest of Student with Autism	13
Denver International Airport Announces New Chief of Staff	13
N.M. Supreme Court Upholds Redrawn Congressional Map	14
El Tribunal Supremo de N.M. Confirma el Nuevo Mapa del Congreso	14
Sioux Tribes Want U.S. to Come Clean on Treaty Deceit	16





LUMINOVA IS BACK!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

LUMINOVA
HOLIDAYS®

FEATURED AT
FLITCH
Gardens

Can Colorado Create a State DACA?

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Advisory Board

If DACA has been legally wounded, can Colorado heal it at least for our residents? The situation with DACA/Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is currently grim nationally, with little hope of external recovery if left to bide its own time. Colorado's young residents who in previous years could have planned on applying for and receiving DACA certification are now prohibited from its attendant safeguards, albeit current recipients as of July 16, 2021 may retain it "temporarily," as we explain below. *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* Advisory Board therefore urges a new path, for Denver and Colorado to develop its own Colorado DACA to protect our youth.

The challenges facing our young undocumented Denver and Colorado residents are numerous, but surmountable. The current definition of DACA rests on two ideas: 1) **deferred action**, meaning deferring, or setting aside, or suspending a certain action, in this case deportation or other negative legal action; and 2), for **childhood arrivals**, referring to young children who at approximately seven years of age arrived in Colorado, an age at which it is impossible for them to break any law. Put

those together—**D+A+C+A**—and we have the program that for so many in our state has spelled a degree of faith that they will be treated with some degree of respect and propriety normally afforded children.

“

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario requests of our readers their thoughts and recommendations about our call for at least a Denver and Colorado DACA, along with as many other cities in our state that would join with us in this effort. Our children should expect no less from us.

A comprehensive explanation of DACA is beyond the scope of this current article, but *El Semanario* will provide forthcoming updates. For now, what has become of DACA can be readily outlined. In 2012, President Barack Obama created the program with a Presidential Executive Order, with then-Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano drafting the configurations of DACA, including the essential

“prosecutorial discretion” especially of deportation, or its euphemism, “removal.” It came with several requirements, including arrival in the U.S. before the age of 16, continual residence since June 15, 2007, and “currently in school, have graduated or obtained a GED certificate, or that they have been honorably discharged from the military,” among others (National Immigration Forum, Fact Sheet: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)).

The fault line in DACA appeared on July 16, 2021, necessitating *El Semanario* to appeal to our readers to join with us in attempting to establish a Colorado DACA. It had faced near-constant opposition from its political and legal forces, but with successful preservation efforts from its supporters. But on July 16, 2021, U. S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen in Texas ruled against DACA, specifically forbidding any new applicants from being granted DACA certification and its attendant protections. The case against it had been brought by Texas and eight other *amici* states, or “Friends of the Court.”

As members of *El Semanario's* Advisory Board have explained elsewhere, the signatories stated in that lawsuit:

The Plaintiff States argue... that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is illegal because its creation violated, and its continued existence violates, the procedural and substantive aspect of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) as well as the “Take Care Clause” of the U.S. Constitution (page 2).



The Plaintiffs, *Texas Et. Al.*, argued against DACA certification for children who “came to the United States under the age of sixteen,” and “honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States,” and all other DACA recipients who fulfilled the original requirements as of its 2012 establishment. We note especially the dictate *against* “honorably discharged veteran[s],” allowed previously in DACA, but now rescinded for those now denied the right to apply. Therefore, since July 16, 2021, for the last 2 years and 4 months, no new

DACA eligible individuals have been able to apply to become DACA recipients, including Military veterans.

We add that those who had received DACA as of July 16, 2021, have been allowed to maintain it, with the requirement, as formerly, that they re-apply every two years; as Judge Hanen wrote in his decision, they may retain such coverage “temporarily” pending further decisions by him or another Federal judge or the U.S. Supreme Court.

See **DACA** on page 21

¿Puede Colorado Crear Una DACA para el Estado?

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Consejo Asesor

Si DACA ha sido herido legalmente, ¿puede Colorado curarlo al menos para nuestros residentes? La situación con DACA/Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia es actualmente sombría a nivel nacional, con pocas esperanzas de recuperación externa si se deja esperar su propio ti-

“

El Semanario solicita a nuestros lectores sus pensamientos y recomendaciones sobre nuestro llamado para al menos un DACA en Denver y Colorado, junto con otras tantas ciudades en nuestro estado que se unirían a nosotros en este esfuerzo. Nuestros hijos no deben esperar menos de nosotros.

empo. Los jóvenes residentes de Colorado que en años anteriores podrían



haber planeado solicitar y recibir la certificación DACA ahora tienen prohibidas sus salvaguardias concomitantes, aunque los actuales beneficiarios a partir del 16 de julio de 2021 pueden mantenerla “temporalmente”, como explicamos a continuación. Por lo tanto, el Consejo Asesor de *Weekly Issue/El Semanario* urge un nuevo camino, para

que Denver y Colorado desarrollen su propia DACA de Colorado para proteger a nuestros jóvenes.

Los retos que enfrentan nuestros jóvenes indocumentados residentes de Denver y Colorado son numerosos, pero superables. La definición actual de

Vea **DACA/Esp**, página 18

Society Is Beginning to Repay a Debt of Gratitude to Latina Mothers

Javier Sierra

Giving birth is one of humanity's most generous acts. We all are indebted to our mother for all our lives. Society, however, all too often exacts a steep emotional and economic price for it. Millions of pregnant and recent mothers, including a disproportionate number of Latinas, suffer discrimination, abuses and loss of employment just because they decide to become mothers.

Cristel, employed as an electrician assistant in the New York City construction sector, showed a note from her doctor requiring limitations in lifting weights and climbing stairs due to her pregnancy. Her employer rejected it and suggested that she take a leave of absence. "When I became pregnant, I

was afraid I would face discrimination, and I did," she remembers.

“

When I became pregnant, I was afraid I would face discrimination, and I did.”
Cristel

Victoria worked in custodial services in South Carolina. She showed a similar doctor's note to her employer, asking only not to lift anything heavier than 20 pounds. Her employer responded by forcing her to take a leave without pay. "It's important to know that having a baby inside your belly is not a sickness", she says.

Situations like these repeat themselves in the Latino community, who has the country's highest birthrate—63.5% versus 54.4% of white women— and, tragically, one of the highest mortality rates, including a distressing 44% increase during the pandemic.

"Our research and experience show that pregnant and postpartum Latinas across the country disproportionately confront discrimination, unfair treatment, and are too often forced off the job just because they choose to become mothers," said Dina Bakst, Co-Founder and Co-President of A Better Balance, a national nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to advancing justice for workers. "All too often, Latinas are unaware that this harsh treatment is illegal and that there is a new, national law that is on their side."



Victoria called the Línea de Ayuda and recovered her job. / Victoria llamó a la Línea de Ayuda y recuperó su empleo. (Photo/Foto: A Better Balance)

She talks about the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA)—which went into effect in June and is already one of the most significant civil rights victo-

ries our country has seen in decades. The law ensures that pregnant and

See Sierra on page 22

La Sociedad Empieza a Pagar una Deuda de Gratitud a Madres

Javier Sierra

Dar a luz es uno de los actos más generosos del ser humano. Todos estaremos en deuda con nuestra madre toda nuestra vida. La sociedad, sin embargo, demasiado a menudo cobra un elevado precio emocional y económico por la maternidad. Millones de embarazadas y madres recientes, incluyendo un desproporcionado número de latinas, sufren discriminación, abusos y pérdida de empleo solo porque deciden ser madres.

Cristel, empleada como asistente de electricista en una obra de Nueva York, mostró una nota de su doctor que requería limitaciones en levantar cargas pesadas y subir escaleras. Su empleador la rechazó y le sugirió que se tomara una excedencia. "Cuando me quedé embarazada, temí sufrir discriminación, y así fue", recuerda.

Victoria trabajaba en servicios de custodia en Carolina del Sur cuando también mostró una nota similar de su doctor tras quedar embarazada. Ella solo pedía descansos y no tener que levantar pesos mayores de 20 libras. Su empleador respondió obligándola a tomar una excedencia sin paga. "Es importante saber que tener un bebé en la panza no es una enfermedad", dice Victoria.

Situaciones como estas se repiten en una comunidad con la mayor tasa de natalidad del país—63.5% contra el 54.4% de las mujeres blancas—y, trágicamente, también una de las mayores tasas de mortalidad, incluyendo un preocupante aumento del 44% durante la pandemia.

"Nuestras investigaciones y experiencia muestran que latinas embarazadas o madres recientes de todo el país desproporcionadamente confrontan

discriminación, trato injusto y a menudo se les obliga a abandonar sus empleos solo porque eligen ser madres", dice Dina Bakst, cofundadora y copresidenta de A Better Balance (*Un Mejor Balance*), una organización de defensa legal sin fines de lucro dedicada a avanzar la justicia de los trabajadores. "Con demasiada frecuencia, las latinas desconocen que este maltrato es ilegal y que hay una nueva ley que está de su parte".

Se trata de la Ley de Equidad de Trabajadoras Embarazadas (PWFA)—ratificada en junio y considerada ya como una de las victorias de derechos civiles más significativas en décadas. La legis-

lación crucialmente asegura que a mujeres embarazadas o madres recientes no se les obligue a abandonar sus empleos y reciban los arreglos necesarios para proteger su salud, sin sufrir discriminación, represalias ni pérdida de paga.

Además, la PWFA garantiza lo siguiente:

- Trabajo ligero o ayuda con trabajo manual o extenuante
- Descansos para ir al baño, beber agua, comer o aliviarse del calor
- Tiempo libre para citas prenatales y postnatales y recuperación tras el parto
- Optar por teletrabajo

"Gracias a la Ley de Equidad de Trabajadoras Embarazadas, latinas encinta y madres recientes finalmente pueden recibir equidad, dignidad y justicia legal", agregó Bakst. "Pero la ley es solo efectiva si las trabajadoras saben que existe. A Better Balance está comprometida a ayudar a empoderar a la comunidad latina con información crucial sobre la ley y el apoyo que necesitan para ejercer sus derechos en el trabajo".

La organización tiene disponible una Línea de Ayuda gratuita y confidencial (1-833-633-3222) que ofrece servicios legales bilingües, y acaba de lanzar una guía para trabajadoras embarazadas y madres recientes en español, la cual explica la ley claramente, e incluye ejemplos de cartas que pueden enviar a sus empleadores y vínculos a otros recursos bilingües.

Estos recursos realmente ayudan. Cristel y Victoria tomaron la iniciativa

llamando a la Línea de Ayuda, gracias a la cual aprendieron cómo combatir la discriminación, y una vez que explicaron los requisitos de la ley a sus empleadores, ambas fueron contratadas de nuevo y recibieron el trato justo que garantiza la legislación.

“

Cuando me quedé embarazada, temí sufrir discriminación, y así fue.”
Cristel

Es solo un pago de la deuda de gratitud que la sociedad debe a madres de todo el país.

Javier Sierra es Portavoz de A Better Balance.

Leer Más Comentarios:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



I Help Seniors Get Health Care. Shouldn't I Be Able to Afford My Own?

Christina Jemenez

As a federal customer service representative, I help seniors access the health care they need through Medicare. I often handle hundreds of calls per day to sign people up, answer their questions, help them navigate billing, and more.

“

The hard truth is that despite working for the largest federal call center contractor, Maximus, I don't have access to affordable health coverage for myself or children.

The hard truth is that despite working for the largest federal call

center contractor, Maximus, I don't have access to affordable health coverage for myself or children, and my pay is so low I'm struggling to stay afloat. That's why I went on strike this November with hundreds of my co-workers who are experiencing similar struggles.

It's not easy navigating our health care system, and I take pride in making sure the process is as painless as possible for seniors who feel frustrated by it. Sadly, I know that feeling all too well.

Unlike workers directly employed by the government, who are paid living wages and receive good benefits, I make \$16.20 per hour — the minimum allowed for federal contract workers. My children and I live in a home that's owned by my children's grandparents. If it wasn't for their help, we'd likely be homeless.

While Maximus rakes in billions in federal dollars, I've had to go with-

out meals to ensure my children have food on the table. Over a year ago, my son had an allergic reaction and had to go to the emergency room. I still have medical debt from that visit because my health insurance from Maximus doesn't cover a lot of costs, and I can't afford the bill.

Nobody should have to endure this kind of hardship, especially while working for a company with a \$6.6 billion federal contract that's spent \$20 million on CEO pay and hundreds of millions of dollars on stock buybacks.

As our one-day strike showed, I'm not the only one struggling at Maximus. A new report shows that nine in ten surveyed workers at Maximus report having medical debt or having to avoid or postpone medical treatment due to cost. And 91 percent report earning significantly less than the living wage needed to sustain a household with children.



Our employer is well aware of these issues. In the call center where I work, Maximus announced a program that asks us to donate used clothing for co-workers who may not be able to afford new clothes. It would be better to simply pay us a living wage.

In our call centers in Mississippi, Florida, Arizona, Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana, many of my coworkers are Black and Latina women like myself. We make up close to a majority of the lowest-paid workers at the company. This is not a coincidence.

We've been sounding the alarm for years about this, and we've been disappointed by the failure of the Biden administration, which pays Maximus to run its Affordable Care Act and Medicare call centers, to make things better.

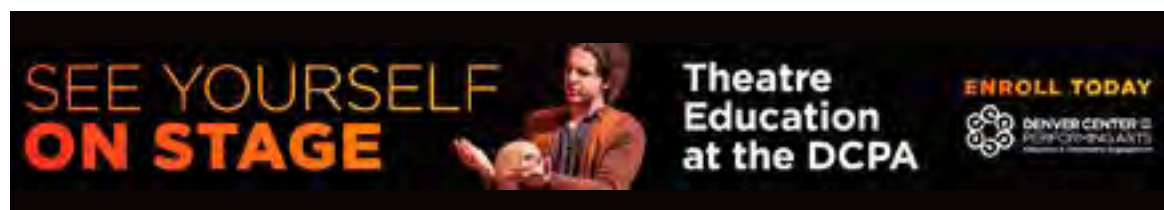
The administration has the power to use public money to ensure contractors like Maximus pay living wages and engage in fair employment practices. Yet they awarded Maximus another massive contract just last year — and haven't taken any steps to address our demands for living wages and affordable health care.

We need the administration to follow through on its commitment to use federal dollars to create good jobs and end the two-tier system in which we're expected to do similar work to federal employees but aren't paid enough to support our families.

The Biden administration says they believe healthcare is a right not a privilege, that federal money should be used to create good jobs, and that Black women are the backbone of their coalition. I stand with hundreds of my co-workers to say: prove it.

