



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2020
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: Miriam Rosario (RS)
SUBJECT: January 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: March 19, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Project RENEW/Broward College
Contact: Miriam Rosario
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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 ESS/Department of Children & Families (DCF) 1400 W Commercial Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Miriam Rosario, Southeast Region (SER) Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked of ESS/DCF for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Amanda St Jean, Regional Public Information Officer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, provided an overview of the organization. She stated that the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an office of the United States Department of Justice whose primary mission is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR conducts immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. Besides being a separate agency within the Department of Justice, the Immigration Courts are also independent of USCIS and from the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices in the DOJ Civil Rights Division and the Office of Immigration Litigation in the DOJ Civil Division. The presenter noted that the chief function of EOIR is to conduct removal proceedings, which are administrative proceedings to determine the removability and admissibility of individuals in the United States. Removal proceedings are conducted in immigration courts. As of September 28, 2016, there are fifty-eight immigration courts throughout the United States. A fact Sheet with overview material was distribute and a flyer with a list of Pro-Bono legal services.

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Jesus Garcia, Program Coordinator with Youth CO-OP, Inc presented the Broward Survey local **Job Market** analysis. Jesus provided an overview of the jobs available, job placements in the Broward community, and the training being provided. Youth Co-Op analyzed the local Job Market to figure out ways to help refugees obtain employment and become self-sufficient. Jesus discussed the importance of refugee employment services in the county. He discussed ways to collaborate with other task force members to better assist refugee clients and newly arrived asylees. A copy of the Power Point presentation will be distributed to task force members.

End of the Year Review- Miriam discussed the refugee task force accomplishments of the year and the importance of finding ways to improve the the quality of life of the local refugee population. The task force discussed previous presentations that had been given at the task force and they discussed creating new partnerships to helps clients with their most pressing needs. The task force also discussed the various events that had been organized throughout the year, including World Refugee Day.

World Refugee Day (WRD) 2020 - Jocelyn Martinez, Director Project RENEW informed the task force of her plan to help organize World Refugee Day. Broward College would like to host

the event on June 18, 2020. Berta Cassidy of USCIS also stated her interest in assisting with the event.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Roketa Mansfield and Berta Cassidy, 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. Many of these resources can be found online on the USCIS website.

USCIS also described Info Pass appointment Instructions

Melissa Jaramillo, Set-Up Scholarship Coordinator discussed updates on their Income Based Scholarships, their Special Needs Scholarships, their Reading Help Scholarship, and their Bullied Students Scholarship. To learn more or apply, visit www.stepupforstudents.org. Information on the program was distributed to task force members.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ESS/DCF- Wilber Roney; no updates.

RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (BC/PR); Jocelyne Martinez indicated that Adult Education class sessions and registration have been scheduled.

CWS, Carlos Naranjo briefly spoke of an injunction that has blocked an executive order.

YCI did not provide any updates.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, March 19, 2020**
Time: 10:00AM to 12PM
Location: Project RENEW/Broward College
Note: Due to security protocols please allow extra time to arrive.

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