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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 27, 2025

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
 Secretary  
 Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

As you know, I've been investigating the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR's) poor vetting of sponsors of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) for over a decade.<sup>1</sup> Last year I referred contractor records to the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) documenting the Biden administration's placement of these children with suspicious sponsors, in situations that indicated likely trafficking, smuggling, and exploitation.<sup>2</sup> After I referred this summary and other whistleblower records to law enforcement, HSI analyzed them and determined over 100 sponsors were suspicious enough to warrant further investigation, from a single HHS emergency intake site.<sup>3</sup> Other whistleblowers have confirmed the issues my oversight identified in these records were present at other HHS facilities, raising the specter that thousands of children may have been placed in harm's way nationwide by the Biden administration.<sup>4</sup> In response, HSI issued subpoenas to HHS for information to assist it in finding suspicious sponsors identified in my referral, and the children they sponsored. HSI advised my office last year that the Biden HHS, under former Secretary Becerra, failed to fully comply with two-thirds of subpoenas they issued.<sup>5</sup> HSI only found a handful of sponsors and children, in part because of HHS's failure to provide subpoenaed information to law enforcement.<sup>6</sup> This conduct is unacceptable.

On a March 20, 2025, call with my investigative staff, Acting ORR Director Salazar pledged to review HHS's compliance with these subpoenas, which I appreciate. She also asked to see my law enforcement referral, so I've attached the referral summary to this letter for you and for her. I ask you to review this referral information and ensure HHS complies with the subpoenas and works with law enforcement to address criminal activity in the sponsorship process nationwide. I'd also like to request an immediate update on government-wide efforts to find and rescue children who were placed in harm's way, which I highlighted for you in our meeting on January 9, 2025, during your nomination process.

<sup>1</sup> See Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *RECORDS: HHS Sent Unaccompanied Minors to Sponsors with MS-13 Ties, Potential Trafficking Rings* (Jul. 11, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/records-hhs-sent-unaccompanied-minors-to-sponsors-with-ms-13-ties-potential-trafficking-rings>.

<sup>2</sup> Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Alerts DHS, FBI to Evidence of Human Trafficking; Calls for Immediate Action to Locate & Rescue Migrant Children* (Jan. 24, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-alerts-dhs-fbi-to-evidence-of-human-trafficking-calls-for-immediate-action-to-locate-and-rescue-migrant-children>.

<sup>3</sup> Notes of briefing from Homeland Security Investigations and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on file with Committee staff.

<sup>4</sup> Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Highlights Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Children During Senate Roundtable* (Jul. 9, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-highlights-exploitation-and-abuse-of-migrant-children-during-senate-roundtable>.

<sup>5</sup> Notes of briefing from Homeland Security Investigations and DHS on file with Committee staff.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

As you know, HHS recently issued a post on the social media site X that confirmed my oversight and the repeated concerns I've raised about the Biden administration's failures to protect unaccompanied children. That post noted, "ORR is digging through nearly 65,000 reports of concerns about unaccompanied children – most ignored, many dismissed – each one a missed chance to protect a child."<sup>7</sup> HHS noted these red flags were "backlog[ged]" from the previous administration and came from UACs, professional staff, the ORR call center, ORR grantees, and other sources.<sup>8</sup> Together they represent, according to HHS, "a systemic failure of the Biden administration," which resulted in "children's lives [being] put at risk."<sup>9</sup> HHS noted there was a backlog of over 7,300 reports related to human trafficking, and this number could grow as HHS carries out "ongoing assessments of trafficking reports."<sup>10</sup>

At my request, on May 6, 2025, HHS provided me with data on its efforts to work through this backlog. It reported 528 leads have been referred out of HHS for investigation, and 36 cases have been accepted by U.S. attorneys for prosecution, leading already to seven indictments, eleven arrests, and three convictions.<sup>11</sup> This is a great first step in protecting these children, although HHS reports it has 46,311 backlogged cases still to work through. In addition to these efforts, data analytics should be utilized for all ORR UAC data from the previous administration, with careful interagency cooperation. This would allow law enforcement to find patterns and identify cases that were never flagged as issues of concern due to the lack of adequate software to recognize red flags in the sponsorship process and the lack of adequate training for ORR staff in the previous administration. Not a single child should continue to suffer because of the previous administration's failures.

My oversight on the failure of the Biden HHS to help law enforcement find children also was recently confirmed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG).<sup>12</sup> The OIG issued a report showing HHS was not only responsible for failing to adequately vet sponsors, but also failed under the Biden Administration to provide necessary information to law enforcement at DHS to help them find and protect children, and get them into immigration proceedings.<sup>13</sup> I therefore ask you to provide me an update on what steps HHS is taking to address the shortcomings the OIG identified.

After a thorough investigation of the records I referred to law enforcement last year, I also sent an urgent inquiry based on these same records to two dozen organizations that have provided care for, or services related to, UACs in the custody of HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement.<sup>14</sup> The purpose of my inquiry is clear: to determine the scope and severity of child trafficking and exploitation through the UAC program nationwide. After I made this urgent inquiry, HHS under Secretary Becerra obstructed my investigation and instructed contractors and grantees not to answer, and to instead send my inquiry to the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, who of course also failed to provide any requested information.

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<sup>7</sup> @HHSGov post on X.com (11:11 a.m. April 22, 2025), <https://x.com/HHSGov/status/1914698523762639067>.

<sup>8</sup> HHS, Admin. For Children and Families, Off. of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), *Interagency Summary* (May 6, 2025), on file with staff.

<sup>9</sup> @HHSGov post on X.com, *supra* n. 7.

<sup>10</sup> *Interagency Summary*, *supra* n. 8.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, *ICE Cannot Effectively Monitor the Location and Status of All Unaccompanied Alien Children After Federal Custody*, OIG-25-21 (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2025-03/OIG-25-21-Mar25.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Scrutinizes HHS's Improper Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children* (April 30, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-scrutinizes-hhs-improper-care-of-unaccompanied-migrant-children>.

To date, these entities have refused to provide records related to specific cases. You must instruct all HHS contractors and grantees that they are not precluded by their contracts, cooperative agreements, or any other agreements, from fully responding to congressional oversight requests.<sup>15</sup>

When I met with you on January 9, you pledged to cooperate with this investigation and make sure the records I requested are provided. During your confirmation hearing, you also pledged to bring “radical transparency” and once again agreed to cooperate with this investigation.<sup>16</sup> On a recent call with my staff, Acting Director Salazar pledged to begin providing these records directly to my office to further my investigation.<sup>17</sup> I look forward to receiving those records in full.