Christina Jemenez is customer service representative at the Maximus Federal call center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

Read More Commentary:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



CLIMBER LOAN FUND

\$10k-\$500k loans for working capital

CLIMBER: Small Business Recovery Program

Strength of a Volcano

Michelle Fonseca

When Miss Nicaragua won Miss Universe this month, I cried for joy. I felt at last that my culture had gained recognition from people worldwide.

It may seem odd — as a young Nicaraguan woman, why would progressive members of my generation pay attention to beauty pageants today? But this year's Miss Universe, held in San Salvador on November 18, was more than a win for beauty. For many viewers, this was one of the few positive modern presentations of these cultures that didn't centralize dictatorship, poverty or crime.

In fact, when Sheynnis Palacios won the contest as Miss Nicaragua, I saw that even the men I knew, and men on social media, were not only watching with women for the first time but were moved to tears by the win, saying, 'We get it now,' or that this year's competition was as important for them as the World Cup.

Nor were her fans just Nicaraguan — when she won, the whole stadium stood up, and other competitors representing countries all around the world hugged her and looked genuinely ecstatic that she won, a display of sisterhood I have never seen before.

The contest was historic in other ways, as for the first time it featured two transgender women (Miss Portugal and Miss Netherlands), the first married women and mothers (Miss Guatemala and Miss Colombia), and the first plus-size model (Miss Nepal). Before the competition was bought by Thai transgender woman and entrepreneur Anne Jakrajutatip in 2022 and

she revised the rules, mothers, married people and divorcees could not even compete.

While the pageant remains a beauty competition, it's grown to mean much more than that since the days when it was owned by Donald Trump. It's grown to become a worldwide affirmation that just because you don't fit a certain size or background does not mean that you aren't beautiful, or that you can't achieve your dreams.

Palacios' win this year moved me because of how much I connected with her own background.

“

It reminds me that your background doesn't preclude you from reaching your dreams.

Here was a 23-year-old woman, completely open about her humble beginnings selling simple street food in order to complete her education while pursuing her dreams by moving up the ranks of various beauty competitions from the age of 15 onward. Having later immigrated with her mother to San Francisco, where I also live, Palacios became the main breadwinner for her family while working to graduate from college.

I saw myself in her struggle, as I recently got my master's degree as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Although I stayed in the city to attend San Francisco State, while continuing to

See Fonseca on page 17

Medicare Expands the Roster of Available Mental Health Professionals



Judith Graham

Lynn Cooper was going through an awful time. After losing her job in 2019, she became deeply depressed. Then the covid-19 pandemic hit, and her anxiety went through the roof. Then her cherished therapist — a marriage and family counselor — told Cooper she couldn't see her once Cooper turned 65 and joined Medicare.

"I was stunned," said Cooper, who lives in Pittsburgh and depends on counseling to maintain her psychological balance. "I've always had the best health insurance a person could have. Then I turned 65 and went on Medi-

care, and suddenly I had trouble getting mental health services."

The issue: For decades, Medicare has covered only services provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and psychiatric nurses. But with rising demand and many people willing to pay privately for care, 45% of psychiatrists and 54% of psychologists don't participate in the program. Citing low payments and bureaucratic hassles, more than 124,000 behavioral health practitioners have opted out of Medicare — the most of any medical specialty.

As a result, older adults anxious about worsening health or depressed by the loss of family and friends have substantial difficulty finding professional help. Barriers to care are made more acute by prejudices associated with mental illness and by ageism, which leads some health professionals to minimize older adults' suffering.

Now, relief may be at hand as a series of legislative and regulatory

See [Medicare](#) on page 19

Medicare Amplía Su Lista de Profesionales de Salud Mental

Judith Graham

Lynn Cooper estaba pasando por un momento difícil. Tras perder su trabajo en 2019, se deprimió profundamente. Luego llegó la pandemia de covid-19 y su ansiedad se disparó. Para colmo, su psicóloga, que se especializa en terapia de pareja y familia, le dijo a Cooper que no podría seguir viéndola cuando cumpliera 65 años y se afiliara a Medicare.

"Me quedé atónita", dijo Cooper, que vive en Pittsburgh y depende de la terapia para mantener su equilibrio emocional. "Siempre he tenido el mejor seguro médico que se puede tener. Luego cumplí 65 y pasé a Medicare, y de repente tuve problemas para conseguir servicios de salud mental".

Durante décadas, Medicare ha cubierto servicios de salud mental ofrecidos por psiquiatras, psicólogos, trabajadores sociales licenciados y enfermeras psiquiátricas. Pero a medida que ha aumentado la demanda y la cantidad de gente dispuesta a pagar especialistas privados, el 45% de los psiquiatras y el 54% de los psicólogos

no participan en el programa. Argumentando pagos bajos y problemas administrativos, más de 124,000 profesionales de la salud mental han decidido no participar en Medicare, más proveedores que en cualquier otra especialidad médica.

Como resultado, a los adultos mayores ansiosos por complicaciones de salud o deprimidos por la pérdida de familiares y amigos les resulta muy difícil conseguir ayuda profesional.

Los prejuicios sobre las afecciones mentales y la discriminación por edad hacen que algunos profesionales no tomen en serio el sufrimiento de las personas mayores, profundizando las barreras de acceso a la atención.

Ahora, esta situación podría mejorar con la llegada de cambios legislativos y regulatorios que ampliarán la lista de profesionales de salud mental de Medicare. Por primera vez, a partir de enero, se permitirá que terapeutas de pareja y familia y consejeros de salud mental brinden servicios a pacientes del programa. Este grupo de unos

Vea [Graham/Esp](#), página 20



UN SEGURO MÉDICO PUEDE
PROTEGER LO MAS IMPORTANTE:

TU FAMILIA
Y TU SALUD

Los expertos de Connect for Health Colorado pueden ayudarte de manera gratuita, a elegir el mejor plan disponible para tus necesidades.

¡Inscríbete antes del 15 de diciembre!

Contrata un plan del mercado oficial de seguros de salud en Colorado aquí:

ConnectforHealthCO.com/es | 855-752-6749



Tattoo Artist Heals by Erasing the Markers of Trauma

By Ana Aragon Sierra

Gina Jernukian was working part time when she began to notice something in her tattoo studio that made her uneasy.

"I started having strange tattoos and strange men in my studio," she said. "I mean, I was taken aback. They were rude. They were mean. The girl didn't speak at all – only the guy did, and he would yell at me."

“

Many victims are branded by their traffickers with tattoos conveying ownership, including names, symbols, and barcodes.

"So I finally asked someone, 'What is this?' And a friend of mine said, 'It's probably a branding.' I said, 'What?' I had no idea. I had no idea. I didn't know."

Jernukian, a permanent makeup artist who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, decided to find out more. She did some

online research and attended meetings of groups that were all too familiar with branding – the practice of tattooing or marking sex trafficking victims, mostly women, with the names or symbols of those who victimize them.

Over half of sex trafficking survivors have a branding mark that affects their mental health and impedes their healing and reintegration into society.

A 2022 study that surveyed over 80 survivors in the U.S. showed they rated the need and impact of free laser-removal services at a high level for recovery.

"Many victims are branded by their traffickers with tattoos conveying ownership, including names, symbols, and barcodes," researchers wrote. "We believe there is a greater need at a national level to support these survivors, allowing them to reclaim their bodies."

Jernukian refused to continue being inadvertently complicit. She founded Soul Survivor Ink, a national nonprofit organization that helps survivors of human trafficking find providers near them who can cover, remove and lighten branding tattoos. The service has expanded to 39 locations in the U.S., with several locations in Arizona and Texas.



Soul Survivors Ink founder Gina Jernukian removes a tattoo that was a branding mark from a survivor of human trafficking. The process includes brightening the skin in the inked area and camouflaging the mark. / La fundadora de Soul Survivors Ink, Gina Jernukian, elimina un tatuaje que era una marca de una superviviente de la trata de seres humanos. El proceso incluye dar brillo a la piel de la zona entintada y camuflar la marca. (Photo by Hunter Fore/Cronkite News)

Removing the evidence of trauma is a complex and usually costly process. Jernukian and her partner artists do so for free.

Although there are organizations that help survivors, Jernukian said that branding removal is an area that is neglected.

"Some of the first things that programs will do is get them medical treatment, dental, housing, food, clothing," Jernukian said. "They'll sign them up for school, some counseling, meditation, but one thing they don't offer is branding removal or cover-ups. So even though they're starting to heal on the inside, they're still not healed on the outside. They have to look at this every single day, and it brings them right back to where they were."

Traffickers mark skin as a message

There were more than 10,360 cases of human trafficking, involving 16,710 individuals in 2021 alone, according to the most extensive sex trafficking data sets in the U.S., the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Experts say that is likely only a fraction of the true number.

According to the Polaris Project, a nationwide organization that combats sex trafficking, nearly 75% of sex trafficking victims are women. Although data is difficult to come by, various sources estimate that up to half of victims have been branded by their traffickers.

Sometimes the women are branded with a tattoo, and sometimes, Jernukian said, "the trafficker can take a knife and carve a symbol on their head or on their body. And then, even going further than branding, sometimes they're burned."

Tattoos are usually black and white and common themes are money and loyalty, according to Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, director of the Sex Trafficking Intervention Research office at Arizona State University. The markings can be prominent on the victim's face or neck to send a message to the victim and the world.

"But sometimes it's hidden; it's near their body, their private parts – that is

really a message to buyers or other traffickers," she said.

Not only do traffickers use branding as a way to show ownership, said Roe-Sepowitz, but "for the victim, there's also the psychology of 'I belong to him.' This is a connection that feels very real. And her trauma bond with him is deepened by the tattoo or the brand or the scarring."

As a permanent makeup artist, Jernukian had the skills to help, so she reached out to local organizations in 2014 and said, "Hey, this is what I do. Send me anyone for free. Just send them."

At first, only a couple of women came to her for help. Then, she began getting calls from trafficking shelters twice a month. "And it grew and grew," Jernukian said. "People were driving three, four hours to come see me ... It started blowing up. I thought, 'I don't know how to do this. I don't know how to help so many people.'"

"Then I was reminded that the Lord does not call the equipped. He equips the called. And so that was it. It took off and... we founded Soul Survivor Ink."

Healing by erasing the markers of trauma

Every time a sex trafficking survivor looks at a forced branding, it can feel as if they are still in bondage, Jernukian said. Some survivors say that "it physically hurts, like they can feel it, and some even try to scrape it off themselves."

But many organizations that help survivors aren't aware of the significance of this kind of trauma, and how it impacts a survivor's mental and emotional health, making it harder to heal.

When working with survivors, tattoo removal often feels like a bonus compared to health care, housing, and

mi hogar: sitio en español sobre la compra de vivienda

CHFA le acompaña a cada paso del camino



colorado housing and finance authority

El Tatuador Se Cura Borrando las Marcas del Trauma

Por Ana Aragón Sierra

Gina Jernukian trabajaba a tiempo parcial cuando empezó a notar algo en su estudio de tatuajes que la inquietaba.

“Empecé a tener tatuajes extraños y hombres extraños en mi estudio”, cuenta. “Me sorprendieron. Eran groseros. Eran malos. La chica no hablaba, sólo el chico, y me gritaba”.

“Así que al final le pregunté a alguien: ‘¿Qué es esto? Y un amigo me dijo: ‘Probablemente sea una marca’. Yo dije: ‘¿Qué? No tenía ni idea. No tenía ni idea. No lo sabía’.

Jernukian, maquilladora permanente que vive en Phoenix (Arizona), decidió averiguar más. Investigó en Internet y asistió a reuniones de grupos muy familiarizados con el branding, la práctica de tatuar o marcar a las víctimas del tráfico sexual, en su mayoría mujeres, con los nombres o símbolos de quienes las victimizan.

Más de la mitad de los supervivientes del tráfico sexual tienen una marca que afecta a su salud mental e impide su curación y reintegración en la sociedad.

“

Muchas víctimas son marcadas por sus traficantes con tatuajes que transmiten propiedad, incluyendo nombres, símbolos y códigos de barras”.

Un estudio realizado en 2022 en el que se encuestó a más de 80 supervivientes en EE.UU. demostró que éstas valoraban muy positivamente la necesidad y el impacto de los servicios gratuitos de eliminación de marcas con láser para su recuperación.

“Muchas víctimas son marcadas por sus traficantes con tatuajes que transmiten propiedad, incluyendo nombres, símbolos y códigos de barras”, escribieron los investigadores. “Creemos que existe una mayor necesidad a nivel nacional de apoyar a estas supervivientes, permitiéndoles reclamar sus cuerpos”.

Jernukian se negó a seguir siendo cómplice involuntaria. Fundó Soul Survivor Ink, una organización nacional sin ánimo de lucro que ayuda a las supervivientes de la trata de seres humanos a encontrar proveedores cercanos que puedan cubrir, eliminar y aclarar los tatuajes de marca. El servicio se ha ampliado a 39 centros en Estados Unidos, con varios en Arizona y Texas, y dos en Colorado.

Eliminar las pruebas del trauma es un proceso complejo y normalmente costoso. Jernukian y sus artistas asociados lo hacen gratuitamente.

Aunque hay organizaciones que ayudan a los supervivientes, Jernukian afirma que la eliminación de marcas es un área que se descuida.

“Algunas de las primeras cosas que harán los programas es conseguirles tratamiento médico, dental, vivienda, comida, ropa”, dijo Jernukian. “Los inscriben en la escuela, les ofrecen asesoramiento y meditación, pero lo que no les ofrecen es la eliminación de la marca o el encubrimiento. Así que, aunque empiezan a curarse por dentro, todavía no lo están por fuera. Tienen que mirar esto todos los días, y les devuelve directamente a donde estaban”.

Los traficantes marcan la piel como mensaje

Sólo en 2021 se produjeron más de 10.360 casos de trata de seres humanos, en los que se vieron implicadas 16.710 personas, según el conjunto de datos sobre trata sexual más extenso de Estados Unidos, el National Human Trafficking Hotline. Los expertos dicen que es probable que sea sólo una fracción de la cifra real.

Según el Proyecto Polaris, una organización nacional que lucha contra el tráfico sexual, casi el 75% de las víctimas del tráfico sexual son mujeres. Aunque es difícil obtener datos, diversas fuentes estiman que hasta la mitad de las víctimas han sido marcadas por sus traficantes.

A veces las mujeres son marcadas con un tatuaje, y a veces, dijo Jernukian, “el traficante puede tomar un cuchillo y tallar un símbolo en su cabeza o en su cuerpo. Y luego, incluso yendo más allá de la marca, a veces las queman”.

