



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 23, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** Miriam Rosario (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** November 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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### **THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

**Date:** January 16, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** DCF, 1400 W Commercial Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL  
**Contact:** Miriam Rosario  
**Office:** (561) 227-6722  
**Cell:** (561) 459-6098  
**E-Mail:** Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Broward area in the past few years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups. An average of about twenty to twenty-five attend these meetings on a regular basis. The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of the refugee populations, share best practices, build collaborations between agencies, spot trends in refugee populations, characteristics or movements, help create good communication among service providers; get informed about upcoming community events, request for proposals, training, workshops, conferences, etc., at the local, state and national level; discuss refugee program service needs and possible solutions to meeting those needs. Meeting participants also receive updates, information and clarification on new federal and state regulations and policy changes pertaining to refugees.

If there are any issues that you would like to include in the agenda, please contact me at the above address.

*I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!*

Southeast Region - Circuit 15  
111 South Sapodilla Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

## BROWARD COUNTY REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

### **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was held at Broward County Family Success Administration/Community Action Agency and Lourdes Leconte (LC), Southern Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Lourdes thanked Broward County Community Action for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Dr. Bitra Sabripour, Executive Director of See Your Future Inc., discussed her organization's mission - to provide the gift of sight to the under-privileged and exploited. She stated the organization strives to increase the quality of life of survivors of human trafficking and the underprivileged by providing the highest quality contacts, glasses and eye exams. They also assist student athletes on their mission to achieve college scholarships and academic success and actively work with the community and government to help ease the global effects of poverty and human trafficking. During the meeting, Dr. Sabripour discussed how other organizations could collaborate in the future. The presented distributed flyers and materials on the organization.

### **NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**

Lourdes Leconte, Southern Community Liaison, RS DCF discussed and provided an overview and training presentation regarding the Cooperation with Child support Enforcement. The presentation focused on the importance of collaborating with Child Support Enforcement (CSE) when a refugee applies for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or SNAP benefits. The presentation instructed providers on the proper way to complete the benefits application and described how to note that an absent parent was residing outside of the United States.

### **GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

USCIS, Roketa Mansfield, Community Relations Officer (CRO), Miami and Caribbean District U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spoke about USCIS Multilingual Resources. USCIS strives to provide individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP) with meaningful access to immigration information in the language they understand. The presenter spoke of the following online resources:

- Naturalization resources such as eligibility requirements and test preparation materials in other languages at the Citizenship Resource Center: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>
- “How Do I?” information guides in multiple languages at: <https://www.uscis.gov/how-do-i-languages>
- Digital Multilingual Resource materials in over 25 languages at: <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/multilingual-resource-center>
- <https://www.uscis.gov> has content in both English and Spanish, including case status checks and the Emma virtual tool.

USCIS Updates Fee Waiver Requirements. USCIS has revised Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, by removing the means-tested benefit criteria that was previously used as a factor in determining whether an applicant was exempt from paying for filing fees or biometric services. Individuals may still request a fee waiver if their documented annual household income is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or they demonstrate financial hardship. As of December 2, those seeking a fee waiver must submit the 10/24/19 version of the form. To learn more, one may visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-912>

USCIS Updates for Forms Available for Online Filing. Petitioners may now complete and file Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, online. Online filing allows aliens to submit forms electronically, check the status of their case, and receive notices from USCIS. With this enhancement, individuals may now file eight USCIS forms online:

- Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card
- Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative
- Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status
- Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings
- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
- Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document
- Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship
- Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322

To file these forms online, individuals must first create a USCIS online account at [myaccount.uscis.dhs.gov](https://myaccount.uscis.dhs.gov). This free account allows them to:

- Submit and track the status of their forms;
- Pay their fees;
- Track the status of their case;
- Communicate with USCIS through a secure inbox; and
- Respond to requests for evidence.

USCIS still accepts the latest paper version of all forms by mail.

USCIS Info Pass appointment Instructions. As part of the Information Services Modernization initiative, USCIS encourages applicants and petitioners to obtain information on their website and by calling the USCIS Contact Center. This initiative is intended to allow USCIS staff to spend more time focused on case adjudication and thus improve case processing times. If you are inside the United States, you can no longer schedule an appointment online using Info Pass for domestic offices. However, you can check your case status, see our case processing times, change your address, and use other tools on our website. If our online tools do not provide the help you need, please call the USCIS Contact Center for assistance or to request an in-person appointment.

Issues regarding the EAD's with future start dates beginning after the expiration of the parole was elevated to Headquarters. The National Benefits Center (NBC) researched the cases and found that the errors were due to a training issue in which they have addressed. They have sent correspondence to the applicants to recall the cards with wrong validity dates. As soon as the cards with the errors are received by NBC, new ones with correct validity dates will be issued.

**GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ESS/DCF-** Wilber Roney; briefly discussed RAP benefits eligibility updates.

**RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (BC/PR);** Clara Jaramillo indicated that Adult Education class sessions and registration are scheduled.

**ELC Broward and Catholic Charities** had no updates. **CWS & YCI** had no updates.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2020**  
Time: 10:00AM to 12PM  
Location: DCF, 1400 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Conference Room 2nd Floor  
FT Lauderdale, FL 33309

Note: Due to security protocols please allow extra time to arrive.

**Contact:** [Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (561) 227-6722  
[David.Draper@myflfamilies.com](mailto:David.Draper@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (407) 317-7335