



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2022
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: March 9, 2022, Task Force Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: May 11, 2022
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: TBD
Contact: LeAndra Stafford
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E-Mail: Leandra.Stafford@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Jacksonville area for many years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations, and mutual assistance associations. An average of about twenty-five to thirty people 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!

5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held via video remote meeting. LeAndra Stafford, Community Liaison, represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program and facilitated the meeting. There were 30 people in attendance on Microsoft Teams virtual meeting. Guests included: David Draper, Community Liaison Manager, as well as several DCF staff were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants identified themselves by agency in the chat box.

GUEST PRESENTATION

1. Laura Cook, Director of Resettlement, Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida
Preferred Communities Program
Local Employment Job Market Analysis
 - Preferred Communities Program
 - a) Client-centered program that empowers the most vulnerable to achieve their highest degree of independence through education, individualized/trauma-informed case management, and holistic community integration support.
 - b) Goal of PC program: Client successful integration, client self-sufficiency, and increase capacity for agencies to serve vulnerable populations
 - Especially Vulnerable Categories
 - a) Refugees with special or unique needs who have migrated to underserved locations
 - b) Secondary migrants
 - c) Youth and young adults (25 years old or younger)
 - d) Single-headed refugee households
 - e) Victims of DV and GBV
 - f) Elderly refugees
 - g) Experiencing anti-social or psychological condition(s)
 - h) LGBTQ
 - i) Physical disability or medical condition(s)
 - Eligible clients must show a need in one of the following:
 - a) Employment, English language, Family Wellness, Financial Management,
 - b) Food Security, Housing, Immigration Status, Linkages to Benefit Systems,
 - c) Mental Health, Physical Health, Social Adjustment & Interactions/Integration, and Transportation
 - Job Market Analysis
 - Top Occupations in Jacksonville
 - a) Office and administration support occupations
 - b) Sales and related populations
 - c) Transportation and material moving occupations
 - d) Food Preparation and servicing related occupations

- e) Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations
- Fastest Growing industries 2021-2029
 - a) Museums, parks, and historical sights
 - b) Clothing and clothing accessories
 - c) Personal & Laundry services
 - d) Professional and technical services
- LSS Refugee Employment Services per Nationalities and Gender
 - a) Congo 23%
 - b) Cuba 18%
 - c) Afghanistan 13%
 - d) Eritrea 11%
 - e) Haiti 7%
 - f) Other 28%
 - g) Female 45% & Male 55%
- Foreign Occupations of Clients FY21
 - a) Student 20%
 - b) Laborer 10%
 - c) Farmer 8%
 - d) Teacher 6%
- Top Occupations Clients Placed in FY21
 - a) Production Worker 30%
 - b) Laborer 20%
 - c) Warehouse Worker 11%
 - d) Packer 6%
- Top Hiring Companies
 - a) Pilot Pen
 - b) Crown Products
 - c) Amazon
 - d) Beaver Street Fisheries
 - e) Jinko
 - f) Highest Placed Wage \$25 p/hr., Average Wage: \$12.53 p/hr., & Lowest Placed Wage: \$8.84 p/hr.

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **Lutheran Social Services (Laura Cook, Refugee Services Program Manager):**
 - Employment:
 - ❖ 50 intakes
 - ❖ 30 placements (20 APA & 2 Congo)
 - Youth Program and Mentoring
 - ❖ 179 Active hours
 - ❖ 12 enrolled in youth program
 - ❖ 16 enrolled in mentoring program
 - ❖ Toured FSCJ, Museum of Arts & Science, Jax Zoo
 - ❖ Completed Resume writing, University Service project (Barry College)
 - ❖ Explored careers in science and college life
 - TCM
 - ❖ 170 RS Assessments (APA 87 & Cuba 42) (Feb 2022)

- ❖ Tier 1 - 32 hours completed
 - R&P: 47 arrivals APA: 230 arrivals since October 1st. Phase 1 completed
 - Preferred Communities Program has started accepting referrals
- **Catholic Charities Bureau (Anna Lindler, Associate Director):**
 - R&P: 11 arrivals APA: 169 arrivals since October 1st (Phase 1)
 - MG 199 individuals served
 - ESOL:
 - ❖ Attendance in refugee specific classes 200
 - 83 new intakes completed,
 - 83 Testing,
 - 80 Assessments
 - 25 Post tested to earn LCP
 - ❖ There are too many people in class over 60 in each class,
 - ❖ Adding two-night classes (in person) at YMCA
 - ❖ Splitting up the online classes to reduce to 30 students each class
 - ❖ Hiring 3 teachers parttime and 2 new ESOL specialist to help support the program
 - ❖ Will be adding computer classes on Fridays
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
 - No Updates
- **Early Learning Coalition (ELC):**
 - No Updates
- **Department of Health (DOH)**
 - No Updates
- **Duval DOH:**
 - Labs are open 5 days per week
 - Clinics are M, W, & Thurs for assessment appts
 - Working to increase positions to meet the need
 - For month of Feb 2022 completed:
 - 183 labs, 102 Assessment appts, 133 walk-in immunizations

GENERAL UPDATES

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

- No Updates

ACHA

- No Updates

FSCJ ESOL

- Classes start May 9th and May 31st
- Evening classes added to the Kent Campus, Levels 3-6

YMCA

- No Updates

Red Cross

- The Family links (international reunification) program is still in operation and accepting referrals
- Review Hurricane Preparedness

Center for Language & Culture (CLC)

- Increase in parents face to face meetings
- Virtual classes are full and still growing
- Backpack project: every student enrolled gets a backpack (gave out 50 in Feb)
- Languages recently enrolled in school: Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Creole, & Russian

UNF

- No Updates

Beyond 90

- Support services have increased
- Have built caseloads and clients are willing to discuss their feelings (they have weekly and biweekly groups)
- Partnered with LSS to introduce mental health in their Orientation classes

CareerSource

- Working with Beyond90 to assist with sewing group for Afghan women. This sewing group assist them with the process of acclimation: getting out of the house, get their hours required from CareerSource (ABAWD requirements)
- The sewing group is making items for Wolfson's Children Hospital
- The Ritz Carlton is desperately look for individuals willing to move up in the industry. The employee will start at entry level. Will gain office skills
- Rita Wolf has been contracted to assist with processing referrals have about a one-week turnaround

NEW ISSUES/ ACTIONS TAKEN

David Draper, Community Liaison Supervisor

- 1.) According to ORR phase I of Afghan APA resettlement is complete and phase II will begin at end of March
- 2.) R&P has started increasing around the state
- 3.) Cuban and Haitian arrivals are presenting different eligibility documents
- 4.) There is no formal path for Ukrainians to receive Refugee Services yet
- 5.) TPS has been approved for those Ukrainians who arrived before 03/01/22