Los tatuajes suelen ser en blanco y negro y los temas habituales son el dinero y la lealtad, según Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, directora de la oficina de Investigación de Intervención en el Tráfico Sexual de la Universidad Estatal de Arizona.

Las marcas pueden ser prominentes en la cara o el cuello de la víctima para enviar un mensaje a la víctima y al mundo.

“Pero a veces están ocultas, cerca del cuerpo, en las partes íntimas, lo que en realidad es un mensaje para los compradores u otros traficantes”, explica.

Según Roe-Sepowitz, los traficantes no sólo utilizan la marca como forma de demostrar su propiedad, sino que “para la víctima también existe la psicología de ‘yo le pertenezco’. Es una conexión que se siente muy real. Y su vínculo traumático con él se profundiza con el tatuaje o la marca o la cicatriz”.

Como artista de maquillaje permanente, Jernukian tenía las habilidades para ayudar, así que se acercó a las organizaciones locales en 2014 y dijo: “Oye, esto es lo que hago. Envíenme a cualquiera gratis. Solo envíenlas”.



La fundadora de Soul Survivors Ink, Gina Jernukian, elimina un tatuaje que era una marca de una superviviente de la trata de seres humanos. El proceso consiste en retirar la capa dérmica superior de la piel para eliminar la tinta. / *Soul Survivors Ink founder Gina Jernukian removes a tattoo that was a branding mark from a survivor of human trafficking. The process involves removing the top derma layer of skin to remove the ink. (Foto/Photo: Hunter Fore/Cronkite News)*

Al principio, solo un par de mujeres acudieron a ella en busca de ayuda. Luego, empezó a recibir llamadas de refugios de trata dos veces al mes. “Y creció y creció”, dijo Jernukian. “La gente conducía tres o cuatro horas para venir a verme... Empezó a explotar. Pensé: ‘No sé cómo hacer esto. No sé cómo ayudar a tanta gente’.

“Entonces recordé que el Señor no llama a los equipados. Él equipa a los

llamados. Y así fue. Despegó y... fundamos Soul Survivor Ink”.

Sanar borrando las marcas del trauma

Cada vez que un superviviente del tráfico sexual mira una marca forzada, puede sentir como si siguiera esclavizado, dijo Jernukian. Algunos supervivientes dicen que “duele físicamente, como si pudieran sentirlo, y algunos in-

cluso intentan rasparlo ellos mismos”.

Pero muchas organizaciones que ayudan a los supervivientes no son conscientes de la importancia de este tipo de trauma y de cómo afecta a la salud mental y emocional del superviviente, dificultando su curación.

Cuando se trabaja con supervivientes, la eliminación de tatuajes suele

Vea **Trauma/Esp**, página 23



MSU Denver Secures Funding to Offer Paid Fellowships to Undocumented Students

COLORADO

By Keylen Villagrana

Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU) has secured three years of funding to pilot paid short-term fellowships for TheDream.US scholars through a national nonprofit focused on the academic success of those students.

Six students are already participating in TheDream.US Experiential Fellowship Program at MSU Denver, which started in the fall semester. The University is the only institution of higher education in Colorado to receive three-year funding for the fellowship program. The fellowships are project-based and tailored to a student's academic and research interests, as well as skill development for their desired career paths.

MSU Denver has previously offered internships for college credit to undocumented students, but the lack of compensation adds to the challenges faced by students who are juggling school and jobs.

"This really opens up opportunities for students, independent of challenges or barriers they might face to accessing meaningful professional-development or academic-development opportunities," said Gregor Mieder, director of Immigrant Services at MSU Denver.

Italu Ramos Hernández, a junior majoring in Art and minoring in Industrial Design, is the fellow for MSU Denver's Center for Visual Art. She is researching and summarizing literature about best practices for museum outreach and engagement, providing recommendations and helping to implement them into the gallery space.

"It's been very valuable to learn about engagement methods used by different art galleries across the country



MSU Denver student Italu Ramos Hernández, a junior majoring in Art and minoring in Industrial Design, is the fellow for MSU Denver's Center for Visual Art. / Italu Ramos Hernández, estudiante de tercer ciclo de Arte y Diseño Industrial, es la becaria del Centro de Arte Visual de la MSU Denver. (Photo/Foto: Alyson McClaran)

and develop my research skills, which is not often the case for art majors," said Ramos Hernández. "Being able to connect with the community will help my career in ways I didn't have access to before."

Working with CVA Education Manager Katie Taft, who submitted the project application, Ramos Hernández has already provided many recommendations, including ways to engage visitors at different levels through gallery guides and improved tour structures.

The fellowships allow students to contribute to research initiatives and gain hands-on experience. At MSU

Denver, faculty and staff members can submit their projects for consideration. Once selected, eligible TheDream.US scholars can apply to the list of approved fellowships.

Providing funding for undocumented students has always been a challenge at MSU Denver, said Alyssa Marks, director of Faculty Engagement and Experiential Learning at MSU Denver. "This has just been a really unique and awesome space for us — to actually have the ability to provide funding for undocumented students," she said.

See Undocumented on page 23

Salud Family Health

We are here for you!

MEDICAL PHARMACY
DENTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Aurora	Fort Morgan
Brighton	Fort Morgan High School
Brighton Women's Center	Frederick
Commerce City	Longmont
Estes Park	Mobile Unit
Fort Collins	Sterling
Fort Lupton	Trinidad

CALL US TODAY!
(303) MYSALUD
(303) 697-2583

We accept Medicaid, Medicare, CHP+, and most private insurance plans. Salud offers a sliding fee payment scale based on family size and income. Insurance enrollment assistance is available.

saludclinic.org

MSU Denver Consigue Financiación para Ofrecer Becas Remuneradas a Estudiantes Indocumentados

COLORADO

Por Keylen Villagrana

La Universidad Estatal Metropolitana de Denver ha conseguido tres años de financiación para ofrecer becas de corta duración remuneradas a los becarios de TheDream.US a través de una organización nacional sin ánimo de lucro centrada en el éxito académico de estos estudiantes.

Seis estudiantes participan ya en el Programa de Becas Experienciales TheDream.US en MSU Denver, que comenzó en el semestre de otoño. La Universidad es la única institución de enseñanza superior de Colorado que ha recibido financiación trienal para el programa de becas. Las becas se basan en proyectos y se adaptan a los intereses académicos y de investigación de los estudiantes, así como al desarrollo de habilidades para sus carreras profesionales deseadas.

MSU Denver ha ofrecido anteriormente prácticas con créditos universitarios a estudiantes indocumentados, pero la falta de compensación se suma a los retos a los que se enfrentan los estudiantes que compaginan estudios y trabajo.



La estudiante de MSU Denver Italu Ramos Hernández ha adquirido una valiosa experiencia profesional y contactos como becaria del Center for Visual Art. / MSU Denver student Italu Ramos Hernández has gained valuable career experience and connections as a fellow for the Center for Visual Art. (Foto/Photo: Alyson McClaran)

"Esto realmente abre oportunidades para los estudiantes, independientemente de los desafíos o barreras que puedan enfrentar para acceder a oportunidades significativas de desarrollo profesional o académico", dijo Gregor Mieder, director de Servicios para Inmigrantes de MSU Denver.

Italu Ramos Hernández, estudiante de tercer año de Arte y Diseño Industrial, es becaria del Centro de Artes Visuales de MSU Denver. Está investigando y resumiendo la literatura sobre las mejores prácticas para la divulgación y la participación en museos, propor-

cionando recomendaciones y ayudando a implementarlas en el espacio de la galería.

"Ha sido muy valioso aprender acerca de los métodos de participación utilizados por diferentes galerías de arte de todo el país y desarrollar mis habilidades de investigación, que no es a menudo el caso de los estudiantes de arte", dijo Ramos Hernández. "Ser capaz de conectar con la comunidad ayudará a mi carrera de maneras a las que antes no tenía acceso".

Vea Indocumentados, página 17

Paid Family Leave Portal Goes Live for Colorado Workers



Colorado's Family and Medical Leave Insurance Division now accepting applications for leave starting in 2024. / La División de Seguro de Licencia Familiar y Médica de Colorado ya acepta solicitudes para permisos a partir del 2024. (Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock)

COLORADO

The online portal where workers can start applying for paid family and medical leave under Colorado's new voter-approved insurance program is now up and running.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Division announced today that the My FAMLI+ portal will help Colorado workers apply for paid leave when it becomes available in January.

My FAMLI+ allows workers to apply for partial wage replacement when they need to temporarily step away from their jobs because of life events such as welcoming a new child, facing a serious health condition or caring for a loved one facing a medical condition.

Paid leave becomes available for almost all Colorado workers on Jan. 1, 2024. Opening the application portal more than a month early will help those who know they will need paid

See [Family](#) on page 18

El Portal de Permisos de FAMLI Pagados Se Pone en Funcionamiento para los Trabajadores de Colorado

COLORADO

Tres años después de que los votantes de Colorado aprobaron la creación de un nuevo programa de seguro para dar a los trabajadores acceso a beneficios de los permisos familiares y médicos pagados, ya está en funcionamiento el portal en línea donde los trabajadores pueden empezar a solicitar permisos pagados.

La División de Seguro de Licencia Familiar y Médica (FAMLI) del Departamento de Trabajo y Empleo de Colorado anunció hoy que el portal My FAMLI+ permitirá a los trabajadores de Colorado solicitar permisos pagados cuando se encuentre disponible en Enero.

My FAMLI+ permite a los trabajadores solicitar el reemplazo parcial del salario cuando necesitan ausentarse temporalmente de su trabajo debido a acontecimientos de la vida tales como dar la bienvenida a un nuevo miembro

de la familia (hijo(a)), enfrentarse a una enfermedad de salud grave o cuidar a un ser querido que enfrenta una enfermedad médica.

El permiso pagado estará disponible para casi todos los trabajadores de Colorado en enero de 1,2024. La apertura del portal de solicitudes con más de un mes de anticipación ayudará a aquellos que saben que necesitarán un permiso pagado en cuanto esté disponible para casos como darle la bienvenida a un nuevo hijo(a) o porque están planeando una cirugía mayor para principios del próximo año.

Para facilitar la navegación por el portal obtener y responder a las preguntas sobre cómo solicitar los beneficios FAMLI, la División FAMLI organizará tres foros virtuales estatales en inglés y español en Diciembre, Enero y Febrero en las fechas y horas que se indican a continuación:

Vea [FAMLI](#), página 23

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

**AHORA
1 DE ENERO**

**Varias noches, entre 17:00 a 20:00 h
(cerrado el 25 de diciembre)**

Explore un sendero curvo e iluminado,
un Mercado navideño (en ciertas noches)
y deliciosos bocadillos de la temporada.

Debe comprar boletos por adelantado.
**Para comprar boletos y para todos
los detalles vaya a botanicgardens.org**

**DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS**
Chatfield Farms

PATROCINADOR PRINCIPAL **Quantum FIBER** PATROCINADORES

Students in Colorado Are Missing a Lot of School. How Much is Too Much?

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

You might have seen recent headlines about the growing number of kids missing school.

In Colorado, just this fall, state officials said almost a third of students are chronically absent. The number has gone up significantly since the pandemic and schools are struggling to figure out how to get kids to return to classes.

Kids might miss school for a number of reasons, including for work, an illness, a lack of transportation, or to care for younger siblings. Absences also go up near the holidays as families

go on vacation and figure a few missed school days can't hurt.

But, regardless of the reason, research shows consistently missing school can affect a child's learning. Missed days can add up more quickly than you think. Here's what you should know:

What's the big deal? Why is missing school such a problem?

When kids miss school, they miss out on learning opportunities. Just a couple of missed days might mean a child can fall behind on several topics or lessons, and sometimes, there isn't a good way for them to easily catch up.

Research shows that students who miss a lot of school are more likely to not be able to read on grade level by

third grade, and later on are more likely to fail classes and drop out of school.

"Attendance matters and being engaged in learning matters," said Johann Liljengren, director of dropout prevention and student reengagement at the Colorado Department of Education.

Schools also stress attendance when Count Day comes up in October. Students must be enrolled and present in school during the window, so they can be counted and so the school receives state money for that student.

So, how many missed school days are too many?

The research that links bad outcomes to missing school usually looks at students missing just 10% of school time.



The number of students who are chronically absent has gone up significantly since the pandemic and schools are struggling to figure out how to get kids to return to classes. / En Colorado, casi un tercio de los estudiantes están crónicamente ausentes de la escuela. (Photo/Foto: Nicholas Garcia/Chalkbeat)

In Colorado, that would mean about two days a month, or about one day every other week. Over the course of the school year, that would add up to missing a whole month of school.

And in schools where classes are only four days per week, it's even easier to reach that 10% of missed time.

See [School](#) on page 23

Estudiantes en Colorado Están Faltando Mucho a la Escuela. ¿Cuánto es Demasiado?

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

Quizás hayas visto titulares recientes sobre el creciente número de estudiantes que faltan a la escuela.

En Colorado, solo este otoño, representantes estatales dijeron que casi un tercio de los estudiantes ha estado crónicamente ausentes. La cantidad ha aumentado significativamente desde la pandemia, y las escuelas están en

frentando desafíos para hacer que los estudiantes regresen a la escuela.

Los niños faltan a la escuela por varias razones, incluido por trabajo, enfermedad, falta de transporte o para cuidar a hermanos menores. Las ausencias también aumentan cerca de las temporadas festivas cuando las familias se van de vacaciones y piensan que un par de días sin ir a la escuela no daña a nadie.

Sin embargo, sin importar la razón, estudios demuestran que faltar a la escuela continuamente puede afectar el aprendizaje de un niño. Las faltas esco-

lares pueden acumularse más rápido de lo pensado. Esto es lo que debes saber:

¿Cuál es el problema? ¿Por qué es malo faltar a la escuela?

Cuando los niños faltan a la escuela, pierden la oportunidad de aprovechar oportunidades para aprender. Solo un par de ausencias pueden resultar en que un estudiante se retrase en varios temas o lecciones y, a veces, no hay una buena manera de ponerse al día.

Estudios demuestran que los estudiantes que faltan mucho a la escuela tienen mayor probabilidad de no poder

leer a nivel de grado en tercer grado, y más tarde tienen mayor probabilidad de reprobar sus clases y abandonar los estudios.

"La asistencia importa y participar [activamente] en el aprendizaje importa", dijo Johann Liljengren, director de prevención del abandono escolar y reincorporación estudiantil con el Departamento de Educación de Colorado.