Accordingly, so that Congress can conduct thorough oversight of HHS and its efforts to protect UACs released to sponsors, I ask you respond to the following requests no later than June 10, 2025:

1. Please provide a detailed update on all actions taken by HHS after its review of the attached law enforcement referral summary, as well as an update on its compliance with subpoenas issued by HSI that were not fully complied with during the previous administration.
2. Please provide an update on HHS’s involvement in, and awareness of, any government-wide, interagency efforts to identify and intercept trafficking networks or individuals who may be exploiting the UAC sponsorship process, including any interagency data analytics of ORR UAC records.
3. Please provide an update on HHS’s progress in working through the 65,000 backlogged reports of concern that were left unaddressed by the Biden Administration, and rolling updates at least every two weeks thereafter, until the backlog is cleared.
4. Please provide an update on HHS’s efforts to fix problems identified by the DHS OIG reports on Immigration and Custom Enforcement’s failure to issue notices to appear to UACs. Please include a detailed explanation of what information is currently shared between ORR and DHS related to UACs and UAC sponsorships, as well as any changes to the information sharing policies in effect during the Biden Administration.
5. Please provide copies of all correspondence between or among HHS and ORR contractors and grantees notifying these entities in writing that they are not precluded by their contracts, cooperative agreements, nondisclosure terms, or any other reason, from fully answering my information requests and complying with congressional oversight.

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<sup>15</sup> Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Reignites Oversight of HHS’s Unaccompanied Migrant Children Program* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-reignites-oversight-of-hhss-unaccompanied-migrant-children-program>.

<sup>16</sup> United States Senate Committee on Finance, *Hearing to Consider the Nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of the Health and Human Services*, response to questioning by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearingto-consider-the-nomination-of-robert-f-kennedy-jr-of-california-to-be-secretary-of-health-and-human-services>; Press release, Office of Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Secures HHS Nominee Kennedy’s Support for Rural Health Care, Ag, Key Agency Issues* (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-secures-hhs-nominee-kennedys-support-for-rural-health-care-ag-key-agency-issues>.

<sup>17</sup> Notes of May 1, 2025, phone conversation on file with staff.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this request please reach out to James Layne on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



## Referral

**Potential Criminal Activity Involving Potential  
Human Trafficking for Labor and Sex  
Referred by Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Budget**

### Introduction

The information in this attachment, and the supporting records, have been provided pursuant to legally protected whistleblower disclosures. This attachment includes pertinent information relating to multiple incidents. Our office will provide the entire set of files we have received for purposes of investigation. Records referenced below will be readily found in the files we intend to transmit to your office, separated by location and case, under the sub-folder "Case File Examples," for your ease in finding the referenced documents.

We ask that you review all of the information provided. We ask that you work to determine if there is human trafficking or other crimes, and take immediate steps to locate and save these children.

### Specific Instances of Potential Human Trafficking

#### Florida

On June 15, 2021, UC [REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED]/2005, [REDACTED], told his case manager that his father found a coyote by a radio advertisement in Guatemala and that his father paid roughly \$2,500 for this coyote to transport UC [REDACTED] to the U.S.<sup>1</sup> The sponsor for [REDACTED] and his sister, [REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED]/2003, [REDACTED], was [REDACTED], a category 3 purported distant cousin of UC [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] provided false proof of address at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (see [REDACTED] receipt below).

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<sup>1</sup> This file is located under [REDACTED] -  
[REDACTED] *see also* [REDACTED] in the same folder, as well as information on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], in the same folder with file name [REDACTED]

Transfers de dinero

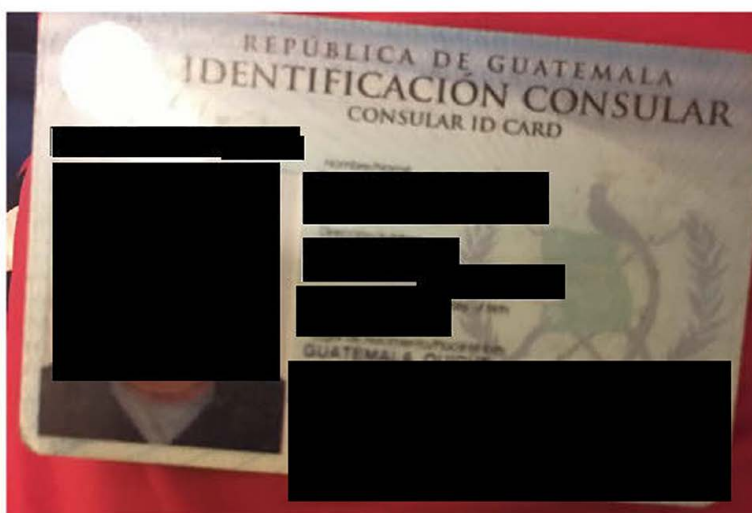
2021

Cantidad de Envío: (Transfer Amount)	200.00
Cargos por Envío: (Transfer Fees)	10.00
Impuestos de Envío: (Transfer Taxes)	0.00
Total a pagar: (Total USD)	210.00
Tipo de moneda: (Exchange Rate)	1.00USD = 7.85GTQ
Total al Beneficiario (Total to Beneficiary)	1,570.00GTQ

Favor de revisar toda la información antes de firmar el recibo. (Please check all the information before signing the receipt.) / Usted tiene el derecho a disputar errores en su transacción. Si piensa que hubo un error debe comunicarse con nosotros dentro de 180 días al 800-328-7206. También puede contactarnos para una explicación por escrito de sus derechos. (You have a right to dispute errors in your transaction. If you think there is an error you must contact us within 180 days at 800-328-7206. You can also contact us for a written explanation of your rights.) / Puede recibir el reembolso completo de su transacción si esta es cancelada dentro de los primeros 30 días.

The [REDACTED] address was in fact the home of real estate attorney [REDACTED] (see link below for proof of homeowners: [REDACTED])

Equally suspicious is the recipient address of the money transfer in Huehuetenago, Guatemala. According to the whistleblower disclosures, [REDACTED] claimed the money was being sent to her mother. However, the UC stated that none of their family lives in Huehuetenago. Whistleblowers report that UC stated that Huehuetenago was actually the trafficking hub where all the radio ads were coming from. Per whistleblowers, [REDACTED] claimed that her partner, [REDACTED], had sponsored two children, including his son who she said resided with them and a neighbor named [REDACTED]. However, a UC Portal search revealed that [REDACTED] actually had attempted to sponsor or was a household member for a dozen UCs and had sponsored other children using five different addresses, four of which were flagged in the UC Portal as suspicious. The Shepherd referral numbers for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].



