



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Rick Scott**  
*Governor*

**Esther Jacobo**  
*Interim Secretary*

**MIAMI-DADE REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES  
October 11, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Sylvia Acevedo, Bojan Bajic, Adria Dilme-Bejel, Erica Perdomo, Modesto Burgos, Berta Cassidy, Suzy Cop, Edith Garcia, Kelly Browne, Emilie Goesser, Julio Iglesias, Lourdes Leconte, Maria Miranda, Silvia Lopez, Veronica Rodriguez, Guillermo Luna, Yasmine Malbranche, Leydi Sosa, Evelyn Soto, Ileana Vallejo, Kris Gregory, Stephanie Scott, Cristobal Perez, Maria Dominguez, Claudia Basso, Judith Rubio, Marie D. Charles, Martha Ferrer, Joseph Hackberth, Guillermo Denacimiento, Adrian Madriz, Alvaro Vargas, Melodie Kinet, Lourdes Casteñeda, Judith Delgado, Lupe Barroso, Amy Guadalupe, Gabriella Valle, Diego Castro, Elmer Morales, Aileen Esparra, Eduardo Murgado, Melida Gonzalez, Diana Aldana, Edy C. Vasquez, Paola Camacho

**INTRODUCTION:**

Adria Dilme from the Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services welcomed the task force members.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Adrian Madriz and Guillermo De Nacimiento from Epilepsy Foundation did a presentation on The Affordable care Act and what their organization is doing in the community to help low income families sign up for health insurance. The project described is supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-13-001 by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. On their website they said are all the details one needs about what EFOF is doing to help consumers navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace. They have an event calendar on this page that displays all of the Patient Navigation events throughout the state where you can go for personalized assistance with the Health Insurance Marketplace and its application. If client is in need of personalized assistance they are encouraged to call 1-877-553-7453 for assistance and appointments..

Claudia Basso from Camilus Health Concern, also did a presentation on Affordable Health care and what her organization is doing to help low income families sign up for health insurance. Their site has Certified navigators who actually help the client apply. They also provided brochures to the task force members to help them get the word out

Judith A. Delgado, Vice Principal Hialeah Miami Lakes Adult Education and Lupe Barroso SFW program Coordinator at CNC presented their internship/job skills program and post secondary financial support. It is a joint venture geared at helping young adult refugees attending GED classes to get a high school graduation experience while getting a series of wrap around

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services to prepare them to enter the workforce or pursue a vocational path upon graduation. All in all, they have been able to blend several services overseen by RS program and maximizing their potential by collaborating to serve our newly arrived refugees, making an impact on both parents and students alike. At the end the task force members got to watch a beautiful video put together by the students attending this program, where they have expressed their gratitude to all who have been helped them.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Task force members bid farewell to Modesto Burgos who has retired from DMV and presented him with an award for his tireless support and collaboration in resolving countless issues that the Refugee clients faced throughout the years

ACCESS made a presentation regarding the changes in Food Stamp that will decrease in the amount of benefit recipients currently receive

Bojan Bajic re-announced the upcoming 40th anniversary of Youth Co-Op. To highlight this milestone, various activities will take place on Saturday, October 12 at the Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah, which include a fundraiser - 5K race, followed by recognitions, and a fun "get together". All proceeds from the fundraiser - 5K race will be used towards education projects at Youth Co-Op's Charter and Preparatory Schools.

**REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (*Sent via E-Mail in August and September*)**

- New ORR ACA Resources to Help Refugees
- LGBT Refugee resettlement guidelines / Agency self-assessment checklist
- Apply Today! NINA Technical Assistance Opportunity
- Webinar on Immigrant Integration
- HHS Fraud and Scam Tip Sheets
- IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam
- Social Security Announces 1.5 Percent Benefit Increase for 2014
- Scholarship contest for college students (asylees and refugees)
- NIIC welcomes nation's refugees to Miami
- Food Assistance Benefits are Changing
- From Main Street to White House, America Said: Immigrants Make Us Stronger
- RCUSA Weekly News and Announcements, 10-7-13

**Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**December 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus**

**500 NE 2nd Avenue Building 3 Room 3208-09 Miami, FL 33132**

### VOLAGS REPORT OCTOBER , 2013

No report submitted , only the Matching grant Enrollment for the period listed  
2013 - YTD Matching Grant Enrollments