Las escuelas también remarcen la asistencia cuando el Día del conteo se realiza en octubre. Los estudiantes deben estar inscritos y presentes en la escuela durante ese período para que se

los pueda contar, y así la escuela recibe dinero del estado por cada uno de esos estudiantes.

Entonces, ¿cuántas ausencias escolares son demasiadas?

Los estudios que conectan resultados negativos con las ausencias escolares usualmente examinan a estudiantes que faltan a la escuela solo el 10 por ciento del tiempo.

En Colorado, eso quiere decir como dos días al mes, o alrededor de un día cada dos semanas. A lo largo del año escolar, eso significa faltar a la escuela durante todo un mes.

Y en escuelas donde las clases son solo cuatro días por semana, es aún más fácil faltar el 10 por ciento del tiempo.

Vea [Escuela](#), página 16

DENVER CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

MAKE YOUR SEASON BRIGHT

DENVERCENTER.ORG
303.893.4100

CAMP Christmas

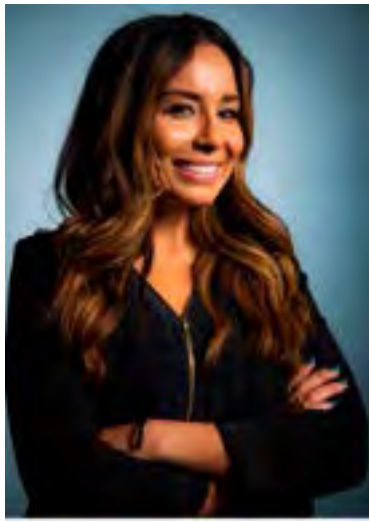
"A HIGHLIGHT of the holiday season!"
- S280

NOV 16 - DEC 24 **STANLEY MARKETPLACE**

"The region's **BEST PRODUCTION**"
- The Denver Post

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

NOV 17 - DEC 24 **WOLF THEATRE**



Maria G. Meleandez, New Chief of Staff at Denver International Airport. (Photo: Courtesy DIA)

Denver International Airport Announces New Chief of Staff

COLORADO

Denver International Airport (DEN) announced the appointment of María G. Meleandez as its Chief of Staff. As one of five executive vice presidents at the airport, she will be responsible for overseeing Government Affairs and Global Public Policy, Culture and Strategy and the Center of Equity and Excellence in Aviation, among other duties.

“

With the many critical initiatives we have underway at DEN, she is the ideal leader to ensure that we are moving projects and initiatives forward efficiently and with thoughtful and comprehensive input.”
Phil Washington, DEN CIO

Meleandez comes to DEN from The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) where she served as the Deputy Executive Officer. In an agency of 11,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8.5 billion, she worked to advance the implementation of high-impact, community centered workforce investments and both internal agency and outward facing programs and projects.

Prior to joining LA Metro, she excelled in numerous capacities, leading large-scale programs within education,

healthcare, and infrastructure industries. Meleandez holds a master's degree in business administration, is a licensed Registered Nurse, and Hudson-trained Executive Coach.

“María has a long and successful history of fostering inclusive environments,” said DEN CEO Phil Washington, “With the many critical initiatives we have underway at DEN, she is the ideal leader to ensure that we are moving projects and initiatives forward efficiently and with thoughtful and comprehensive input. María will make a great addition to the DEN Executive Team.”

Meleandez will begin her position at DEN on January 8, 2024.

For More Colorado News:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](https://www.ElSemanarioOnline.com)

ACLU Settles with Douglas County Schools Over Arrest of Student with Autism

COLORADO

By Suzie Glassman

The Douglas County School District, the local sheriff's office and three school-assigned officers agreed last week to settle a lawsuit brought against them by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Colorado for their handling of an 11-year-old student with autism on Aug. 29, 2019, at Sagewood Middle School.

After a classmate wrote with markers on the student, identified as A.V., the student became upset and poked the classmate with a pencil. The student was in the process of calming down with the school psychologist when the officers arrested him.

The officers, who are often referred to as school resource officers, placed him in a patrol car for hours while he banged his head. Rather than seek medical attention, the officers took him to a juvenile detention center, where his parents were later allowed to place bail for \$25,000.

After none of the officers involved were disciplined for the way they handled the child, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on March 21, 2021, on behalf of A.V.'s parents. The lawsuit claimed the Douglas County School District and the Douglas County Sheriff failed to properly train the officers. The district contracts with the sheriff to place law enforcement in its schools.

According to the lawsuit, “The Sheriff's policies state that all officers are trained in recognizing mental health and related disorders, including autism, and trained in de-escalation techniques. But in reality, SROs receive little or no training on interacting with students with disabilities, how to approach such students, how to de-escalate such students, how to keep these students safe, or when to seek medical attention for such students.”

The SROs were Sydney Nicholson, Lyle Peterson and Daniel Coyle.

After more than two years in court, the ACLU announced Nov. 22 that all of the parties named in the suit agreed to a settlement offer.

“Pursuant to the settlement, the defendants have agreed to require advanced training for any SROs assigned to the Douglas County School District, to include training created by the disability rights community that will

improve interactions between law enforcement and students with disabilities,” said the ACLU.

“The defendants will also ensure that all SROs review the Behavioral Improvement Plans (a written improvement plan to help students who struggle with behavior issues in class) specific to each student and comply with those plans when interacting with the student. Important reporting requirements will also ensure that the

SROs are complying with de-escalation techniques consistent with students' plans,” the ACLU stated.

According to an ACLU press release, “Douglas County had a disturbing record of disproportionately putting children with disabilities and children of color into restraints and seclusion. In this case, the SROs demonstrated a lack of training when they approached this student in a threatening manner that escalated the situation. We are hopeful

that these new policies will ensure that students' rights are protected.”

“

Student conflict should never be handled like a criminal matter.” Deborah Richardson, ACLU of Colorado

The school district and the sheriff's office released a joint statement saying it's rare for a school resource officer

See ACLU on page 20

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the **"Know Your Rights"** training for immigrant families and the **"What's At Stake?"** information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?



Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
@colorlatina
Instagram: @color_latina
Contact us at (303) 393-0382 for more information.
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
P.O. Box 40991
Denver, CO 80204

Síguenos en Facebook y Twitter:
@colorlatina
Instagram: @color_latina
Para mayor información llama al (303) 393-0382.
Organización de Colorado Para la Oportunidad y Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas
P.O. Box 40991
Denver, CO 80204

Escucha a la COLORista Gina Milan cada martes de 9 a 10 de la mañana en tu radio en la 1150am.

Topics such as reproductive justice, immigrant rights, health insurance, sex and sexuality among others will be discussed. Phone lines will be open for listeners. Please call (303) 337-1150 to speak with Gina.

Listen online at **onda1150am.com**

Hablamos de temas como la justicia reproductiva, derechos del inmigrante, cobertura médica, sexo y sexualidad, entre otros. Las líneas telefónicas están abiertas a los radioescuchas. Por favor comuníquese a la radio llamando al (303) 337-1150 y compárte tus preguntas y comentarios.

Escúchanos en línea por vía del **onda1150am.com**

Mujeres de COLOR

1150-AM

El Semanario

N.M. Supreme Court Upholds Redrawn Congressional Map

NEW MÉXICO

By Austin Fisher

New México's highest court upheld the state's newest congressional map on Monday, setting the stage for what is expected to be a highly competitive race for the seat representing much of the southern part of the state.

Ninth Judicial District Judge Fred Van Soelen ruled in September the redrawn map did not entrench the Democratic Party in power and therefore does not violate the New Mexico Constitution.

The five justices on the New Mexico Supreme Court affirmed Van Soelen's ruling on Monday morning in a three-page order.

The Republican Party of New Mexico argued in its written briefing on Oct.

28 that Van Soelen made an error when he concluded that even though the new map "substantially diluted" Republican votes, that dilution was not egregious enough to entrench the Democratic Party in the state's 2nd Congressional District, and therefore it is constitutional.

Rep. Gabe Vasquez won the seat under the new congressional district lines in 2022, narrowly defeating Republican incumbent Yvette Herrell. The two are



The front door of the New Mexico Supreme Court in Santa Fe. / La puerta principal del Tribunal Supremo de Nuevo México en Santa Fe. (Photo/Foto: Austin Fisher / Source NM)

expected to run against each other for the seat in 2024.

“

Now that this matter is finally resolved, both parties can focus on what matters — reaching voters and serving New Mexicans.”
New México Democratic Party

“Specifically to the issue of entrenchment, the district court erred as a matter of law, first, in applying that

as a separate and independent analysis and secondly, in interpreting ‘entrenchment’ to mean that it is effectively impossible (for Republicans to win),” the New Mexico GOP’s attorney Carter Harrison told the justices in oral arguments in Santa Fe on Nov. 20.

The justices concluded Monday that Van Soelen “committed no legal error.”

New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Shannon Bacon asked Harrison during oral arguments whether he thinks any of Van Soelen’s factual findings “are unsupported by the record.”

“No, your honor,” Harrison said.

See [Map](#) on page 21

La Estrella
A Flamenco Story of The Kings' Quest

Friday, December 15 | 7:00 pm
Saturday, December 16 | 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 17 | 2:00 pm

RODEY THEATRE • UNM

Tickets: \$35, \$45, \$55, \$65
10% discount in-person at box office for students, seniors, military with ID

UNMTICKETS.COM
OR 505-925-5858

El Tribunal Supremo de N.M. Confirma el Nuevo Mapa del Congreso

NEW MÉXICO

Por Austin Fisher

El lunes, el Tribunal Supremo de Nuevo México confirmó el nuevo mapa del Congreso estatal, preparando el terreno para lo que se espera que sea una contienda muy reñida por el escaño que representa a gran parte del sur del estado.

El juez del Noveno Distrito Judicial, Fred Van Soelen, dictaminó en septiembre que el nuevo mapa no atrincheró al Partido Demócrata en el poder y, por tanto, no viola la Constitución de Nuevo México.

Los cinco jueces de la Corte Suprema de Nuevo México confirmaron el fallo de Van Soelen el lunes por la mañana en una orden de tres páginas.

El Partido Republicano de Nuevo México argumentó en su escrito el 28 de octubre que Van Soelen cometió un error cuando llegó a la conclusión de que a pesar de que el nuevo mapa “diluye sustancialmente” los votos republicanos, que la dilución no era lo suficientemente grave como para atrincherar al Partido Demócrata en el 2º Distrito

“

Ahora que este asunto está finalmente resuelto, ambos partidos pueden enfocarse en lo que importa: llegar a los votantes y servir a los nuevos mexicanos”.

Partido Demócrata de Nuevo México

Congresional del estado, y por lo tanto es constitucional.

El representante Gabe Vásquez ganó el escaño bajo las nuevas líneas de distrito del Congreso en 2022, derrotando por un estrecho margen a la titular republicana Yvette Herrell. Se espera que ambos compitan por el escaño en 2024.

“Específicamente en la cuestión del atrincheramiento, el tribunal de distrito cometió un error de derecho, en primer lugar, en la aplicación de que como un análisis separado e independiente y, en segundo lugar, en la interpretación de ‘atrincheramiento’ en el

Vea [Mapa](#), página 22

UN MENSAJE IMPORTANTE DE MEDICARE

“¿Ha comparado sus opciones? Podría encontrar un plan que le ahorre dinero.”



INSCRIPCIÓN ABIERTA DE MEDICARE | 15 OCT. - 7 DIC.



Compare sus opciones ahora en es.Medicare.gov o llame al 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY 1-877-486-2048)

Los planes de Medicare cambian todos los años y su salud también puede cambiar. Ahora es el momento para comparar su plan de Medicare actual con otras opciones y escoger el mejor plan para su salud y presupuesto.

Use es.Medicare.gov para comparar fácilmente las opciones de cobertura de salud y de medicamentos recetados. Compare información de planes como **Cobertura del plan, Costos y Calificaciones de calidad.**

[Es.Medicare.gov](https://es.Medicare.gov) es la fuente oficial de información sobre Medicare y la Inscripción Abierta.

Si necesita ayuda para cubrir sus costos de medicamentos recetados, **Ayuda Adicional** es un programa de Medicare que le puede ayudar a pagar sus primas de cobertura de medicamentos recetados (Parte D), deducibles, coseguros y otros costos. Si tiene un ingreso de \$22,000 o menos, vale la pena solicitar.

Visite ssa.gov/extrahelp o llame al Seguro Social al 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) para solicitar.



es.Medicare.gov | 1-800-MEDICARE

LA FUENTE OFICIAL DE MEDICARE



PAGADO POR EL DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Sioux Tribes Want U.S. to Come Clean on Treaty Deceit

By Brett Wilkins

Leaders of the Standing Rock and Oglala Sioux last week said that the two Native American tribes are joining forces in an effort to pressure the Biden administration into a reckoning over a dubious 19th-century treaty that—like just about every other one signed between the U.S. and Indigenous peoples—was broken by Washington.

The two tribes are seeking nation-to-nation consultations between U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Assistant Indian Affairs Secretary

Bryan Newland—both Native Americans—and the remaining signatory tribes to the Fort Laramie Treaty.

“This is about correcting an injustice,” Standing Rock Chair Janet Alkire said. “For centuries, the U.S. government has broken every promise it’s made to Native tribes. It’s time for that to stop.”

“Furthermore,” she added, “we’re calling on the Biden-Harris administration to take active steps to correct the record.”

Treaty rights remain a critical point of contention for the Sioux, who in re-

cent years have fought against violations of their land, water, and sovereignty, including the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines—the latter of which was canceled by President Joe Biden.

In the 1860s, fierce Indigenous resistance to Euro-American encroachment on the Great Plains and an Army already weakened by the Civil War resulted in a series of U.S. defeats, including a December 1866 ambush led by Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors that killed all 81 soldiers under the command of Capt. William Fetterman during the Powder River War. It was the worst defeat of U.S. forces on the Great Plains until Little Bighorn a decade later.

In 1868, the U.S. signed the Fort Laramie Treaty with the Arapaho and the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota Sioux. The treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation and designated the Black Hills as “unceded Indian territory” to be “set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation” of Indigenous peoples.

However, the tribes claim U.S. officials subsequently—and surreptitiously—added language to the treaty stating that the Indians “relinquish all claims or rights” to lands outside the designated reservation. The U.S. then blatantly abrogated the treaty following the discovery of gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota and, when Indians



This photo shows a Los Angeles mural by artist Shepard Fairey with the message “The Black Hills Are Not For Sale,” as seen on November 26, 2011. (Photo: Neeta Lind/flickr/cc)

fought back, unleashed a fresh wave of genocidal violence against them.

