

Negotiating Access to Public Goods: Providing Healthcare to Toronto Immigrants with Precarious Status

**Paloma Villegas
Francisco Villegas
Patricia Landolt**

**Research Conference on Healthcare for the
Undocumented and Uninsured
February 12, 2010**

Outline

◎ Project

- Negotiating Access in education and health care sectors
- Key informant interviews
- Focus Groups

◎ Focus of presentation

- How do healthcare workers and advocates negotiate access for precarious status migrants?
- What are the limitations of their strategies?
- How do healthcare workers and advocates imagine the policy future?

Frontline workers: Access Strategies

◉ Networking

- Informal arrangements

◉ Brokering

- Negotiating to waive fees, get free beds etc.

◉ Informal Referrals

Frontline workers: Limits to current strategies

⦿ Resources

- Funding and cost of procedures
- Increasing number of precarious status clients
- Fear of overburdening contacts
- Extremely limited follow up and long term care

⦿ Personal strain

- Forced to make discretionary decisions about who gets care
- Overworked

Community liaisons: Access Strategies

- ⊙ Bridging role
- ⊙ Internal advocates
 - Use organizational vision statements and institutional mandates to advocate for access
- ⊙ Sectoral networking
 - Coordinate conversations
 - Think of how to articulate need
 - Propose and advance concrete improvements
 - Standard rates
 - Eliminate double billing

Community Liaisons: Limits to current strategies

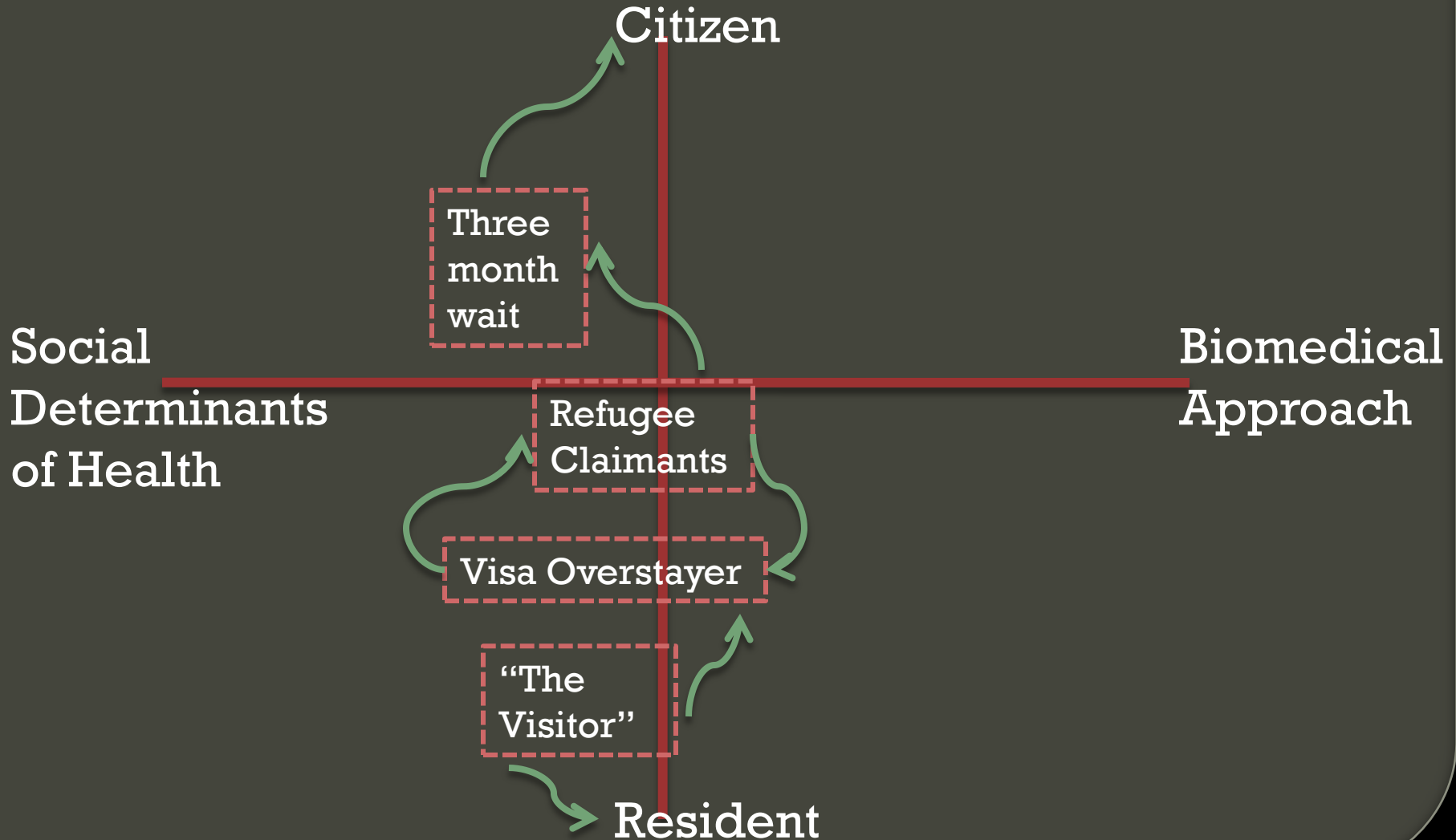
⊙ Resources

- Funding
- Acute, short term care

⊙ Bureaucracy

- Transient government and management turn over

Political Landscape of Policy Options



Discussion and Conclusion

- ◉ Access
- ◉ Limitations
- ◉ Policy Directions