On June 15, 2021, it was determined that the sponsor's address had been used in previous sponsorships by the name [REDACTED] and another sponsor named [REDACTED]. The case manager recommended UC [REDACTED] sponsorship with the named parties be denied on the basis of this suspicious activity, and also because of sponsor's inability to provide proof of address, familial or social relationship prior to UC travel to the U.S., the child's inability to identify the sponsor, and because the potential sponsor provided information about the UC family members that contradicted information from the UC about his immediately family, such as incorrect number of UC siblings and inability to corroborate family member identification based on photo identification. The release request document notes that, "Based on the address search on previous sponsorship [the case manager] concluded that there are multiple indicators that sponsor and sponsor's partner have sponsored/been household members on multiple UCs with multiple addresses in the [REDACTED] farming community." This indicates the potential for labor trafficking in this case. Equally concerning is the fact that neither UC ([REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) was listed in the HHS ORR contractor census reports for the facility, dating from August 2021 to October 2021.



# Release Request

UAC Basic Information	
First Name:	[REDACTED]
Last Name:	[REDACTED]
AKA:	
Status:	ADMITTED
Date of Birth:	005
Gender:	M
Age:	15
Country of Birth:	Guatemala
LOS:	30
Current Program:	[REDACTED]
Admitted Date:	5/19/2021

Release Request						
Requester Information						
Requester Name:	[REDACTED]					
Requester Title:	[REDACTED]					
Requester Phone:	[REDACTED]					
Type of Release:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Release to Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Release to Program					
Sponsor Information						
Name of Sponsor:	[REDACTED]					
AKA:	[REDACTED]					
Date of Birth:	1985					
Country of Birth:	Guatemala					
Current Age:	35					
Legal Status:	Unknown - Likely Without Status					
If Other Non-Immigrant Visa, Specify:						
If Other Immigrant Visa, Specify:						
A Number:						
Sponsor Email:						
Sponsor's Relationship to Minor:	Other Distant Relative					
Is There Proof of the Relationship?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
Provide Details on Relationship Including Official Documentation:						
<p>Per sponsor [REDACTED] she is a far removed cousin to the UC. Per sponsor her mother [REDACTED] is a cousin to the UC's father [REDACTED]. Thus sponsor is a second cousin to UC's father and third cousin to UC. Sponsor provided a verbal explanation of her family tree (uploaded). Sponsor provided some family birth certificates and pictures, however these do not verify the relationships between sponsor and UC.</p>						
Sponsor Household Occupants:						
First Name	Last Name	D.O.B	Gender	Current Age	Relationship to Sponsor	Dependent on Sponsor Income
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1982 12:00:00 AM	M	39	Sponsor's Partner	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1980 12:00:00 AM	M	41	Other Cousin	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1999 12:00:00 AM	M	21	Son	

The following screenshots from the UC Portal and chart shows [REDACTED] has provided five addresses and is connected to sponsors attempting to sponsor UCs from both the Fort Bliss EIS and Pomona Fairplex EIS, again raising suspicions of potential trafficking activity:

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No

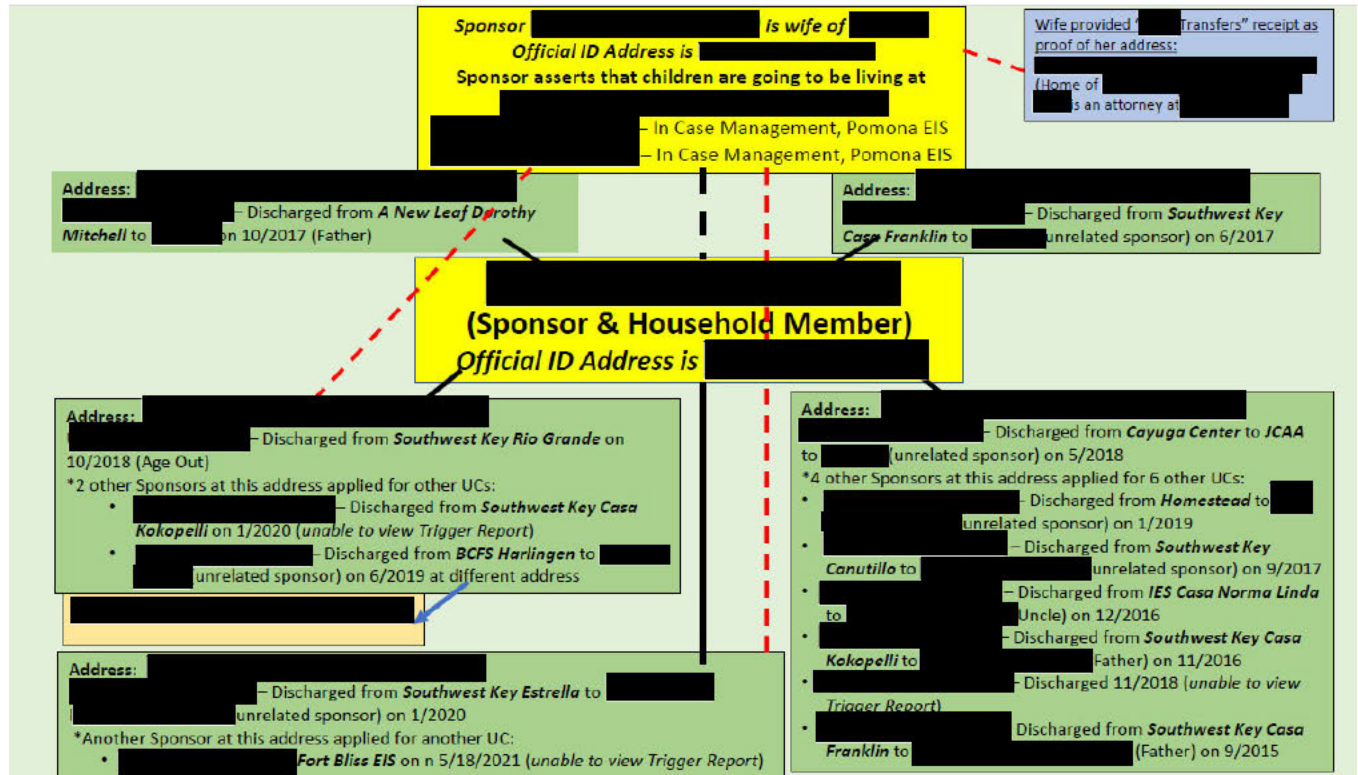
First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	No

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2		No

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	2	Yes



The following screenshot provides additional details on these addresses, including the names of sponsors and UCs<sup>2</sup>:

