**Chapter 13: Becoming Policy Advocates in the Immigration Sector**

***Policy Advocacy Learning Challenges and Exercises***

***Excerpted from the book***

**POLICY ADVOCACY LEARNING CHALLENGE 13.4**

**Connecting Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Policy Advocacy**

Improving Translation Services in Mental Health Agencies

Assume that you work for a nonprofit mental health counseling agency and have engaged in *micro policy advocacy* to secure translation services for immigrants by referring them to other agencies due to the paucity of in-house translation services. You decide that you want to develop a plan for increasing translation services in your agency. How might you engage in *mezzo policy advocacy* to achieve approval of this plan by the executive direc­tor? How might you advance to *macro policy advocacy* to change citywide or statewide regulations related to translation services for immigrants in mental health settings?

**POLICY ADVOCACY LEARNING CHALLENGE 13.5**

**Connecting Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Advocacy**

Invisible Persons

Ramiro Gomez, a Latino folk artist, makes life-sized cardboard cutouts of immigrant laborers who serve as nannies, gardeners, valet workers, and housekeepers in wealthy areas of Los Angeles. He uses acrylic paint to depict these persons, giving them names. He places them at various points in these wealthy areas, such as near George Clooney’s home just prior to a fundraiser attended by President Barack Obama. Gomez contends, “We see the beautiful homes. The hedges are trimmed, the gardens are perfect, the children are cared for. We’ve come to expect it to be this way. But who maintains all this? Who looks after it? And do we treat the workers with the dignity they deserve? Do we stop and notice them?” Sometimes the police, hotel staff, or property owners remove this folk art, which is attached to trees or propped against hedges. The Secret Service asked it to be removed from Clooney’s neighborhood. Most pieces only make it a day or two.

**Learning Exercise**

1. Are immigrants sometimes “invisible,” as well, among professionals who serve them or see them?

2. Can professionals effectively link their services to the communities of immigrants if they do not know where immigrant enclaves exist?