“

This is about correcting an injustice. For centuries, the U.S. government has broken every promise it's made to Native tribes. It's time for that to stop.
Standing Rock Chair Janet Alkire

“U.S. treaty negotiators snuck the relinquishment language into Article II of the treaty after it was signed by the Sioux chiefs to end the Powder River War,” said Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out. “We’d like the current government to take an honest look at what happened.”

The Indian Claims Commission, a judicial relations arbiter between the U.S. government and Indigenous tribes, concluded in 1976 that the treaty “effectuated a vast cession of land contrary to the understanding and intent of the Sioux.”

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the United States had illegally taken the Black Hills and awarded over \$100 million in reparations to the Sioux Nation, which refused the money—now worth over \$1 billion—on the grounds that the tribe never wanted to part with its lands in the first place.

“The Black Hills are not for sale,” Alkire said on Nov. 22, “and they never were.”

Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for Common Dreams.

For More National News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

Escuela

¿Qué significa estar crónicamente ausente?

A un estudiante que falta a la escuela el 10 por ciento del tiempo se lo considera como crónicamente ausente.

El estado monitorea los porcentajes de cuántos estudiantes están crónicamente ausentes en una escuela o en un distrito escolar. Es un dato que puede indicar desigualdades entre los diversos grupos de estudiantes y ser una señal de alarma que muestra que los estudiantes necesitan más apoyo.

¿Pero qué pasa si las ausencias son permitidas?

En pocas palabras, no importa. Cuando los estudios examinan las ausencias escolares, las faltas permitidas y no permitidas llevan a los mismos resultados porque los estudiantes pierden la oportunidad de aprender lecciones nuevas de una u otra forma.

Cuando el estado cuenta quién está crónicamente ausente, tampoco importa si esas ausencias son permitidas o no permitidas.

¿Pueden niños o padres terminar en la corte por faltar a la escuela?

Puede suceder. En este caso, sí importa que la ausencia sea permitida o no permitida.

Las leyes del estado dicen que un distrito escolar puede identificar a un

estudiante como “ausente habitual” (en inglés: *truant*) cuando tiene más de 10 ausencias no permitidas al año, o cuatro en un mes. La ley no dice que se tenga que enviar al estudiante a un tribunal por absentismo habitual, y muchos distritos escolares tratan de enviar advertencias a los padres y ayudarlos primero a encontrar otras soluciones.

Si recibes una carta de tu escuela que dice que tu hijo está en riesgo de ser designado como un estudiante habitualmente ausente, lo mejor que puedes hacer es hablar con la escuela. La falta de comunicación puede causar que las escuelas piensen que el problema no se está tomando en serio y que involucren a los tribunales.

Necesito ayuda o quiero hablar sobre mi caso con alguien. ¿Quién me puede ayudar?

Tu primera parada debe ser la escuela de tu hijo. Es importante hablar sobre los obstáculos que tu hijo enfrenta para asistir a la escuela todos los días.

La escuela puede recomendar servicios dentro o fuera de la escuela que pueden ayudar.

Por ejemplo, las escuelas pueden conectar a un estudiante con servicios de tutoría si no va a la escuela porque siente que tiene dificultades para aprender, o conectar a la familia con servicios si el problema está relacionado con desafíos de vivienda o servicios de salud.

Algunas escuelas han desarrollado soluciones creativas, como conectar a un estudiante con otro, para que caminen juntos a la escuela y lo ayude a cumplir con sus responsabilidades, y también para que el estudiante se sienta más seguro que estando solo.

Yesenia Robles es una reportera para *Chalkbeat Colorado*.

Traducido por Alejandra X. Castañeda

Para Noticias de Colorado:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

Indocumentados

En colaboración con Katie Taft, responsable de educación del CVA, que presentó la solicitud del proyecto, Ramos Hernández ya ha aportado muchas recomendaciones, entre ellas formas de atraer a visitantes de distintos niveles mediante guías de galería y estructuras de visita mejoradas.

Las becas permiten a los estudiantes contribuir a iniciativas de investigación y adquirir experiencia práctica. En MSU Denver, los miembros del profesorado y del personal pueden presentar sus proyectos para su consideración. Una vez seleccionados, los becarios de TheDream.US que reúnan los requisitos pueden presentar su solicitud a la lista de becas aprobadas.

Proporcionar financiación a los estudiantes indocumentados siempre ha sido un reto en MSU Denver, dijo Alysa Marks, directora de Faculty Engagement and Experiential Learning en MSU Denver. “Este ha sido un espacio realmente único e impresionante para nosotros, tener la capacidad de proporcionar financiación a los estudiantes indocumentados”, dijo.

Los responsables de la escuela esperan que el programa piloto de MSU Denver conduzca a becas remuneradas no sólo para los becarios de TheDream.US, sino para todos los estudiantes del campus, incluidos los indocumentados que no forman parte del programa TheDream.US.

“Ya es difícil encontrar oportunidades para ganar experiencia, es muy

competitivo”, dijo Ubaldo Bogarin, un estudiante de tercer año que tiene una beca en el Departamento de Ciencias de la Computación.

Trabajando bajo la dirección del profesor asistente Steve Geinitz, Ph.D., Bogarin está ayudando con un proyecto de software para automatizar parte del proceso de calificación en Canvas a través de la instrucción entre pares y la evaluación.

La estudiante de Informática ha ayudado a implementar nuevas funciones y características en Canvas a través de un intenso proceso de codificación y documentación. Bogarin ha expresado su gratitud por el programa de becas y ha descrito los muchos retos a los que se enfrentan los estudiantes indocumentados cuando buscan oportunidades para adquirir experiencia en sus campos.

“No creo que la mayoría de la gente vea realmente la dificultad o tenga una idea de lo milagroso que es alinear estas experiencias para que puedas superarte”, dijo Bogarin.

Keylen Villagrana es redactora de MSU Denver RED y especialista en relaciones con los medios de comunicación de la Universidad Estatal Metropolitana de Denver.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Para Noticias de Colorado:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

Fonseca

work, enrollment for my program there was impacted and I had to finish at CSU Stanislaus, over 100 miles south-east in the city of Turlock.

Having no car, I would take a four-hour train commute three to four days a week during the pandemic just to achieve my dream. I did, and now I'm working to complete my practice hours and complete my state exams.

Like Palacios, I too was fighting to give back to and positively represent my people — as I aim to work with Latino populations to support community mental health here in San Francisco — and when she won it was an affirmation for me that I could be both strong and feminine, as long as you know the impact you want to make on the world.

I was also incredibly moved by how open Palacios was about her own mental health. When asked by interviewers during the pageant how she felt, she shared her own experiences with anxiety, including an anxiety attack that she had and overcame with breathing exercises during the event.

An interviewer asked her — uniquely, she answered all questions in Spanish — what she thought the essence of humanity was, and she said it was humility and being grateful for the small things in life, which is something I often tell my friends and family as well; this was the moment I knew she would win.

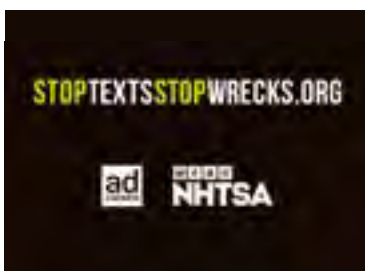
I believe that many who were watching this woman were most impressed by her humility, and the dignity she kept in being so open about her humble background and ongoing struggles while still being a stellar example for her people.

At another point in the competition, Palacios said that a good representation of Nicaraguan women is the phrase “strength of a volcano” — which surprised me, as it is a phrase that I identify with and had already written on my own social media account. It reminds me that your background doesn't preclude you from reaching your dreams.

As I work toward what I want, I've never forgotten where I come from.

Michelle Fonseca lives in San Francisco, CA, where she hopes to do social work in support of the city's Latino community.

Read More Commentary:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT

AHORA 7 DE ENERO

(Cerrado el 23 de nov. y el 25 de dic.)

Viva la magia de la temporada con un despliegue impresionante de luz y color.

Debe comprar boletos por adelantado. Para comprar boletos y para todos los detalles vaya a botanicgardens.org

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

PATROCINADOR PRINCIPAL CU Medicine

PATROCINADORES Natalie's Xcel Energy ZORBA'S

DACA/Esp

DACA se basa en dos ideas: 1) acción diferida, que significa aplazar, o dejar de lado, o suspender una acción determinada, en este caso la deportación u otra acción legal negativa; y 2), para los llegados en la infancia, que se refiere a los niños pequeños que aproximadamente a los siete años de edad llegaron a Colorado, una edad en la que es imposible que infrinjan ninguna ley. Póngalos juntos -d+a+c+a- y tenemos el programa que para tantos en nuestro estado ha significado un grado de fe en que serán tratados con cierto grado de respeto y propiedad que normalmente se concede a los niños.

Una explicación exhaustiva de DACA está más allá del alcance de este artículo, pero El Semanario proporcionará próximas actualizaciones. Por ahora, lo que ha sido de DACA puede ser fácilmente esbozado. En 2012, el presidente Barack Obama creó el programa con una Orden Ejecutiva Presidencial, con la entonces Secretaria de Seguridad Nacional Janet Napolitano redactando las configuraciones de DACA, incluyendo la esencial “discreción fiscal” especialmente de deportación, o su eufemismo, “remoción”. Venía con varios requisitos, incluyendo la llegada a los EE.UU. antes de los 16 años, residencia continua desde el 15 de junio de 2007, y “actualmente en la escuela, se han graduado u obtenido un certificado de GED, o que han sido dados de baja con honores de las fuerzas armadas”, entre otros (Foro Nacio-

nal de Inmigración, Hoja informativa: Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA)).

La línea de falla en DACA apareció el 16 de julio de 2021, lo que obligó a *El Semanario* a hacer un llamado a nuestros lectores para que se unieran a nosotros en el intento de establecer un DACA en Colorado. Había enfrentado una oposición casi constante de sus fuerzas políticas y legales, pero con esfuerzos exitosos de preservación por parte de sus partidarios. Pero el 16 de julio de 2021, el juez de distrito de EE.UU. Andrew S. Hanen en Texas falló en contra de DACA, prohibiendo específicamente que a cualquier nuevo solicitante se le concediera la certificación DACA y sus protecciones concomitantes. El caso en su contra había sido presentado por Texas y otros ocho estados amici, o “Amigos de la Corte”.

Como miembros del Consejo Asesor de El Semanario han explicado en otro lugar, los firmantes declararon en esa demanda:

Los Estados Demandantes argumentan... que el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) es ilegal porque su creación violó, y su continua existencia viola, el aspecto procesal y sustantivo de la Ley de Procedimiento Administrativo (APA), así como la “Cláusula de Cuidado” de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos (página 2).

Los demandantes, Texas Et. Al., argumentaron en contra de la certifi-

cación de DACA para los niños que “llegaron a los Estados Unidos menores de dieciséis años”, y “veterano dado de alta honorablemente de la Guardia Costera o las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos”, y todos los demás beneficiarios de DACA que cumplieran con los requisitos originales a partir de su establecimiento en 2012. Observamos especialmente el dictado en contra de “veterano[s] dado[s] de baja con honores”, permitido anteriormente en DACA, pero ahora rescindido para aquellos a los que ahora se les niega el derecho a solicitarlo. Por lo tanto, desde el 16 de julio de 2021, durante los últimos 2 años y 4 meses, ninguna nueva persona elegible para DACA ha podido solicitar convertirse en beneficiario de DACA, incluidos los veteranos militares.

Añadimos que a los que habían recibido DACA a partir del 16 de julio de 2021 se les ha permitido mantenerla, con el requisito, como antes, de que vuelvan a solicitarla cada dos años; como escribió el juez Hanen en su decisión, pueden mantener dicha cobertura “temporalmente” a la espera de nuevas decisiones de él o de otro juez federal o del Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos.

Según la Alianza de Presidentes de Colegios y Universidades sobre Educación Superior e Inmigración, a partir del 7 de noviembre de 2022, en “DACA y Dreamers: What You Need to Know”, “Durante la última década, DACA ha protegido a más de 830,000 individuos” a nivel nacional, permitiéndoles trabajar, asistir a la escuela y, de otras maneras, establecer un mínimo de seguridad. A partir de junio de 2022, se estimó que había 594,120 beneficiarios de DACA en los Estados Unidos, de los cuales 13,180 estaban en Colorado, destacando la necesidad de una continuación del DACA nacional o al menos una alternativa de Colorado. “Se estimó que otros 8,230 habitantes de Colorado eran elegibles para DACA en 2022, según el Instituto de Política Migratoria, pero están bloqueados para buscar las protecciones del programa, ya que los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos ya no están aceptando nuevas solicitudes” (“Tenemos miedo”: 13,000+

DACA recipients living in Colorado...”, 23 de julio de 2023, *The Denver Post*). Ese número de “elegibles para DACA” seguirá creciendo a medida que cada nueva clase de estudiantes alcance los grados 11 y 12, la edad de elegibilidad anterior, pero ahora prohibida. Por lo tanto, la creación de una DACA en Colorado serviría como un paso en la mejora de los logros educativos de nuestros hijos a medida que se acercan a la graduación de la escuela secundaria.

Recordando que el DACA original de 2012 fue una Orden Ejecutiva Presidencial del Presidente Obama, *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* recomienda al menos al Alcalde de Denver, Michael Johnston, y al Gobernador de Colorado, Jared Polis, que emitan, respectivamente, Órdenes Ejecutivas de Denver y Colorado creando un programa DACA, individual o conjuntamente, proporcionando protecciones similares a las que el DACA nacional ofrece a los beneficiarios actuales. Si bien esto puede ser una petición extraordinaria, recordamos a nuestros lectores que los alcaldes y gobernadores anteriores han emitido numerosas Órdenes Ejecutivas (OE) de gran alcance. Por ejemplo, todo Colorado vivió a través de la pandemia de COVID, con numerosos EO's concomitantes por ambas oficinas, afectando nuestras vidas diarias.

Tanto los alcaldes de Denver como los gobernadores de Colorado han emitido igualmente OE en favor de los inmigrantes. En 2017, el alcalde Hancock emitió una convincente *Orden Ejecutiva* n.º 142: “Standing with Immigrants and Refugees: Una ciudad segura y acogedora” (<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/executive-orders.html/> : véase n.º 142). En 2018, el entonces gobernador John Hickenlooper emitió una OE sobre niños inmigrantes, “Orden Ejecutiva B 2018 008 “. Prohibía a las agencias estatales de Colorado “Utilizar los recursos del Estado para separar a los niños de sus padres o tutores legales por el único motivo de su estatus migratorio”.

