

Catholic Charities cosponsors seminar for raid responders

BOISE — Catholic Charities of Idaho is cosponsoring a two-day seminar aimed at informing and training professionals who respond to communities where there have been immigrant raids.

“Responding to Immigration Enforcement: Strategies for Legal, Community and Child Welfare Advocates,” will be held April 22-23 at Boise State University’s Student Union, 1700 University Drive. Also sponsoring the event are the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., Casey Family Programs, Andrade

Law Offices, the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho and the Idaho Community Action Network.

Training will focus on strengthening regional coalitions and their connections to national networks. Presenters will also discuss the process involved in enforcement actions and the best ways to help the affected families. Also included is the development of a raid response plan that addresses immediate needs: how to access detained family members, dealing with

the loss of family income, assisting traumatized children and understanding the process involving criminal or removal proceedings. Suggestions for making changes in policy changes will also be offered.

Presenters include: CLINIC attorneys Sarah Bronstein, Karen Herrling and Tanisha Bowens; America’s Voice Patty Kupfer; Family to Family consultant Yali Lincroft; and Los Angeles County Dept. of Children and Family Services Special Immigrant Status Unit member Cecelia Saco.

Trainers from the area will include University of Idaho associate professor Monica Schurtman and immigration attorneys Maria Andrade and Angela Levesque.

Registration is required and there is a fee, but scholarships are also available. Leaders from local parishes are encouraged to attend. Deadline for registration is April 13. For more information or to register, call Starr Shepard, Catholic Charities of Idaho, 345-6031, ext. 6296, or e-mail her at sshepard@ccidaho.org.