Address:	Sponsors and relationship (Unsp=Unrelated Sponsor)	UC A#, UC Name, Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>discharged from Cayuga Center to ICAA, discharged on 5/2018</li><li>discharged from Homestead on 1/2019</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Canutillo on 9/2017</li><li>discharged from Casa Norma Linda on 12/2016</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Casa Kokopelli on 11/2016</li><li>discharged on 11/2018</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Casa Franklin on 9/2015</li><li>Attempted to sponsor from this address</li></ul>
Address:	Sponsors	UCs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>discharged from Southwest Key Rio Grande on 10/2018</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Casa Kokopelli on 1/2020</li><li>(Attempted 2018)</li></ul>
Address:	Sponsors	UCs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attempted Sponsorship of</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Rio Grande on 10/2018</li><li>Admitted to Fort Bliss on 5/18/2021</li><li>Admitted to Pomona Fairplex on 5/19/2021</li><li>Admitted to Pomona Fairplex on 5/19/2021</li></ul>
Address:	Sponsors	UCs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>discharged from A New Leaf Dorothy Mitchell on 10/2017</li></ul>
Address:	Sponsors	UCs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>discharged from Southwest Key Casa Franklin on 5/2017</li></ul>
Address:	Sponsors	UCs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>discharged from BCFS Harlingen on 6/2019</li><li>discharged from Southwest Key Las Palmas on 9/2019</li><li>Admitted to Fort Bliss on 6/12/2021</li></ul>

**UCs Highlighted in Red are in ORR EIS Sites – Do NOT Release!**

<sup>2</sup> The reference to “Do NOT Release” in the screenshot refers to not releasing UCs.


The following screenshot demonstrates that the properties associated with UCs are owned by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is (1) the Trustee of [REDACTED] [see [REDACTED] records below]; (2) Director of [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]; and (3) the owner of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] where multiple sponsors and UCs allegedly live:

**Properties associated with UCs are owned by [REDACTED] and held in Trust for [REDACTED]**

- S:**
- Trustee of [REDACTED] (see [REDACTED] records below)
  - Director of [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] where multiple sponsors and multiple UCs claim to live (see [REDACTED] below)

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	NO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	2	YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	NO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	NO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	3	NO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	NO
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	NO


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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Parcel Details Tax Estimator View Comps 2020 TRM	Parcel Viewer Variance Report Change Address

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First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	1	YES
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3	1	NO



**Possible Trafficking Ring at [REDACTED], California**

The screenshot shows a purported Guatemalan Consular identification card for [REDACTED]. The ID Card notes a date of birth for [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] 1976. Although the image is blurry, the ID number appears to be [REDACTED]. The ID shows the sponsor living at [REDACTED], however on his family reunification application he stated that his address was in [REDACTED].



The list of sponsor names related to the apartment building reveals a dozen UCs placed in the building, including four UCs sponsored by three different names in [REDACTED] apartment, [REDACTED], as listed on his ID card, and an additional UC sponsorship pending at this address at the time of the screenshot. The addresses for these sponsors were provided in slightly different formats. One of them, for [REDACTED], provided the address as [REDACTED], while the others presented it as two variations of the address in [REDACTED] [REDACTED]” and “[REDACTED].”) The names of the sponsors at this address are: [REDACTED]. Another apartment in the same building, apartment [REDACTED] has a sponsor ([REDACTED]) with the same last name as [REDACTED], who sponsored another UC. It is noteworthy that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both former UCs. This is consistent with potential trafficking activity, as whistleblowers have advised my office that former UCs sometimes sponsor other children in a scheme to draw them to the United States for either labor or sex trafficking, and to pay off their own former sponsors or coyotes, who helped bring them to the U.S.

Despite [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] ID card and the already four children sponsored at that address, he attempted to sponsor two other children at a different apartment in the complex, [REDACTED]. It is unclear from the information provided whether those two UCs were placed with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

This UC Portal screenshot shows sponsors at this apartment building:



First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
					1		No
					3	3	No
					1		No
					1		No
					3	2	Yes
					3	2	Yes
					2		No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No

A total of 19 UCs are shown as either having been sponsored or in the process of being sponsored in the apartment building at the time of the screenshot in 2021. According to the documentation provided, ██████████ in the building was flagged after two UCs were released to the apartment. Whistleblowers state ██████████ failed to reveal he was attempting to sponsor a child at another facility. The ██████████ case manager only learned about this when ██████████ accidentally sent the case manager the paperwork and supposed proof of relationship for the other UC, ██████████), who was housed at Southwest Key Casa Houston facility. ██████████ claimed to be the uncle of two UCs, ██████████ ██████████, admitted to the ██████████ EIS on June 28, 2021, and ██████████ ██████████, admitted to Southwest Key Casa Houston on June 4, 2021. After reviewing the paperwork for the two UCs, according to whistleblowers, the ██████████ case manager found no evidence of relationship between ██████████ and the UCs.

This screenshot shows many sponsors also at nearby buildings on ██████████, which along with the ██████████ complex account for a total of 20 UCs, with eight more sponsorship applications and three of the sponsors being flagged as suspicious:

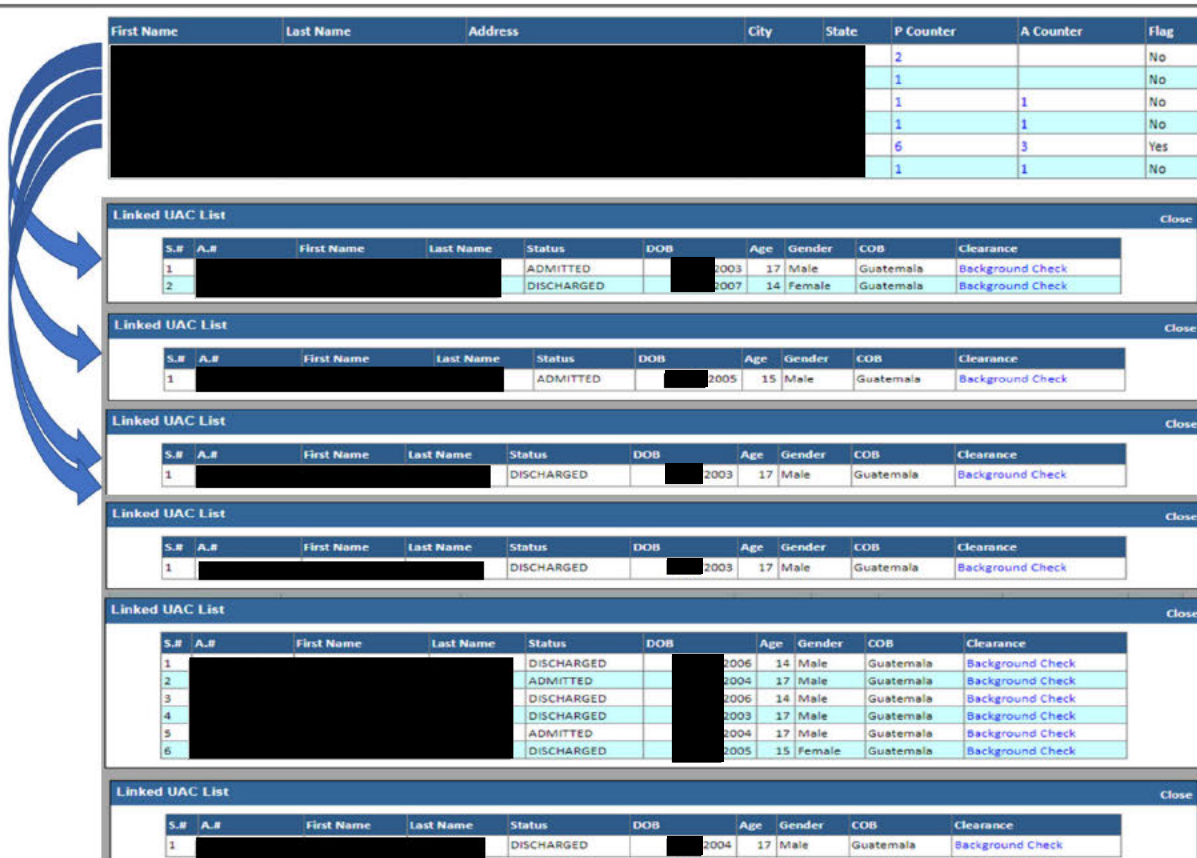
Screen Capture of UC™ Portal							
First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
					1		No
					3	3	No
					2	2	No
					1		No
					1		No
					3	2	Yes
					2		Yes
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					2	1	Yes
					1		No
					1	1	No

**██████████ – Unusual number of sponsors and UCs at one address**

The following screenshot from the UC Portal shows six sponsors with different surnames who had already sponsored a total of six children at the same address, ██████████

██████████ One of these sponsors, ██████████, is flagged, likely because of having three UCs sponsored, while applying to sponsor three more. In total, the six sponsors and potential sponsors have applied to sponsor a dozen children at this single address. Although this screenshot is from 2021, at least two of the children listed are still minors: ██████████

██████████ and ██████████ (additional information on ██████████ from the UC Portal follows the sponsor and UC montage from the UC portal below, which also verifies that he was released to an unrelated sponsor at this address):



The diagram illustrates a data flow from a main table to six linked UAC lists. The main table has columns: First Name, Last Name, Address, City, State, P Counter, A Counter, and Flag. The first row of the main table is linked to six separate 'Linked UAC List' sections. Each 'Linked UAC List' section has a 'Close' button and a table with columns: S.#, A.#, First Name, Last Name, Status, DOB, Age, Gender, COB, and Clearance. The data in the linked UAC lists is as follows:

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1		No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	No
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	6	3	Yes
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1	1	No

Linked UAC List										Close
S.#	A.#	First Name	Last Name	Status	DOB	Age	Gender	COB	Clearance	
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ADMITTED	[REDACTED] 2003	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
2	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2007	14	Female	Guatemala	Background Check	

Linked UAC List										Close
S.#	A.#	First Name	Last Name	Status	DOB	Age	Gender	COB	Clearance	
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ADMITTED	[REDACTED] 2005	15	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	



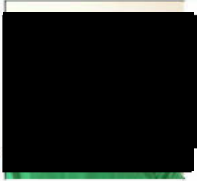
Linked UAC List										Close
S.#	A.#	First Name	Last Name	Status	DOB	Age	Gender	COB	Clearance	
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2003	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	

Linked UAC List										Close
S.#	A.#	First Name	Last Name	Status	DOB	Age	Gender	COB	Clearance	
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2006	14	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
2	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ADMITTED	[REDACTED] 2004	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
3	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2006	14	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
4	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2003	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
5	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ADMITTED	[REDACTED] 2004	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	
6	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2005	15	Female	Guatemala	Background Check	

Linked UAC List										Close
S.#	A.#	First Name	Last Name	Status	DOB	Age	Gender	COB	Clearance	
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	DISCHARGED	[REDACTED] 2004	17	Male	Guatemala	Background Check	

UAC Basic Information			
First Name:			
Last Name:			
AKA:			
As per BC: DOB	■■■■-■■-■■		
Status:	DISCHARGED		
Date of Birth:	■■■■-■■-■■		
A No.:	■■■■		
Age:	14		
Country of Birth:	Guatemala		
Gender:	M		
LOS:	150		
Current Program:	■■■■■■■■■■		
Admitted Date:	2/22/2021		

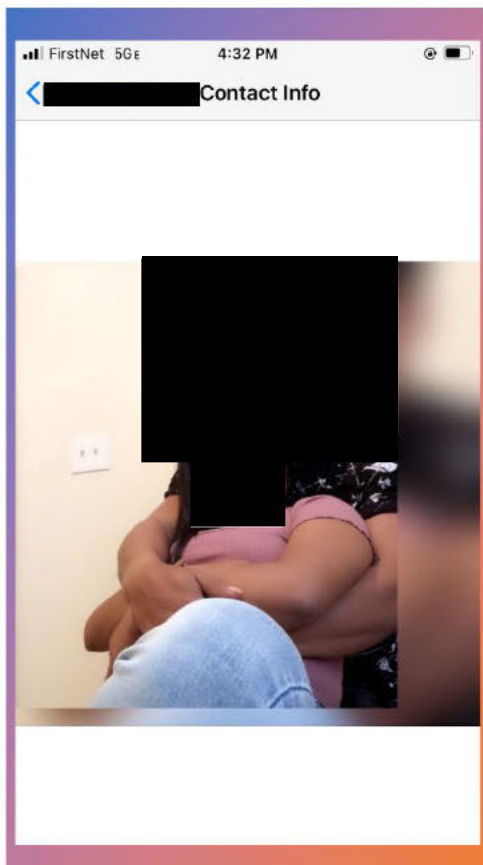
Discharge Notification			
Date of Discharge:	7/22/2021	Time of Discharge:	04:38 AM
Type Of Discharge:	Reunited (Individual Sponsor)	Sponsor Name:	■■■■■■■■■■
Sponsor DOB:	■■■■-■■-■■	Relationship to UAC:	Unrelated Sponsor
Address:	■■■■■■■■■■	City:	■■■■

**■■■■■■■■■■ – Fraudulent Birth Certificate Used to Sponsor Minor Female**

Whistleblowers provided a number of files related to placement of ■■■■■■■■■■ with a sponsor, ■■■■■■■■■■, an alleged 25-year-old male purported to be her brother. Whistleblowers have advised our office that WhatsApp is used to transmit documents between case managers, employees of a federal contractor handling UCs, and potential sponsors. This includes transmission of identity documents and documents to establish family relationship.