El alcalde Johnston y el gobernador Polis podrían emitir OE estableciendo un programa de DACA para la ciudad y el estado, proporcionando protección contra la deportación, así como la elegibilidad para un permiso de trabajo, en

la medida de lo posible. Tienen los recursos de la Oficina del Fiscal General de Colorado para trabajar con la Oficina del Fiscal de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito de Colorado para garantizar la discreción procesal para los beneficiarios de DACA de Colorado.

Por último, nos damos cuenta de que muchos argumentarían que la inmigración es un asunto federal, no abierto a las políticas estatales. Brevemente, respondemos que la posesión y el uso de marihuana también es un asunto federal, ya que se considera una sustancia de la Lista 1, ilegal bajo la ley federal de acuerdo con la Ley de Sustancias Controladas de 1970 (https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf página 12, Marihuana 7360). Y, sin embargo, Colorado ha proporcionado “diferido”, o ninguna, acción para los consumidores adultos de marihuana. Junto con la revocación sobre el uso de la marihuana en Colorado, y la revocación de Roe vs. Wade junto con la Acción Afirmativa-los tres de los cuales fueron considerados asuntos Federales-Colorado ciertamente puede proporcionar tal protección a través de un programa de “acción diferida” para nuestros jóvenes, traídos aquí, para recordarnos, a una edad promedio de 7 años, no la edad promedio de, digamos, 21 años para los usuarios de marihuana, que disfrutaban de las protecciones de Colorado y la “discreción del fiscal.”

El Semanario solicita a nuestros lectores sus pensamientos y recomendaciones sobre nuestro llamado para al menos un DACA en Denver y Colorado, junto con otras tantas ciudades en nuestro estado que se unirían a nosotros en este esfuerzo. Nuestros hijos no deben esperar menos de nosotros.

El Consejo Asesor de The Weekly Issue/El Semanario: Luis Torres, Ph.D.; Ramón Del Castillo, Ph.D.; Steve Del Castillo, Ph.D.; Daniel Stange; Nicki Gonzales, PhD; and Manuel “Manny” Almaguer.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Leer Más Comentarios:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

PROMOTOR@
SISTERS OF COLOR UNITED FOR EDUCATION

Free Counseling
Free Treatment
For those who qualify

Alcohol & Drugs

No Insurance
No Problema
303.336.1600
Contact HEAL Denver
for Body Talk **303.446.8800**

Family

leave as soon it becomes available for things like welcoming a new child or because they're planning a major surgery for early next year.

To help everyone navigate the portal and get their questions answered about applying for FAMILI benefits, the FAMILI Division is putting on three statewide virtual town halls in English and Spanish in December, January and February at the dates and times below:

December 6, 2023:

-English: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
-Spanish: 3 - 4 p.m.

January 10, 2024:

-English: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
-Spanish: 3 - 4 p.m.

February 1, 2024:

-English: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
-Spanish: 3 - 4 p.m.

Registration, streaming and dial-in details are available [here](#).

The FAMILI Division started collecting premiums and wage reports at the beginning of 2023 to prepare for the release of benefit payments next year. The Division is led by Tracy Marshall, a Registered Nurse for over 25 years who is Board-Certified as both a Case Manager and Disability Management Specialist.

“We’re proud to give Colorado workers a best-in-class user portal

to give them the support they need when facing a major life event,” Marshall said. “Not only does My FAMILI+ provide Colorado workers a stress-free application process, it also allows health care providers to certify their patients’ claims all online, reducing the paperwork and processing times.”

For more details, check out famli.colorado.gov to find how-to videos, a user guide, webinars and FAQs to help workers, employers and health care providers navigate the program.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

Medicare

changes expand Medicare's pool of behavioral health providers. For the first time, beginning in January, Medicare will allow marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to provide services. This cadre of more than 400,000 professionals makes up more than 40% of the licensed mental health workforce and is especially critical in rural areas.

Medicare is also adding up to 19 hours a week of intensive outpatient care as a benefit, improving navigation and peer-support services for those with severe mental illness, and expanding mobile crisis services that can treat people in their homes or on the streets.

"As we emerge from the COVID-19 public health emergency, it is abundantly clear that our nation must improve access to effective mental health and substance use disorder treatment and care," Meena Seshamani, deputy administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, said in a July statement.

Organizations that have advocated for years for improvements in Medicare's mental health coverage applaud the changes. "I think we are, hopefully, at a turning point where we'll start seeing more access to mental health and substance use disorder care for older adults," said Deborah Steinberg, senior health policy attorney at the Legal Action Center in Washington, D.C.

For years, seniors in need of mental health aid have encountered obstacles. Although 1 in 4 Medicare recipients — including nearly 8 million people under 65 with serious disabilities — have some type of mental health condition, up to half don't receive treatment.

Cooper, now 68 and a behavioral health policy specialist at the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, bumped up against Medicare's limitations when she tried to find a new therapist in 2020: "The first problem I had was finding someone who took Medicare. Many of the providers I contacted weren't accepting new patients." When Cooper finally discovered a clinical social worker willing to see her, the wait for an initial appointment was six months, a period she describes as "incredibly stressful."

The new Medicare initiatives should make it easier for people in Cooper's position to get care.

Advocates also note the importance of expanded Medicare coverage for telehealth, including mental health care. Since the pandemic, older adults have been able to get these previously restricted services at home by phone or via digital devices anywhere in the country, and requirements for in-person appointments every six months have been waived. But some of these flexibilities are set to expire at the end of next year.

Robert Trestman, chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing, called on lawmakers and regulators to maintain those expansions and continue to reimburse mental health telehealth visits at the same rate as in-person visits, another pandemic innovation.

Older adults who seek psychiatric care tend to have more complex needs than younger adults, with more medical conditions, more disabilities, more potential side effects from medications, and fewer social supports, making their care time-consuming and challenging, he said.

Several questions remain open as Medicare enacts these changes. The first is, "Will CMS pay mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists enough so they actually accept Medicare patients?" asked Beth McGinty, chief of health policy and economics at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. That's by no means guaranteed.

A second: Will Medicare Advantage plans add marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, and drug addiction specialists to their networks of authorized mental health providers? And will federal regulators do more to guarantee that Medicare Advantage plans provide adequate access to mental health services? This kind of oversight has been spotty at best.

In July, researchers reported that Medicare Advantage plans include, on average, only 20% of psychiatrists within a geographic area in their networks. (Similar data is not available for psychologists, social workers, and psychiatric nurses.) When older adults have to go out-of-network for mental health care, 60% of Medicare Advantage plans don't cover those expenses,

KFF reported in April. With high costs, many seniors just skip services.

Another key issue: Will legislation proposing mental health parity for Medicare advance in Congress? Parity refers to the notion that mental health benefits available through insurance plans should be comparable to medical and surgical benefits in key respects. Although parity is required for private insurance plans under the 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, Medicare is excluded.

One of the most egregious examples of Medicare's lack of parity is a 190-day lifetime limit on psychiatric hospital care, a feature that deeply affects members with serious conditions

such as schizophrenia, severe depression, or post-traumatic stress, who often require repeated hospitalization. There is no similar curb on hospital use for medical conditions.

An upcoming Government Accountability Office report examining differences between the cost and use of behavioral health services and medical services in traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans may give Congress some guidance, suggested Steinberg, of the Legal Action Center. That investigation is underway, and a date for the report's release hasn't been set.

But Congress can't do anything about the all-too-common assumption

that seniors feeling overwhelmed or depressed should "just grin and bear it." Kathleen Cameron, chair of the executive committee for the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, said "there's a lot more that we need to do" to address biases surrounding the mental health of older adults.

Judith Graham, a contributing columnist, writes the "Navigating Aging" column for KFF Health News.

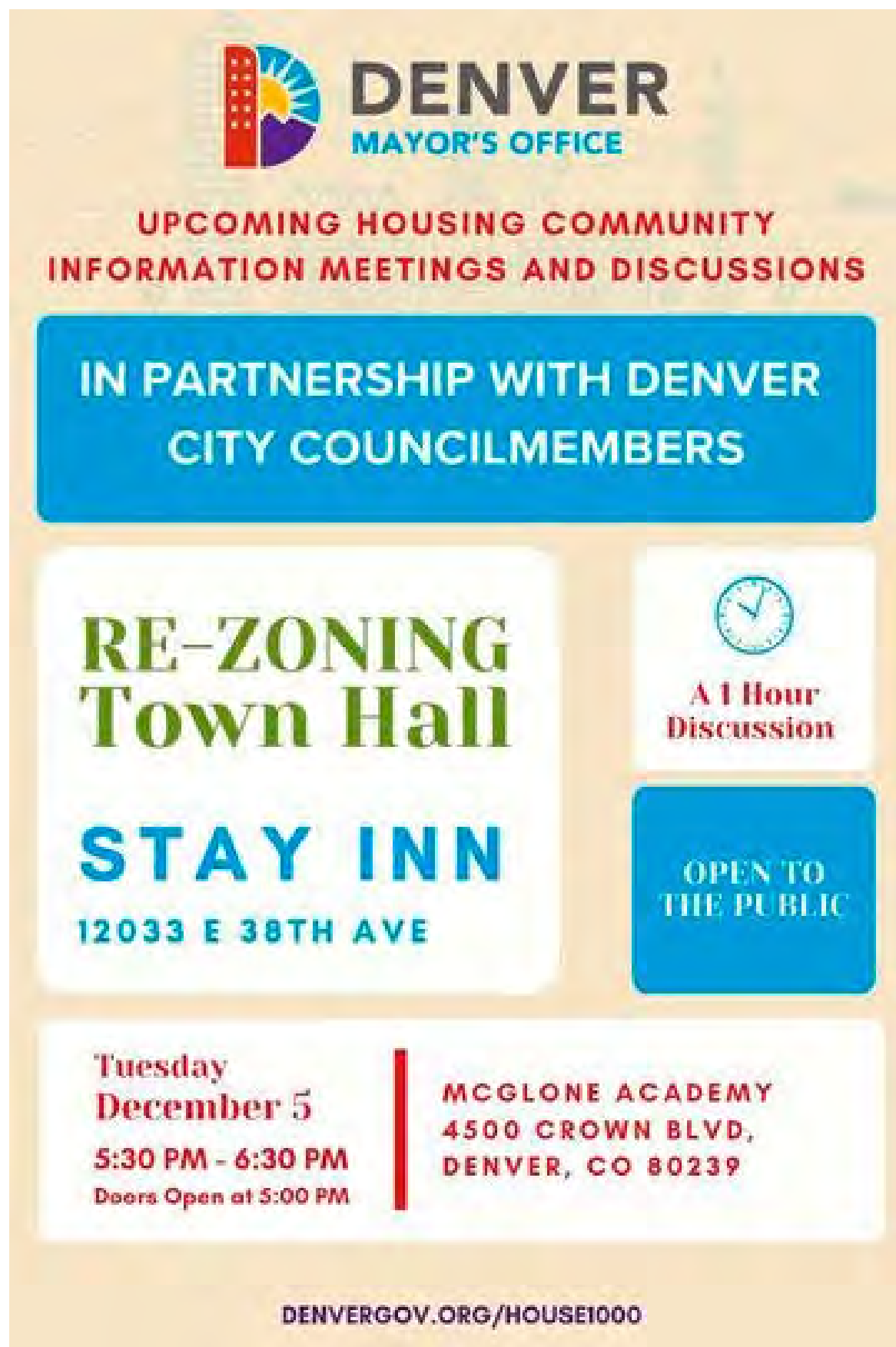
Read More Health News:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](https://www.ElSemanarioOnline.com)



**Protect
DACA
Recipients**

edjustice

#HomelsHere



**DENVER
MAYOR'S OFFICE**

**UPCOMING HOUSING COMMUNITY
INFORMATION MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DENVER
CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**

**RE-ZONING
Town Hall**

STAY INN

12033 E 38TH AVE

**A 1 Hour
Discussion**

**OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

**Tuesday
December 5**

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Doors Open at 5:00 PM

**MCGLOONE ACADEMY
4500 CROWN BLVD,
DENVER, CO 80239**

DENVERGOV.ORG/HOUSE1000

Graham/Esp

400,000 profesionales representa más del 40% de la fuerza laboral autorizada en salud mental y es especialmente importante en las zonas rurales.

Medicare también está agregando hasta 19 horas semanales de tratamiento ambulatorio intensivo a su lista de beneficios, mejorando las opciones y los servicios de apoyo entre pares para personas que padecen enfermedades mentales graves, y ampliando los servicios de crisis que tratan a las personas en sus hogares o en la calle.

“A medida que salimos de la emergencia de salud pública por covid-19, queda muy claro que nuestra nación debe mejorar el acceso a tratamientos y cuidados eficaces para la salud mental y las adicciones”, dijo Meena Seshamani, administradora adjunta de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid (CMS), en un comunicado de julio.

Las organizaciones que han abogado durante años por mejoras en la cobertura de salud mental de Medicare aplauden estos cambios. “Tengo esperanzas de que este sea un punto de inflexión y que empezaremos a ver mayor acceso a servicios de salud mental y adicciones para adultos mayores”, dijo Deborah Steinberg, abogada principal de políticas de salud de la organización Legal Action Center en Washington, DC.

Durante años, las personas mayores que necesitan atención de salud mental han enfrentado obstáculos. Aunque 1 de cada 4 beneficiarios de Medicare (incluyendo casi 8 millones de perso-

nas de menos de 65 años con discapacidades serias) tiene algún tipo de afección mental, hasta la mitad de ellos no reciben tratamiento.

Cooper, que ahora tiene 68 años y es especialista en políticas de salud conductual en la Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, se topó con las limitaciones de Medicare cuando buscaba un nuevo terapeuta en 2020. “El primer problema que tuve fue encontrar a alguien que aceptara Medicare. Muchos de los proveedores que contacté no aceptaban nuevos pacientes”, dijo. Cuando finalmente encontró un trabajador social clínico dispuesto a verla, la espera para una cita inicial fue de seis meses, un período “increíblemente estresante”, dijo.

Se espera que las nuevas iniciativas de Medicare faciliten el acceso a la atención de salud mental para personas como Cooper.

Los defensores de estos cambios también señalan la importancia de expandir la cobertura de Medicare de servicios de telemedicina, incluida la salud mental. Desde la pandemia, los adultos mayores han tenido acceso a estos servicios, que antes eran limitados, en sus casas, por teléfono o mediante dispositivos digitales en cualquier parte del país, y se ha eliminado el requisito de citas en persona cada seis meses.

Pero algunos de estos beneficios van a expirar a finales del año que viene.