October 1, 2012 to September, 2013

| Agency                           | Trafficked<br>Person/SI<br>V | Entrant<br>s | Asylee<br>s | Refugee<br>s | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| USCCB /<br>Catholic<br>Charities | 0                            | 344          | 36          | 125          | 505   |
| CWS                              |                              | 378          | 26          | 100          | 504   |
| EMM                              |                              | 203          | 0           | 120          | 323   |
| IRC                              | 0                            | 401          | 53          | 244          | 698   |
| LIRS                             | 0                            | 195          | 0           | 113          | 308   |
| WR                               | 0                            | 135          | 1           | 58           | 194   |
| USCRI /<br>YC                    | 0                            | 1059         | 41          | 110          | 1210  |
| TOTAL                            | 0                            | 2371         | 121         | 745          | 3237  |

### IMMIGRATION AND LEGAL ISSUES SUB COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2013

**MIAMI AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE**  
**Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee**  
**Minutes for meeting on October 10, 2013**  
**By Miriam J. Garcia**

**Attendance:** Haydee Cañas, Berta Cassidy, Luz Castilla, Maria R. Dominguez, Miriam J. Garcia, Yanelys Garcia, Brad Ginter, Joseph Hackbarth, Marie Jean, Bruce Marmar, Dorothy Martin, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Amelia Ramirez, Christine Reis.

The Immigration and Legal Issues Subcommittee meeting was held on October 10, 2013 at the offices of World Relief where Berta Cassidy provided the USCIS update and answered questions as follow:

**MIAMI DISTRICT OFFICE:** Eileen Lopez-Tome was selected as the Acting Chief of Staff for one year.

**INTERACTIVE VOICE RECORDING (IVR):** USCIS is working to improve the customers' experience when they call their 800 number. They will conduct IVR testing to ensure customers can get the information they need fast and easily without needing to speak to a live operator. If you are willing to help, they have three requirements: 1. You must be able to complete the testing of 5 scenarios in one day, likely to take place on October 15, 2013. It will take about an hour. 2. You must be able to call from a cell phone or private line. A networked or extension-based system (like in an office) will not work. 3. They will give you a document to record your results. You must be able

to save this electronically and send it via email to a USCIS contractor. If you can meet these three requirements and are willing to donate about an hour of your time to this effort, please let Berta know as soon as possible.

I-130 and I-90. USCIS is experiencing a delay with the processing of these forms at the National Benefits Center due to understaffing.

**DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA):** USCIS will start on doing some outreach to the farm workers' community so they can find a way of applying for the benefit.

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING:** USCIS is holding a stakeholder meeting on October 23, 2013 on Scams. Berta will send more information.

**ASYLUM OFFICE:** They will gradually start in October, 2013 with affirmative asylum interviews and a flyer was distributed with Asylum Office contact information.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. at the Offices of World Relief located at 2150 SW 8th Street, 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33135.**

## EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2013

### 2013 REFUGEE TASK FORCE EDUCATION

#### SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

October, 2013

- The REVEST Program has been able to retain over 2600 students enrolled in VESOL classes for the current term (Fall / 2013-1) and has enrolled over 240 Vocational students also for this current term which began August 26, 2013 through December 13, of 2013.
- REVEST has been able to expand their Vocational Training options to new College Credit Certificate Programs in the fields of Financial Services, Entrepreneurship Studies and Computers. These new Programs will allow our students to gain the knowledge to prepare them for marketable occupations in high demand for the following years.
- REVEST has started giving appointments for the upcoming registration process for VESOL classes for the Spring term, which will begin next January, 8th. Registrations for vocational Programs corresponding to the Spring 2013-2 will start on October 14, 2013.
- Faculty meetings for all REVEST instructors took place from Sept. 12 and Sept. 20 in our four locations: Hialeah Outreach Center, West-Dade Outreach Center, Kendall Outreach Center, and Wolfson Center. The topics included information to educate students on establishing the in-state tuition-residency status and future goals. Professionalism and Policies and Procedures were also reviewed and discussed with instructors.
- CASAS test will be administered from December 4th to 6th for the current term/Cycle 63. REVEST continues preparing for this test and students have been receiving individualized instruction and tutoring aimed at the completion of required competencies. Other topics of the meeting included initiatives to increase retention and to reinforce student commitment.
- On August 16, 2013 all REVEST Advisors and several administrators participated in a Security Awareness Training which was conducted online by the DCF Training and Development Department. The course provided an overview of the Department's rules and guidelines concerning computer security.