In this case, ■■■■■■■■■■ presented birth certificates as proof of relationship between himself and UC ■■■■■■■■■■ as siblings. After ■■■■■■■■■■ was reunited with purported brother ■■■■■■■■■■, he updated his profile photo in WhatsApp. The new photo was of him in an intimate embrace with ■■■■■■■■■■. Later ■■■■■■■■■■ updated the photo once more, this time with ■■■■■■■■■■ provocatively dressed, shown below. The sponsor's WhatsApp photos led the case manager to suspect the sponsor had provided fraudulent birth certificates for the purpose of obtaining the minor UC. Case files show the birth certificate was suspected to be fraudulent at the time due to the photos showing what appears to be a non-sibling relationship. However, whistleblowers clarified that the birth certificate provided "checked out" as authentic with the Guatemalan Consulate. It is possible that the certificates provided were genuine, but belonged to someone else.





According to the whistleblowers, Case Manager Team Leads researched Sponsor [REDACTED] social media profile, which generated disturbing results of “a female laying in a pool of blood with slash marks in various places on her scantily dressed body.”

Whistleblowers disclosed that the case managers who viewed the links reported child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A significant incident report (excerpts shown below) was filed at the [REDACTED] related to [REDACTED], but it noted that law enforcement and CPS were not notified. Shortly after the filing of the SIR, whistleblowers submitted the incident to local law enforcement. The likely fraudulent use of a document to obtain sponsorship, as well as the public display of suggestive photos support suspicion of sex trafficking in this incident.

UAC Basic Information	
First Name:	[REDACTED]
Last Name:	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED] 2005
A No.:	[REDACTED]
Age:	16
Child's Country of Birth:	Guatemala
Admitted Date:	7/12/2021
ORR Placement Date:	7/11/2021
Status:	DISCHARGED
AKA:	
Gender:	F
LOS:	17
LOC:	17
Current Program:	[REDACTED]
Current Location:	[REDACTED]

Event Type: SIR Event

Date of Event: 8/9/2021

Time of Event: 12:22 PM

Event ID: 4745626

Synopsis of Event: UC was released to supposed biological brother. Case manager was reviewing whatsapp messages and noticed chat with brother [REDACTED] changed his profile picture to photo with UC hugging inappropriately.

Significant Incident Report
<input type="radio"/> Emergency SIR <input checked="" type="radio"/> SIR

Reporting:			
Reported To State Licensing:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date of Report:	Time of Report:
Was the Incident Investigated?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date Notified the Incident will be investigated:	Case/Confirmation Number:
Explain			
Results/Findings of Investigation:			
Attach Reports/Findings:			
Is CPS Different From State Licensing: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
Reported To CPS:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date of Report:	Time of Report:
Was the Incident Investigated?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date Notified the Incident will be investigated:	Case/Confirmation Number:
Explain			
Results/Findings of Investigation:			
Attach Reports/Findings:			
Reported To Local Law Enforcement:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date of Report:	Time of Report:
		Officer Name:	Officer Badge:
Was the Incident Investigated?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Date Notified the Incident will be investigated:	Case/Confirmation Number:

### Possible Trafficking Rings in [REDACTED]

According to whistleblowers, [REDACTED], with DOB of [REDACTED] 2005, [REDACTED], was released from the [REDACTED] on July 22, 2021, to his sponsor, [REDACTED], who claimed an address at [REDACTED].

Four months earlier, [REDACTED], was discharged from the [REDACTED] facility to the same sponsor, [REDACTED], allegedly [REDACTED] father. [REDACTED] at the time he sponsored [REDACTED] claimed a different address, [REDACTED] according to records provided.

According to the whistleblowers, [REDACTED] did not reveal any adult household members living with him at the time of the sponsorship, but whistleblowers later discovered by conducting a "UC Portal street search" that household members were indeed sponsoring other UCs. One household member, [REDACTED], at the time had sponsored six UCs. He also had recently sponsored his alleged daughter, [REDACTED] who appears to be older than him in the photos below. Upon examination of the IDs presented by [REDACTED] (below) one can see the following:

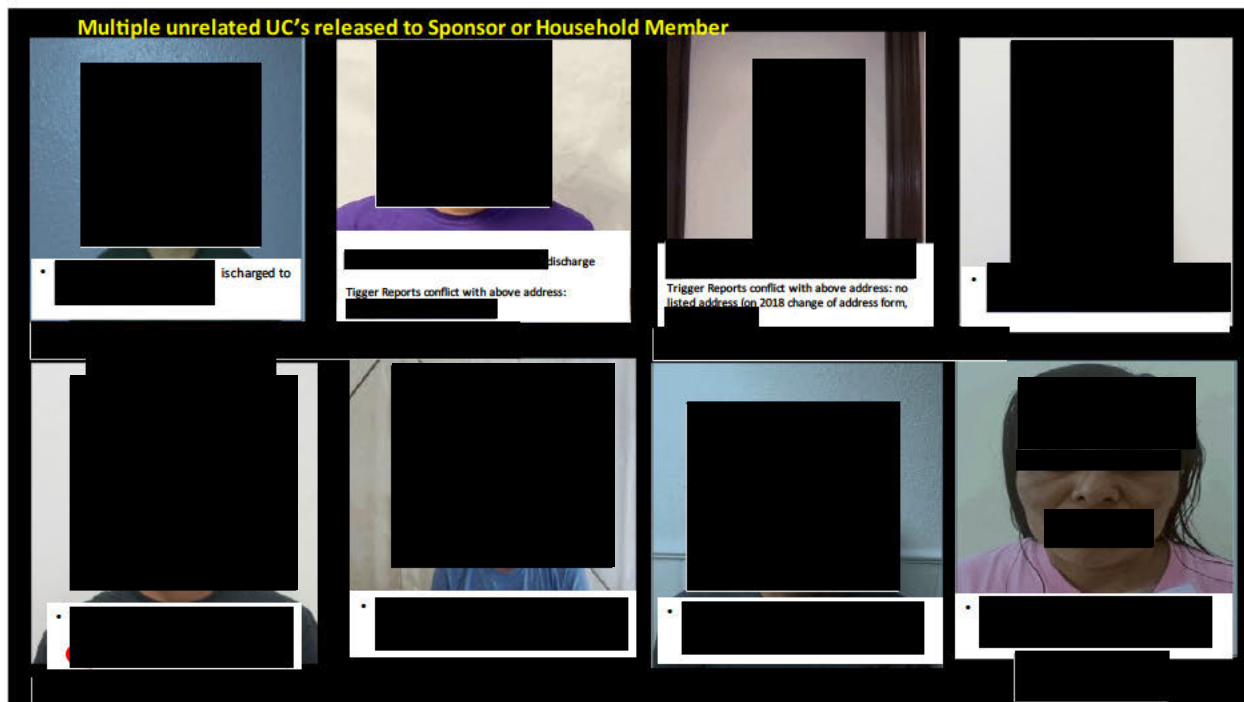
- The Consular ID card numbers are different
- The addresses are different (apartment [REDACTED])
- He had two unexpired IDs he presented for sponsorship
- In the newest ID he appears to be younger than in the older ID (as seen below on the left)