Robert Trestman, presidente del Consejo de Sistemas de Salud y Finan-

ciamiento de la Asociación Americana de Psiquiatría, pidió a legisladores y reguladores que mantengan estos beneficios. También pidió que el reembolso de los servicios de telemedicina para la salud mental siga siendo igual al de las citas en persona, otra innovación de la pandemia.

Los adultos mayores que buscan atención psiquiátrica tienden a necesitar servicios más complejos que los adultos jóvenes. Suelen tener más afecciones médicas, discapacidades y posibles efectos secundarios de medicamentos, y menos apoyo social, lo que hace que la atención de la salud sea más difícil y prolongada.

Todavía quedan varias preguntas sobre los nuevos cambios de Medicare. Para Beth McGinty, jefa de política sanitaria y economía del Centro Médico Weill Cornell en Nueva York, la primera duda es si “les pagarán a los consejeros de salud mental y a los proveedores de terapia de pareja y familia lo suficiente para que acepten pacientes de Medicare”. Nada garantiza que sea el caso.

Otros interrogantes: los planes de Medicare Advantage, ¿agregarán terapeutas de pareja y familia, consejeros de salud mental y especialistas en adicciones a las redes de proveedores de salud mental autorizados? ¿Y los reguladores federales garantizarán que los planes de Medicare Advantage brinden acceso adecuado a servicios de salud mental? Hasta ahora, este aspecto de la cobertura ha sido desigual.

En julio, investigadores informaron que los planes de Medicare Advantage incluyen, en promedio, solo 20% de los psiquiatras dentro de una región geográfica en sus redes. (No hay datos similares disponibles para psicólogos, trabajadores sociales o enfermeras psiquiátricas). Cuando los adultos mayores tienen que recibir atención de salud mental de proveedores fuera de la red, el 60% de los planes de Medicare Advantage no cubren esos gastos, informó KFF en abril. Dado estos altos costos, muchas personas mayores simplemente optan por no recibir los servicios que necesitan.

Otro tema clave: ¿Avanzará en el Congreso la legislación que propone paridad de salud mental para Medicare? La paridad se refiere a la noción de que los beneficios de salud mental disponibles a través de planes de seguro deben ser comparables a los beneficios médicos y quirúrgicos. Aunque se requiere paridad para los planes de seguro privados según el Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act de 2008, Medicare está excluido.

Uno de los ejemplos más notables de la falta de paridad de Medicare es el límite de por vida de 190 días para la atención hospitalaria psiquiátrica. Este aspecto de Medicare afecta profundamente a las personas con afecciones graves como esquizofrenia, depresión

severa o estrés postraumático, que a menudo requieren hospitalizaciones recurrentes. No existe una limitación similar para la atención hospitalaria médica.

Un próximo informe de la Government Accountability Office del Gobierno examinará las diferencias entre el costo y el uso de los servicios de salud mental y los servicios médicos en Medicare tradicional y Medicare Advantage. Esta información podría orientar al Congreso, sugirió Steinberg, del Legal Action Center. La investigación sigue en marcha y todavía no se ha fijado una fecha para la publicación del informe.

Pero no hay mucho que el Congreso pueda hacer sobre la idea tan común de que las personas mayores que se sienten abrumadas o deprimidas deberían “simplemente sonreír y soportarlo”. Kathleen Cameron, presidenta del comité ejecutivo de la National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, dijo que “hay mucho más por hacer” para abordar los prejuicios que afectan la salud mental de los adultos mayores.

Judith Graham, columnista colaboradora, escribe la columna “Viajando por el envejecimiento” para KFF Health News.

Leer Más Noticias de Salud:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](https://www.ElSemanarioOnline.com)

ACLU

to handcuff a student. They acknowledged the 2019 incident happened but stated the officers involved denied any wrongdoing.

Yet, the school district, sheriff's office and the officers agreed to the settlement offer. According to the statement, starting this year:

- Any SRO assigned to a DCSD school must complete training on interacting with people with disabilities, which has been specifically designed for law enforcement.
- SROs shall have access to student Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIPs) consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and SROs shall make reasonable efforts to comply with such plans when interacting with students. This includes the requirement that SROs specifically review, on an annual basis, any BIP for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who have previously demonstrated behavior that poses a safety risk to themselves or others.
- School administrators and licensed mental health staff shall receive annual training regarding SRO roles and responsibilities, including that: (i) SROs are not responsible for requests to resolve routine discipline matters involving students; (ii) where practical, DCSD staff should contact school building administrators to make a determination as to whether to call SROs

regarding a dysregulated student who has an IEP; and (iii) for incidents involving a student with an IEP who is dysregulated, school building administrators should only request SRO law enforcement assistance after making reasonable efforts to comply with any de-escalation techniques described in the student's BIP; and

- SROs shall exercise force consistent with law and DCSD policy, and restraint and seclusion of students by SROs must be avoided to the greatest extent possible without endangering the safety of students and staff. SROs shall also make reasonable efforts to comply with de-escalation techniques described in a student's BIP, if any, before employing restraint or seclusion against a student.

“Student conflict should never be handled like a criminal matter,” said Deborah Richardson, ACLU of Colorado executive director. “With these revised policies, we can ensure that all students, especially those who need specific accommodations, feel safe at school.”

Suzie Glassman is a freelance writer and reporter covering education and politics. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

For More Colorado News:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](https://www.ElSemanarioOnline.com)

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Statewide Task Force

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

THE LWVCO
Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
Presents
Dr. Emmy Betz
FOUNDING DIRECTOR
Firearm Injury Prevention

DECEMBER 13, 2023
5:30 pm (via Zoom)

Dr. Emmy Betz is an Emergency medicine physician who trained at Yale University, John Hopkins, and a Harvard-affiliated residency.

She is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where she is the founding director of the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative.

Dr. Betz promotes respectful, collaborative, science-based approaches for injury prevention, with a particular focus on firearm suicide prevention. She will be discussing her journey and presenting data regarding gun violence.

FREE to Register!!!
OPEN to the Public!

MEDIA PARTNER:
El Semanario

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG

Map

The justices concluded Monday that Van Soelen’s factual findings are supported by the evidence.

The state’s Democratic Party said in a news release on Monday the Supreme Court’s ruling will hopefully put to rest “months of frivolous distractions from Steve Pearce’s New Mexico Republican Party.”

“After a nonpartisan, deliberative process that was informed by and invited expert and public input from communities across the state, and subsequently went through the complete legislative process in committees and both chambers, the Supreme Court’s decision reaffirms that these maps are fair and representative of New México and our diverse communities,” the Democratic Party said in its statement. “Now that this matter is finally resolved, both parties can focus on what matters – reaching voters and serving New Mexicans.”

Austin Fisher is a Reporter with Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.

For More New México News: ElSemanarioOnline.com

DACA

According to the college and university Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, as of November 7, 2022, in “DACA and Dreamers: What You Need to Know,” “Over the last decade, DACA has protected more than 830,000 individuals” nationally, allowing them to work, attend school, and in other ways establish a modicum of security. As of June 2022, it was estimated that there were 594,120 DACA recipients in the U.S., of which 13,180 were in Colorado, highlighting the need for a continuation of the national DACA or at least a Colorado alternative. “An additional 8,230 Coloradans were estimated to be eligible for DACA in 2022, according to the Migration Policy Institute, but they are blocked from seeking the program’s protections as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is no longer accepting new applications” (“We’re scared”: 13,000+ DACA recipients living in Colorado...”, July 23, 2023, *The Denver Post*). That number of “eligible for DACA” will continue to grow as each new class of students reach 11th and 12th grades, the age of previous eligibility, but now forbidden. Creating a Colorado DACA would therefore serve as a step in improving educational attainment for our children as they get closer to high school graduation.

Remembering that the original 2012 DACA was a Presidential Executive Order by President Obama, *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* recommends to at least Denver Mayor Michael Johnston and Colorado Governor Jared Polis to issue, respectively, Denver and Colorado Executive Orders creating a DACA program, individually or jointly, providing similar protections as the national DACA does for current recipients. While this may be an extraordinary request, we remind our readers that previous Mayors and Governors have issued numerous far-reaching Executive Orders (EO). For example, all of Colorado lived through the COVID pandemic, with numerous attendant EO’s by both offices, affecting our daily lives.

Both Denver Mayors and Colorado Governors have likewise issued EO’s on behalf of immigrants. In 2017, Mayor Hancock issued a compelling Executive Order No. 142 : “Standing with Immigrants and Refugees: A Safe and Welcoming City”.

In 2018, then-Governor John Hickmiller issued an EO about immigrant children, “B 2018 008 Executive Order.” It forbade Colorado state agencies from “Using State Resources to Separate Children from Their Parents

or Legal Guardians on the Sole Ground of Immigration Status”.

Mayor Johnston and Governor Polis could issue EO’s establishing a city and state DACA program, providing protection from deportation, as well as eligibility for a work permit, to the extent possible. They have the resources of the Colorado Attorney General’s Office to work with the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Colorado to ensure prosecutorial discretion for Colorado DACA recipients.

Finally, we realize that many would argue that immigration is a Federal matter, not open to state policies. Briefly, we reply that possession and use of marijuana is also a Federal matter, as it is considered a Schedule 1 substance, illegal under federal law according to the Controlled Substance Act of 1970 (https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf page 12, Marihuana 7360). And yet, Colorado has provided “deferred,” or no, action for adult marijuana users. Along with the reversal on marijuana use in Colorado, and the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* along with Affirmative Action—all three of which were considered Federal matters—Colorado can certainly provide such protection through a “deferred action” program

for our young people, brought here, to remind ourselves, at an average age of 7, not the average age of, say, 21 for marijuana users, who enjoy Colorado’s protections and “prosecutorial discretion.”

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario requests of our readers their thoughts and recommendations about our call for at least a Denver and Colorado DACA, along with as many other cities in our state that would join with us in this effort. Our children should expect no less from us.

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Advisory Board: Luis Torres, Ph.D.; Ramón Del Castillo, Ph.D.; Steve Del Castillo, Ph.D.; Daniel Stange; Nicki Gonzales, PhD; and Manuel “Manny” Almaguer.

Read More Commentary: ElSemanarioOnline.com



Celebre las fiestas con un pequeño regalo.

DENVER

RECICLA TUS LUCES NAVIDEÑAS

1-31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2023

Lugares y horarios de entrega
Denvergov.org/LightRecycle

DENVER

Treecycle

RECICLA TU ÁRBOL

2-31 DE ENERO DE 2024

Lugares y horarios de entrega
DenverGov.org/Treecycle

Trauma



A Bible verse under the Freedom Wall mural represents freedom and rebirth. / Un versículo de la Biblia bajo el mural Freedom Wall representa la libertad y el renacimiento. (Photo/Foto: Hunter Fore/Cronkite News)

safety, Roe-Sepowitz said. But once she and others started working with survivors over time, the impact these brandings have on survivors' healing became apparent.

"I had a client who had a very significant, very dramatic white supremacy symbol on the back of her neck and it was impeding her life," Roe-Sepowitz said.

Still, making the decision to remove the branding isn't always a simple one, especially because so many victims are emotionally connected to their traffickers.

The [Polaris Project](#) estimates that 4 out of 10 victims were trafficked by a member of their own families or were recruited by an intimate partner or a marriage proposal.

“

"I want them completely removed. It's time to wipe my tears."

Natalie Grace

"It can be years later and still a lot of them struggle with that mental abuse," Jernukian said. "They still feel like they're betraying this trafficker or this pimp, even though it's been a couple of years or however long. They still feel the betrayal. And sometimes it's extremely emotional when we're either covering or removing it."

"It's not like, 'Get this off me,'" Jernukian said. "It takes a lot for them to make that decision. Because they're still under control of this pimp. They feel like they're betraying him. For us, it's like, 'Girl, go get that done.' And they're like, 'Not yet.'"

"Oftentimes our clients really didn't have a huge support network and their

traffickers became their families. They made them feel like they belong," Roe-Sepowitz said. "That tattoo reminds them that they belong. And even in spite of the abuse and trauma they're experiencing, it's sort of better than the alternative being alone or homeless or hungry."

Many victims weren't forced to get branded, Jernukian added. They were manipulated into it. "Some of the girls would say something like, 'You have no idea what it took to earn this tattoo.' They were proud to do it."

But once they've escaped their traffickers and have begun to heal, "they look back and wonder how did I get there? How did my mentality go that far?"

Wiping away tears

Natalie Grace, a 29-year-old Houston resident, connected with Soul Survivor Ink in 2022. She wants to remove two non-consensual tattoos that have marked her face since she was 24.

Grace had been seeing a charismatic tattoo artist while dealing with a drinking problem. One day, after heavily drinking, she passed out next to him.

"I woke up with these teardrops ... tattoos on my face," Grace said, pointing at black teardrops located at the outer corner of her eyes. "He just did that while I was passed out as a joke because he had them too in the exact same place. It was kind of like saying 'you're mine now.'"

She couldn't get a job, pay for food or housing. "And that's what led me to being homeless and couch-hopping. That's how I ended up in the human trafficking situation."

Her trafficker was later arrested and sentenced to prison. But the teardrops are a daily reminder of her past.

"It's like a SKU number for a shoe," she said. "Wherever that shoe goes, it's gonna lead back to the manufacturer."

"Unless I'm actually wearing make-up and hiding the tattoos, it's like, I can't really be myself. I have to pretend to be someone else. And it's horrible."

Grace was connected with Jernukian through other survivors who had been helped by Soul Survivors Ink. Together, they are working on finding a tattoo artist who will remove the tattoo from Grace's face. Before I connected with Soul Survivor Ink, "I never even thought that getting them removed was an option," Grace said.

"I want them completely removed," she said. "I've always been a professional and I want to be back to my old professional self. This is not me. This is not what I was meant to do."

"It's time to wipe my tears."

Emerging from a branding to a butterfly

Tattoo removal takes time and can be done through different approaches. Often, tattoos are more difficult to remove than they are to place on the skin. A tattoo's color, size and location, the depth of the ink, the person's skin tone and tolerance for pain all affect the process, Jernukian

If a Soul Survivor Ink artist can't remove a branding, they will try to cover it with another tattoo.

Survivors get to pick what they want on their body, Jernukian said. It might be something meaningful to them, like a butterfly. And then they could look in the mirror and see this tattoo. That's beautiful."

"Whether it's covered or removed, it's like this weight is lifted," Jernukian said. "One of the survivors told me 'Is it weird if I say that I feel like a child right now? I feel childlike and giddy. It's like

going back to before this was done, you know?"

Soul Survivor has grown exponentially since Jernukian started it in Phoenix in 2016. It now serves women in 56 cities and 22 states.

"We need to be in every state," Jernukian said. We "continue to seek affiliates. The goal is to be in every state by 2025."

