

I went the & final week. First day when I got badge was given Tip Sheet on rules & how to handle this population . Upon entering the Coliseum noticed several mothers coming up to our group & hugging them(they remembered them). The 1st family I met the mother knew the older children were taken the day before & she was preparing/packing her things. She allowed me to interact w/ her children & I read stories to them. One of the daughters looked at my badge & went & told mother. Mother knew I was not CPS & allowed me to take her children to the find scotch tape. CPS worker stopped me & checked my badge. At least 3 CPS workers circled us pretended to pick up items off floor right in front of us-while I read to these children.

Met another mother who was nursing & her son, whom I'd met & interacted w/ before, was trying to nap & was restless due to coughing , asked her if I could pat his back & help settle him. CPS worker came up to me inquiring about his mother, worker went up to her w/ clipboard & said, "you need to take him to nurse right now." This mother was breast feeding at this time. CPS wker would not let me take him. I spent time w/ her & other children. She was animated, scared , telling me, "It's like CPS is dangling something over our heads." Other children came up to us & all wanted to know what was going to happen & why was this happening & letting me know CPS was mean.

Met 2-nursing mothers who were breast feeding & let them know I was there to help. Saw them next day at Seton House in S. A. & they came up & hugged me & were grateful they got to stay w/ their infants & small children. At least 5 mothers reported that at night CPS circled their beds, held flashlight in their faces & then would sit inches away from them as they tried to sleep. Mothers reported they were scared CPS would take their children during the night thus leaving them & their children exhausted.reports of no privacy & interruptions at prayer time were given, as well.

Observed CPS in coliseum sitting in chairs some were sleeping, talking to each other, circling the families, facing the wall not even looking at families. Families reported being cold at night & did not get to go outside, "I wish the tornado would come & blow us back home", one child stated to me. Mothers were gracious, kind scared, worried ,etc..Children had colds, & were arguing at this point over toys CPS bought in.

On the bus I was not allowed to help children/mothers get off or help carry any of their items. Children w/out mothers were crying, one asked me, will I at least get to stay w/ my brother, he was weeping. I t was heart wrenching & an experience I will never forget but, am humbled & grateful to have been apart of. T