



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 24, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** March 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** May 8, 2019  
**Time:** 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Baptist Association of Jacksonville  
2700 University Boulevard South  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
**Contact:** LeAndra Stafford  
**Office:** (904) 485-9540  
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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

## JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

### INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Jacksonville Baptist Association. LeAndra Stafford, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program facilitated the meeting. There were 23 people in attendance. Molly Conrad, Procurement Manager of Refugee Services was in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

### GUEST PRESENTATION

1.) JaVetta Fleury, Regional Program Manager, CareerSource NFL.

Programs Overview

- A. CareerSource NFL has been in existence since 1996. They service six counties: Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay, St. John's, and Putnam
- B. CareerSource NFL has been in existence since 1996
- C. They are a small piece of the Economic Opportunity program in Tallahassee. There are 24 Regional Workforce Boards who assist with Economic Development (they are responsible for Region 8)
- D. CareerSource primary duty is to link employers with people and vice versa and provide economic support
- E. CareerSource currently has employers seeking qualified candidates
- F. CareerSource provides recruitment for employers (offer on spot interviews)
- G. The job centers provide a one stop shop for programs such as: FSCJ, Job Corps, Operation Jax Housing, New Hope, etc.)
- H. In this region there are 8 full time career centers and 3 mobile access points (must have a certain number of people before the mobile truck can be dispatched to a location). The mobiles have computers and printers for clients to use on site
- I. TANF clients can be assisted with childcare, transportation, and training
- J. Refugees can access training dollars
- K. There are two type of services they offer: Transactional and Transformational Services
- L. Transactional Service only involve the use of the facilities (use of computers, printers, fax, etc)
- M. Transformational Service involve case management, assessments, and follow up for 2 years. They assist in enhancing skills and job advancement. They give Career coaching. The client must be ready, willing, and able.
- N. They provide Career pathway for Refugees
- O. In the TANF program, ESOL is not considered vocational training. There are four core services in the program: Community Services, Employment, Vocational Training, and Work Activities. ESOL is considered a "plus" activity. It is a secondary consideration. For the Federal government, TANF is a work first program and they make the requirements for the program
- P. The Mayor is offering a summer program for youth employment

**REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE**

- **World Relief (Jose Vega, Director):**
  - WR had 37 arrivals (8 SIVs included in this number) since Oct. 2018
  - No arrivals since December 2018
  - No Match Grant program this year
  
- **Catholic Charities Bureau (Matt Schmitt, Associate Director):**
  - CCB has 37 who have arrived or are scheduled to arrive since Oct. 2018
  - Match Grant 69 slots enrolled
  - IA 12 cases
  
- **Lutheran Social Services (Cristina Parcel, Director):**
  - LSS has 55 arrivals since Oct 2018, they expect 10 arrivals in March/April
  - Their Match Grant is on hold
  
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
  - Cubans are not being paroled anymore, so they won't be eligible for Refugee Services. There are families being split between paroled status (not all family members are granted paroled status)
  - There are issues with relative petitions
  - There have been influx of medical waiver requests w/no basis for waiver
  - They are getting a high number of Asylum requests from Venezuelans
  - Many are getting denied because people are going to people (no lawyers) who say they can help them fill out their paperwork and are charging them and then filling out the paperwork incorrectly. Then they come to JALA for help but then it's too late
  - Make sure those applying for Asylum do not get their driver license or put their children in school right away because now it is seen as they are "trying to stay and establish residence". They can not do this before the asylum application is in process
  - During the past 3 months they have been doing 6 to 7 consultations for Venezuelans per week.
  
- **Early Learning Coalition:**
  - No updates
  
- **Department of Health**
  - No updates

**GENERAL UPDATES**

USCIS – No Updates

FSCJ ESOL – No Updates

Project for Healing –

- The community listener program is still going on, still accepting volunteers for the program, who will learn to identify depression, panic attacks, DV and will be trained to guide people to resources that are provided in the community. They will have Mental Health First Aid Training, it is five-hour training. Each month they will convene with Christine to discuss what they are seeing in the community.

**Red Cross –**

- Sound the alarm, save a life campaign installs free smoke detectors and education on home fire safety. Event Dates: 04/27 and 05/09

**NEW ISSUES/ ACTIONS TAKEN**

- 1.) Updates given on World Refugee Day 2019. Theme: Entrepreneurs: Investing in Our CommUNITY. Date: June 13<sup>th</sup> at Southside Baptist Church, will also have a Naturalization Ceremony, location: TBA
- 2.) Discussed Match Grant expansion for Entrants and Asylees. They don't have to have EAD on day 90 to participate in the program