The organization helps fund more than 1,000 procedures a year, Jernukian said. Financial donations and volunteers' time and expertise covers the costs, with no charge to victims, she said.

Artists who volunteer are reimbursed by Soul Survivor Ink for the cost of ink and needles, usually between \$125 and \$170 a session.

"Every day, we're trying to find resources and enroll more people," Jernukian said. "We just need to find people that have a heart to serve. And when we do, it's a perfect fit."

Ana Aragón Sierra is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation RWJF Graduate Assistant. Reproduced with permission by Cronkite News.

Read More Cover Features at:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](#)

Mapa

sentido de que es efectivamente imposible (para los republicanos ganar)", el abogado del GOP de Nuevo México Carter Harrison dijo a los jueces en los argumentos orales en Santa Fe el 20 de noviembre.

Los magistrados concluyeron el lunes que Van Soelen "no cometió ningún error legal".

La presidenta de la Suprema Corte de Nuevo México, Shannon Bacon, preguntó a Harrison durante los argumentos orales si piensa que alguna de las conclusiones de Van Soelen sobre los hechos "no están respaldadas por el expediente".

"No, su señoría", dijo Harrison.

Los jueces concluyeron el lunes que las conclusiones fácticas de Van Soelen están respaldadas por las pruebas.

El Partido Demócrata del estado dijo en un comunicado de prensa el lunes que se espera que el fallo de la Corte Suprema ponga fin a "meses de distracciones frívolas del Partido Republicano de Nuevo México de Steve Pearce."

Sierra

postpartum workers are not forced off the job, and get the accommodations they need to protect their health, without facing discrimination, retaliation or loss of paycheck.

Furthermore, the PWFA guarantees the following:

- Light duty, or help with manual labor and lifting
- Additional, longer, or more flexible breaks to drink water, eat, rest, or use the bathroom
- Time off for prenatal and postpartum appointments and childbirth recovery
- Opting for teleworking

"Thanks to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, pregnant and postpartum workers nationwide are finally afforded fairness, dignity, and equality under the law," added Bakst. "But the law is only effective if workers know it exists. A Better Balance is committed to helping empower the Latina community with critical information about the law and the support they need to exercise their rights in the workplace."

"Después de un proceso no partidista y deliberativo que fue informado e invitó a expertos y a la opinión pública de las comunidades de todo el estado, y posteriormente pasó por el proceso legislativo completo en los comités y en ambas cámaras, la decisión de la Corte Suprema reafirma que estos mapas son justos y representativos de Nuevo México y de nuestras diversas comunidades", dijo el Partido Demócrata en su comunicado. "Ahora que este asunto está finalmente resuelto, ambos partidos pueden enfocarse en lo que importa: llegar a los votantes y servir a los nuevo mexicanos".

Austin Fisher es reportero de Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Para Más Noticias de New México:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](#)

The organization offers a free, confidential [work-family legal helpline](#) (1-833-633-3222), providing direct bilingual legal services, and has just [released a new guide for pregnant and postpartum workers in Spanish](#), which explains the law in clear terms, and provides sample letters they can send to their employer and links to resources for additional support.

These resources really work. Cristel and Victoria took the initiative by calling the [Línea de Ayuda](#), where they learned how to fight discrimination, and once they shared information on the law's requirements with their employers, both were rehired and received the just treatment that the law guarantees.

It's just a down payment on the debt of gratitude society owes to mothers across the country.

Javier Sierra is a Spokesperson for A Better Balance.

Read More Commentary:
[ElSemanarioOnline.com](#)

Trauma/Esp

parecer un extra en comparación con la atención sanitaria, la vivienda y la seguridad, afirma Roe-Sepowitz. Pero una vez que ella y otros empezaron a trabajar con los supervivientes, se hizo evidente el impacto que estas marcas tienen en la curación de los supervivientes.

“Tenía una clienta con un símbolo muy significativo y dramático de la supremacía blanca en la nuca que le impedía vivir”, explicó Roe-Sepowitz.

Aun así, tomar la decisión de eliminar la marca no siempre es sencillo, sobre todo porque muchas víctimas están emocionalmente vinculadas a sus traficantes.

El Proyecto Polaris calcula que 4 de cada 10 víctimas fueron traficadas por un miembro de su propia familia o fueron captadas por una pareja íntima o una proposición de matrimonio.

“Pueden pasar años y todavía muchas de ellas luchan contra ese abuso mental”, dijo Jernukian. “Siguen sintiendo que traicionan a ese traficante o a ese proxeneta, aunque hayan pasado un par de años o el tiempo que sea. Siguen sintiendo la traición. Y a veces es extremadamente emocional cuando lo cubrimos o lo eliminamos”.

“No es como ‘quítame esto de encima’”, dice Jernukian. “Les cuesta mucho tomar esa decisión. Porque siguen bajo el control de este proxeneta. Sienten que le están traicionando. Para nosotros, es como: ‘Chica, ve a hacértelo’. Y ellas dicen: ‘Todavía no’”.

“A menudo, nuestros clientes no tenían una gran red de apoyo y los traficantes se convirtieron en sus familias. Les hacían sentir que pertenecían a algo”, dice Roe-Sepowitz. “Ese tatuaje les recuerda que pertenecen. E incluso a pesar del abuso y el trauma que están experimentando, es algo mejor que la alternativa de estar solos o sin hogar o hambrientos”.

Muchas víctimas no fueron obligadas a tatuarse, añadió Jernukian. Las manipulaban para que lo hicieran. “Algunas de las chicas decían algo así como: ‘No tienes ni idea de lo que me ha costado ganarme este tatuaje’. Estaban orgullosas de hacerlo”.

Pero una vez que han escapado de sus traficantes y han empezado a curarse, “miran atrás y se preguntan ¿cómo llegué ahí? ¿Cómo mi mentalidad llegó tan lejos?”.

Secarse las lágrimas

Natalie Grace, de 29 años y residente en Houston, se puso en contacto con Soul Survivor Ink en 2022. Quiere quitarse dos tatuajes no consentidos que han marcado su cara desde que tenía 24 años.

Grace había estado viendo a un carismático tatuador mientras lidiaba con un problema de alcoholismo. Un día, tras beber mucho, se desmayó junto a él.

“Me desperté con estas lágrimas... tatuadas en la cara”, dijo Grace, señalando las lágrimas negras situadas en la esquina exterior de sus ojos. “Me lo hizo mientras estaba desmayada como una broma porque él también los tenía ex-

actamente en el mismo sitio. Era como decir ‘ahora eres mía’”.

No conseguía trabajo, ni comida, ni vivienda. “Y eso es lo que me llevó a ser una sin techo y a vagar por sofás. Así es como acabé en la situación de trata de personas”.

Su traficante fue detenido más tarde y condenado a prisión. Pero las lágrimas son un recordatorio diario de su pasado.

“Es como el número SKU de un zapato”, dice. “Dondequiera que vaya ese zapato, llevará de vuelta al fabricante”.

“A menos que lleve maquillaje y oculte los tatuajes, es como si no pudiera ser yo misma. Tengo que fingir ser otra persona. Y es horrible”.

Grace se puso en contacto con Jernukian a través de otros supervivientes que habían recibido ayuda de Soul Survivors Ink. Juntos están trabajando en la búsqueda de un tatuador que elimine el tatuaje de la cara de Grace. Antes de conectar con Soul Survivor Ink, “ni siquiera pensaba que quitárselos fuera una opción”, dijo Grace.

“Quiero que me los quiten por completo”, dijo. “Siempre he sido una profesional y quiero volver a serlo. Esta no soy yo. Esto no es lo que estaba destinada a hacer”.

“Es hora de secarme las lágrimas”.

Pasar de una marca a una mariposa

La eliminación de tatuajes lleva su tiempo y puede hacerse mediante distintos enfoques. A menudo, los tatuajes son más difíciles de eliminar que de colocar en la piel. El color, el tamaño y la ubicación de un tatuaje, la profundidad de la tinta, el tono de piel de la persona y su tolerancia al dolor afectan al proceso, Jernukian

Si un artista de Soul Survivor Ink no puede eliminar una marca, intentará cubrirla con otro tatuaje.

Los supervivientes eligen lo que quieren llevar en el cuerpo, explica Jernukian. Puede ser algo significativo para ellos, como una mariposa. Y entonces podrían mirarse en el espejo y ver este tatuaje. Es precioso”.

Undocumented

School officials hope the pilot program at MSU Denver will lead to paid fellowships for not only TheDream.US scholars but for all students across campus, including those who are undocumented and not part of the TheDream.US program.

“It’s already hard to find opportunities to gain experience as it is — it’s so competitive,” said Ubaldo Bogarin, a junior who has a fellowship with the Department of Computer Sciences. Working under Assistant Professor Steve Geinitz, Ph.D., Bogarin is helping with a software project to automate part of the grading process in Canvas through peer instruction and assessment.

The Computer Science major has helped implement new functionality and features to Canvas through an in-

“Tanto si lo cubren como si lo quitan, es como si se quitaran un peso de encima”, dijo Jernukian. “Uno de los supervivientes me dijo: ‘¿Es raro si digo que ahora mismo me siento como un niño? Me siento como un niño y mareado. Es como volver a antes de que esto se hiciera, ¿sabes?’”.

“

Quiero que me los quiten por completo. Es hora de secarme las lágrimas”.
Natalie Grace

Soul Survivor ha crecido exponencialmente desde que Jernukian la puso en marcha en Phoenix en 2016. Ahora atiende a mujeres en 56 ciudades y 22 estados.

“Necesitamos estar en todos los estados”, dijo Jernukian. Nosotros “seguimos buscando afiliados. El objetivo es estar en todos los estados en 2025”.

La organización ayuda a financiar más de 1.000 procedimientos al año, dijo Jernukian. Las donaciones económicas y el tiempo y la experiencia de los voluntarios cubren los costes, sin cargo alguno para las víctimas, explicó.

Soul Survivor Ink reembolsa a los artistas voluntarios el coste de la tinta y las agujas, que suele oscilar entre 125 y 170 dólares por sesión.

“Cada día intentamos encontrar recursos e inscribir a más personas”, afirma Jernukian. “Sólo necesitamos encontrar personas que tengan corazón para servir. Y cuando lo hacemos, encaja a la perfección”.

Ana Aragón Sierra es asistente graduada de la Fundación Robert Wood Johnson. Reproducido con permiso de Cronkite News.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Lea Mas Noticias de Portada en:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

School

What is chronic absenteeism?

A student who is missing 10% of school time is considered chronically absent.

The state tracks percentages of how many students are chronically absent in a school or district. It’s a measure that can signal inequities among different groups of students and can be a red flag that shows students need more support.

But what if the absences are excused?

In short, it doesn’t matter. When research looks at school absences, both excused and unexcused missed days still have the same results because students are missing new lessons either way.

When the state counts who is chronically absent, it also doesn’t matter if those absences are excused or unexcused.

Can children or parents end up in court over missed school?

It can happen. In this case, whether an absence is excused or not does matter.

State law says that a school district can identify a student as “truant” when they have more than 10 unexcused absences in the year, or four in a month. The law doesn’t say that students have to be sent to truancy court, and many school districts will try sending parents

warnings and will try to help find other solutions first.

If you get a letter from your school saying that your child is at risk of being designated as truant, the best thing to do is to talk to your school. Not communicating could lead schools to think the issue isn’t being taken seriously and to involve the courts.

I need help or I want to talk about my case with someone. Who can help?

Your first stop should be your child’s school. It will be important to talk through the barriers for your child to attend school every day. The school can then point to services within or outside of the school that might help.

For example, schools might connect a student to tutoring if they aren’t in school because they feel like they’re struggling, or might connect a family to services if the problem is related to issues with housing or health care.

Some schools have had [creative solutions including pairing students](#) so they can walk to school with a buddy who can hold them accountable, and make them feel safer than being alone.

Yesenia Robles is a reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

FAMLI

Diciembre 6, 2023:

- Inglés: 11 a. m. - 12 p. m.
- Español: 3 - 4 p.m.

Enero 10, 2024:

- Inglés: 11 a. m. - 12 p. m.
- Español: 3 - 4 p.m.

Febrero 1, 2024:

- 11 a. m. - 12 p. m.
- Español: 3 - 4 p.m.

Los detalles de registro, retransmisión directa y acceso telefónico está [disponible aquí](#).

La División FAMLI comenzó a recaudar primas e informes salariales a principios del año 2023 para la entrega de los pagos de beneficios el próximo año. La División está dirigida por Tracy Marshall, enfermera titulada desde hace más de 25 años y certificada por Case Manager and Disability Management Specialist (por la Junta Directiva como Administradora de Casos y Especialista en Gestión de Discapacidades).

“Estamos orgullosos de ofrecer a los trabajadores de Colorado el mejor de los portales de usuarios para brindarles el apoyo que necesitan cuando se enfrentan a un acontecimiento importante de la vida”, dijo Marshall. “My FAMLI+ no sólo proporciona a los trabajadores de Colorado un proceso de solicitud libre de estrés, sino que también permite a los proveedores de atención médica certificar los reclamos de sus pacientes totalmente en línea, reduciendo el papeleo y los tiempos de procesamiento”.

Para más información visite famli.colorado.gov donde encontrará video prácticos, una guía del usuario, seminarios web y preguntas frecuentes para ayudar a los proveedores de atención médica, empleadores y trabajadores a navegar por el programa.

Para Noticias de Colorado:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



tensive coding-and-documentation process. Bogarin has expressed gratitude for the fellowship program and described the many challenges undocumented students face as they look for opportunities to gain experience in their fields.

“I don’t think most people really see the difficulty or have a sense of how much of a miracle it is to line up these experiences so that you can better yourself,” Bogarin said.

Keylen Villagrana is a writer with MSU Denver RED and Media Relations Specialist with Metropolitan State University of Denver.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



WINTER CLOTHING

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please help individuals in need by donating clean new or used winter gear

Please Call Ahead to Schedule a Drop-Off
(303) 514-0643

Drop-Off Location

Richard T. Castro Human Services Center

1200 N. Federal
Denver, Co 80204

The Newcomers Fund is also accepting monetary donations from the general public. Donations will go directly to the city's nonprofit partners who are supporting migrants with resource navigation, shelter and other services. A link to the donation page can be found through the QR code above.

Donate to Newcomers Fund at rcfdenver.org



WHILE ALL ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED, THE FOLLOWING ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED:

WINTER HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES – MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HOODIES , THERMALS AND LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS– MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

CLOSE TOED OR WINTER SHOES – KIDS

CLOSE TOED OR WINTER SHOES – WOMENS, SIZES 4, 5, 6, 7