



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2019
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: Miriam Rosario (RS)
SUBJECT: September 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: November 21, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Broward County Family Success Administration/Community Action Agency (BCFSACAA)
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 Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked Children Services Council of Broward for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mindy Jones, Senior Attorney, Family Law Unit, Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida provided a presentation on their Domestic Violence (DV) program. Their mission is to promote violence-free relationships and social change by offering choices to end violence and domestic abuse. The presentation focused on the prevention of DV, legal process and the many resources available to all individuals in Broward County. DV is a pattern of coercive and abusive behavior used by a partner in an intimate relationship to gain or maintain power and control over the other partner. The presenter distributed flyers (in Spanish, Creole and English) regarding the DV's resources to help those coping with DV during and after the violence. Ms. Mindy offered to distribute her power point presentation and it was later emailed to all task force members. The presenter offered many DV and Stalking resources such as; crisis hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and prevention outreach. The presenter noted that October is DV awareness & prevention month and members were invited to the many events occurring throughout Broward County in October, including a Vigil on October 16 and the annual training and luncheon on October 25. During the presentation, the presenter encouraged collaboration with the task force members so that vulnerable refugees would be well informed of DV. The presenter is available to speak other relevant events. She can be reached at MJones@legalaid.org.

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Welcoming Week (WW)- Miriam I. Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison reminded the task force of the upcoming Welcoming Week event. The event is currently being planned by members of the task force. **Clara Jaramillo, Director Project RENEW/Broward College** invited task force members to the WW event. This WW will be a collaboration between Broward College Hispanic Heritage organization. Project RENEW, Hispanic Artists of South Florida, and other members of the task force. The Refugee Adult Education program will be inviting its students to participate in the event. This year National Welcoming Week's event will also be co-sponsored by Refugee Services Adult Education program and Broward College.

Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison, RS DCF, also discussed the need for outreach in the community. Task Force members discussed ways to reach out to newly-arrived asylees in the community. A flyer focused on asylees will be distributed.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Berta Cassidy, Community Relations Officer (CRO) spoke about revisions to the Naturalization test. This test is revised every 10 years. The revised test will be piloted in the fall. The group discussed resources in the PBC Library that will help those that need to study.

She also discussed a Presidential Memorandum on a Final Rule of Public Charge Ground of Admissibility. She stated that the final rule provides guidance on how to determine if someone applying for admission or adjustment of status is likely at any time to become a public charge. It was noted that the rule does not apply to aliens whom Congress exempted from the public charge ground of inadmissibility. Berta offered to email the task force a "USCIS Fact Sheet". The final rule will go into effect on October 15, 2019 and will only be applied to applications and petitions postmarked (or, if applicable, submitted electronically) on or after Oct. 15, 2019. Applications and petitions postmarked (or, if applicable, submitted electronically) before Oct. 15, 2019, will be adjudicated under the prior policy.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Broward County Library- Mary Cassell, Librarian Senior, Broward Libraries-West Regional provided a brief overview of upcoming events that will help refugee families in Broward County. Here is the link to the Northwest Regional Library's Science Fair Readiness Festival on Oct. 5th: <http://www.broward.org/Library/Events/Pages/ScienceFairReadiness.aspx> Also, this is a link to the free "Gear to Go" available at various libraries throughout Broward County: <http://www.broward.org/Library/Services/Pages/GearToGo.aspx>

RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (BC/PR); Clara Jaramillo indicated that Adult Education is starting their class sessions and registration has officially ended. **ELC Broward and Catholic Charities** had no updates. CWS & YCI were not present at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, November 21, 2019**
Time: 10:00AM to 12PM
Location: Broward County Family Success Administration/Community Action Agency
900 NW 31 Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
Conference Room 1st Floor
FT Lauderdale, FL 33309

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

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