- The SAVES Program enrollment as of October 8, 2013, is 3,975. Of these, 1,802 are new students. The current trimester ends on December 19, 2013 and the next trimester begins on January 6, 2014.
- The SAVES Program will close registration for the current term during the 1st week of November at all of its 16 centers. Students will have to wait until the next trimester to enroll with SAVES. In the meantime, students are able to enroll in the regular ESOL program with MDCPS.
- SAVES participated in the last Community Based Organization (CBO) meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at the USCIS Miami Field Office located at 8801 NW 7 Avenue. It was very informative.
- SAVES continues offering evaluation and translation services to its students through Joseph & Silny. The last session was held on August 29. The next one will be on October 22, 2013. Students greatly benefit from these services since they facilitate the process of finding employment.
- SAVES is being monitored by DCF Government Operations Consultant Isabel Garcia and her team. SAVES has implemented many new initiatives and strategies in order to comply with contract requirements.
- The last SAVES Program District Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2013. The next one will take place on Wednesday, November 20th, 2013, from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center. Please contact our office if you are interested in attending and/or presenting.
- Under the leadership of the Vice-Principal of Hialeah Miami-Lakes Adult Education Center, Judith Cardona-Delgado, a satellite SAVES program was opened at Jose Marti Mathematics Science and Technology 6-12 Academy to serve 16 to 18 year old refugee/asylee students. With the cooperation of the M-DCPS daytime school and in partnership with the Cuban National Council, the program offers a unique setting, serving as a great role model to these refugee youngsters who have found a college bound positive environment, in which they can socialize with other students their age, and have their language and academic needs met. The program has two classrooms housing 24 students, who attend school Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Students' attendance and performance are excellent.
- If you have any questions about our program, you can call us or visit the SAVES website at <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

**Maria Miranda**

Instructional Supervisor, SAVES Program

SAVES PROGRAM

Lindsey Hopkins Building G, Room 162

750 NW 20 Street

Miami, Florida 33127

305-548-3046

**REFUGEE HEALTH REPORT – OCTOBER 2013**

See attachment

**FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLE – OCTOBER 2013**

Modesto Burgos retired .

**USCIS UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2013**

The following update was provided by Berta Cassidy.

**USCIS Miami  
December 2013 Update**

USCIS Reminds Filipino Nationals Impacted by Typhoon Haiyan of Available Immigration Relief Measures - In light of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (named “Yolanda” by Philippine authorities), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) would like to remind Filipino nationals that they may be eligible for certain immigration relief measures if requested.

To read more - <http://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-reminds-filipino-nationals-impacted-typhoon-haiyan-available-immigration-relief-measures>

National Spanish-Language Engagement - USCIS invites you to a free, nationwide Spanish-language event. Our representatives will share agency updates, discuss immigration-related topics and be available to answer your questions. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 11th, 730 pm – 9 pm. You can join by phone or live web stream.

To participate by phone, call: 1-888-790-1962, Password: Enlace

To participate by a live web stream go to: [www.uscis.gov/live/enlace](http://www.uscis.gov/live/enlace)

For flyers in English and Spanish, please visit: <http://www.uscis.gov/outreach/conversation-uscis>

· Redesignated USCIS.gov website – USCIS recently launched its redesigned website available in both English and Spanish. The redesigned website provides customers with a simplified and more user-friendly experience.

To visit our website, please go to: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

To read more about the launch of the new website, please go to: <http://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-launches-redesigned-uscisgov-website>

Follow us on Facebook (/uscis), Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog The Beacon.

· Upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies - Below are scheduled dates for Administrative N-400 Oath Ceremonies and the corresponding field offices where the ceremonies will take place. Please note that although these dates are current on the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

Miami Field Office – December 13 and 20

Hialeah Field Office – December 6, 16, 18, and 19

Oakland Park Field Office – December 6, 13, and 17

Kendall Field Office – December 6, 13, and 20