[REDACTED] claimed an address at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], and apparently claimed other addresses at the property for other sponsorships.



[REDACTED], according to whistleblower records, had previously sponsored 3 UCs, none of whom were enrolled in school, and one of whom had run away. Records we are turning over to you have the names and A#s of those children.





Photos on file for [REDACTED] show that she appears to be significantly older than the 17 years of age she reported to HHS:

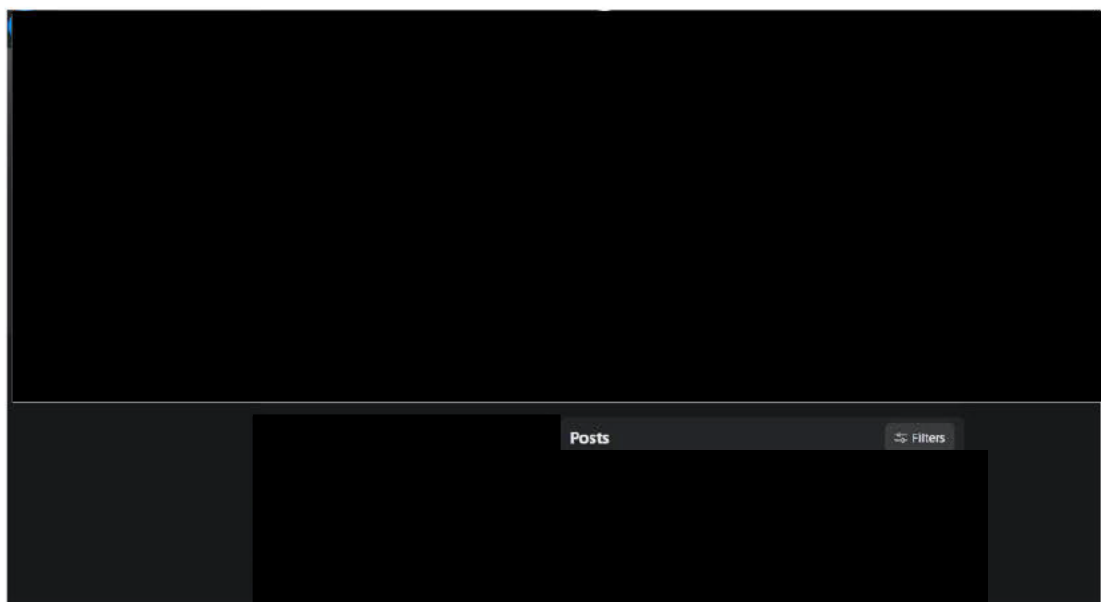


[REDACTED] at the time of whistleblower records was located at [REDACTED], and her documentation is suspected to be fraudulent due to what appears to be a complete mismatch between her reported age and that reported on the identification documents she provided. Whistleblowers discovered that [REDACTED] has a Facebook connection with [REDACTED], whose profile states:

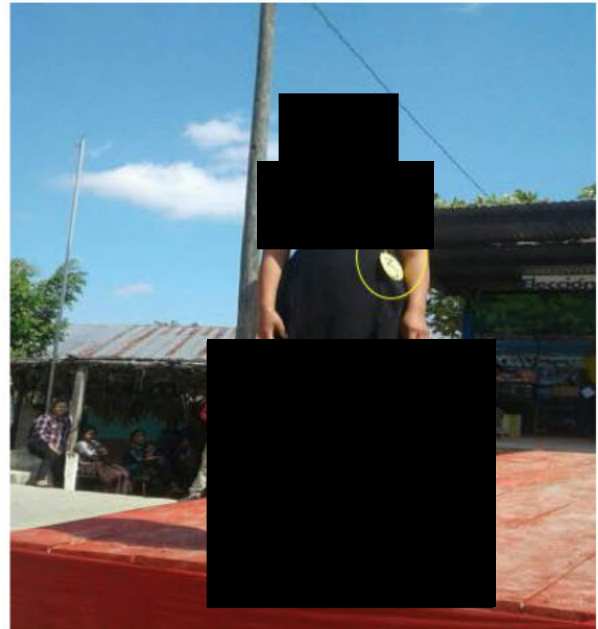
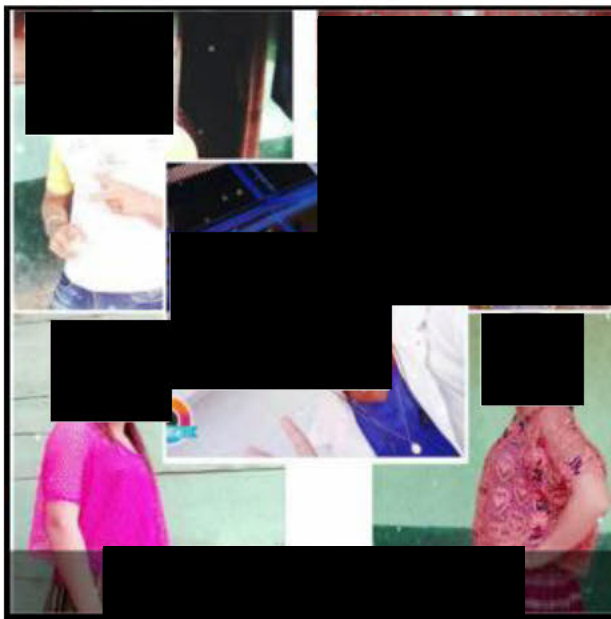
(translated: "Boss at



*Trafficking of Love, Kisses, Turning Heads, and Conquering Hearts <3 Expert at making you fall in love and captivating you <3<3")* In [REDACTED] profile are pictures that appear to show [REDACTED] under the name "[REDACTED]," along with young females, identified as "[REDACTED]" and "[REDACTED]."



