



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

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Mike Carrol**  
Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 16, 2018  
**TO:** Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** March 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** May 9, 2018  
**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  
**Cell:** (904) 524-1316  
**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 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 40 people in attendance. Tadesse Fessehayee, Community Liaison Manager; David Draper, Procurement Manager, and Rebecca Lockenbach, Contract Manager, Refugee Services Program, attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

Taddese introduced David Draper who will be replacing him as Community Liaison Manager when he retires at the end of April 2018.

### **GUEST PRESENTATION**

A presentation was given by Tawanda Washington, Florida Department of Health in Duval County, Assistant Nursing Director, Community Health

Topic of presentation: "Why TB Treatment is Important"

- 1) TB (Tuberculosis) is a pulmonary disease that can be transmitted when an active individual in close proximity to someone for prolonged periods of time.
- 2) If an individual has been exposed to TB, they can present as Nonsymptomatic (not active) or Symptomatic (active).
- 3) The chest x-ray will show if person is symptomatic; the skin test will indicate if the person has been exposed; however, the blood test is the only way to determine if an individual is active or not.
- 4) If the individual is diagnosed as TB Nonsymptomatic, then that person is treated so they don't become sick. The treatment is a minimum of four months.
- 5) For active TB, treatment is at least six months and the treatment will leave some type of scarring on the lungs.
- 6) In Florida Statutes Chapter 392; TB control, it explains how contact investigations are completed and the requirements for active treatment. If treatment is not voluntarily completed then an individual can be made to comply with treatment by court order for hospitalization or jail.
- 7) During hospitalization (in-patient for two months or more), assistance with necessities such as utilities, food, rent, etc. will be provided.
- 8) There are different strains and mutations of TB and an individual can be affected by a different strain although they have been treated for TB in the past may need to be treated again.

### **REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE**

- **World Relief (Jose Vega, Director):**
  - WR had 47 arrivals since Oct. 2017
  - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 people transferred from Tampa
  - 1 arrival scheduled for April 2018
  - Housing assistance is still available (will send criteria to service providers)

- Brenda Boydston is offering one-on-one UNF mentors for college bound students
- **Catholic Charities Bureau (Michelle Karolak, Director):**
  - CCB had 41 arrivals since Oct 2017
  - CCB Matching Grant 100% employment
  - Please refer Venezuelans w/ Asylum to CCB
  - ESOL has new classes at Denise Ct. Mon – Wed 5 pm – 8 pm
  - April 6<sup>th</sup> Seeking Refuge Concert at 7:30 pm, Location: Cathedral- Basilica of St. Augustine. This concert is featuring local refugees
- **Lutheran Social Services (Cristina Parcel, Director):**
  - LSS had 37 arrivals since Oct. 2017
  - LSS has 1 assurance
  - LSS has 0 scheduled for this month
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
  - They are having issues with the I730 (family reunification): Clients are constantly asking why enough is not being done to help their families being reunified. They do not understand that it is not up to them but rather the federal government. They must apply within two years of arriving for family reunification.
  - Another concern raised is people are being stopped and asked for their documents. JALA will send out a pamphlet concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights
  - USCIS is sending out letters to the Burmese asking them to present themselves for ID. They are rechecking IDs because a significant number of IDs were found to have been stolen. JALA is recommending that if you are not a citizen make sure you are represented by an attorney when you go to the USCIS office.
- **Early Learning Coalition:**
  - No waiting list for daycare services
  - Their office has moved to: 6500 Bowden Rd, Jacksonville, Fl. 32216

Commented [FT1]: Is this the correct name?

Commented [SL2R1]: Yes

## GENERAL UPDATES

**USCIS** – The Jacksonville Field Office has become a “pilot office” process changing how client will make contact. Will have to call a national phone number. No more “info passes” for appointments will be given out.

**World Refugee Day 2018** – Will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Southside Baptist Church 1435 Atlantic Blvd. Jacksonville, Fl. 32207, time will be announced at later date.

**FSCJ ESOL** – ESOL will be closed next week (March 19 – 23) and level testing will be March 26 – April 13<sup>th</sup>. This is for placement in classes starting May 7<sup>th</sup> which is a 15-week class.

**Taddese Fessehaye** – Community Liaison Manager is retiring. This is his last task force meeting in the NER. He was congratulated with a job well done. He will be missed.

**Lynn Sumner** – AmeriCorps VISTA member was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for completing her VISTA year of service at Catholic Charities Bureau. Lynn was unable to attend and Michelle Karolak accepted the certificate on her behalf.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018  
1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.  
Baptist Association of Jacksonville  
2700 University Boulevard South  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

**Contacts:** Leandra.Stafford@myflfamilies.com Phone: (904) 485-9540