Additional photographs on [REDACTED] Facebook profile show a young male without his shirt and a young female with a short-cut dress, with low cut top and a number hanging from her side, as if at a beauty pageant or even an auction.



In addition, whistleblowers have revealed that the addresses [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] when queried in the UC Portal return an astonishing 329 hits, including sponsors using various addresses and/or combinations of similar addresses, and using various iterations of their first, middle, and last names to avoid being flagged in the system as suspicious. It is also important to note that despite these attempts to avoid flags, these addresses nonetheless had “multiple flags due to document fraud, noncompliant home study reports, unresponsive to post-release services, and CPS reports filed following home visits.” According to the whistleblowers, there are also multiple undisclosed sponsors in single households, which constitutes a failure to report adult household members, another possible red flag for trafficking.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], with DOB [REDACTED] 2003, [REDACTED], then aged 17, was found by his case manager to be a potential victim of labor trafficking in August 2021, according to a significant incident report.

UAC Basic Information			
	First Name:	[REDACTED]	Status: ADMITTED
	Last Name:	[REDACTED]	AKA:
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED] 2003	Gender: M
	A No.:	[REDACTED]	LOS: 17
	Age:	17	LOC: 17
	Child's Country of Birth:	Guatemala	Current Program:
	Admitted Date:	8/10/2021	Current Location:
	ORR Placement Date:	8/9/2021	
Event Type: SIR Event			
Date of Event:	8/27/2021	Time of Event:	05:38 PM
		Event ID:	[REDACTED]
Synopsis of Event: concerns by case manager that UC is potential victim of labor trafficking			

According to the SIR, the potential sponsor, [REDACTED], and his father were trying to simultaneously sponsor two UCs from the [REDACTED] at their address on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. The SIR noted that the potential sponsor's father lied to case management about trying to sponsor other UCs, lied about his son (who was a current sponsor)

not having a phone to communicate, lied about the composition of the household and lied when asked about the relationship with the UC in the home country. When the case manager spoke with the potential sponsor's father and asked how he would feel if the child were forced to work, the father responded about his son, the potential sponsor: "he does not want him to be forced to work but if he has to work then so be it."

Did the incident take place at another care provider facility? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		Care Provider Name: -- Select Provider Name --	
		Care Provider City: -- Select Provider City --	Care Provider State: -- Select Provider State --
Location of Incident:	Other	Date Reported To Care Provider:	8/27/2021
		Time Reported To Care Provider:	06:00 PM
Other Specify:	Case Management	Date Reported To ORR:	8/27/2021
		Time Reported To ORR:	06:00 PM
Description of Incident: (Full Description of Incident)	<p>Sponsor is a former UC, discharged on 02/09/2018 from [REDACTED] sponsor has sponsored another UC [REDACTED] from Fort Bliss on 06/01/2021. Sponsor and sponsored father are attempting to simultaneously sponsor UC [REDACTED] and UC [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] In addition, sponsor's father (former sponsor) lied about attempting to sponsor other UC's, lied about his son (current sponsor) not having a phone to communicate, lied about the composition of the household and lastly he lied about when asked about relationship with UC in home country. For example, he claimed to attend a party with the UC and UC stated that sponsor did not attend the party. Things to note are that former sponsor and current sponsor live in the same address, current sponsor has an order of removal. Labor trafficking because when CM attempted to find another sponsor, she spoke to father and asked how would he feel if UC was forced to work? UC's father stated that "he does not want him to be forced to work but if he has to work then so be it." In addition, when CM asked if father knew anyone else father stated "i dont have money to look for another sponsor" then CM asked if he paid former sponsor to sponsor his child and he stated "no, he does not know if he has to pay." The address being used by the sponsor has 11 flags, more than 50 UC's approximately 20 active sponsorships.</p>		

When the case manager did a query of the UC Portal, the CM discovered that the address being used by the sponsor had 11 flags, more than 50 UCs, and 20 active sponsorships. The following screenshot from the UC Portal shows the large number of sponsors at the address, with 64 children having been placed there and 86 sponsorship applications:

Sponsor First Name	Sponsor Last Name	Sponsor Address	City	State	P Counter	A Counter	Flag
					2	2	Yes
					1	1	No
					1		No
					1	1	Yes
					1		No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					2	2	No
					2	2	Yes
					1	1	No
					4	2	Yes
					4	2	Yes
					4	2	Yes
					1	1	No
					2	2	No
					2	2	No
					2	2	No
					1	1	No
					2	2	Yes
					1	1	No
					1	1	Yes
					1	1	No
					2	2	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					2		No
					2	1	No
					1		No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					2	2	No
					1		No
					1	1	No
					3	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					3	2	No
					2	3	Yes
					1	1	No
					3	2	Yes
					1		No
							No
					2	1	No
							No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1		Yes
					1	1	No
					1		No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					1	1	No
					3	2	No
					3	2	No
					86	64	11 FLAGS





## Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Interagency Summary

**As of May 6, 2025**

### **Background:**

ORR identified a backlog of over 65,000 reports regarding Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) that were unaddressed during the prior administration. These reports were received from various sources; the ORR call center, Office of Trafficking in Person, grantees, UACs themselves or other professional staff. The reports can range in severity from basic address changes to reports of criminal activity and immediate safety concerns. Since discovering the issue, current ORR leadership took swift action, by utilizing existing resources, and organizing a team of internal ORR Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to review and address the concerns. identify unactioned critical safety concerns, criminal investigative leads, and address information updates.

Furthermore, ORR created an interagency initiative in Mid-February 2025, to jointly action criminal investigative leads. When a backlog report is reviewed and believed to need additional investigative steps it is sent to the interagency for law enforcement response. Separately, but related, ORR is still receiving new concerns and reports every single day, we are actioning responses using these new established processes which we intend to permanently formalize.

Backlog	
Source of Backlog	Totals
Notifications of Concern Backlog	56,591
Human Trafficking Reports Backlog	7,346*
Fraud Leads	1,688
Backlog Total	65,605
Backlog Processed	18,868
Backlog Remaining	46,311

ORR Interagency Room	
Action	Totals
Interagency Room Leads	2247
Leads Referred for Investigation	528
Cases Presented to AUSAs	37
Investigations Accepted by AUSAs	36
Indictments	7
Arrest Warrants Issued	25
Arrests	11
Convictions	3
Investigations Declined by AUSAs	0
Leads Closed – Not actionable	221

\* Data subject to change based on ongoing assessments of trafficking reports.