



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 17, 2020
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: May 13, 2020
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Contact: LeAndra Stafford
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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 17 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

GUEST PRESENTATION

1.) Joseph Mims, HIV/AIDS Program Admin, Florida Department of Health - Duval

Ending the Epidemic

- Joseph Mims gave HIV/AIDS statistics in the local area (Area 4).
- The presenter noted that there has been a decrease in new AIDS diagnosis in the area (primarily due to an increase in treatment and medication).
- HIV transmission is 75% male and 25% female.
- The black community is the most heavily impacted by HIV (they are disproportionately affected by the virus)
- The highest age bracket being diagnosed with HIV is the 20-29 age range.
- There is a new campaign with the goal of ending the epidemic in the next 10 years.
- The goal is to reduce the transmission by 75% in 5 years and 90% in 9 years.
- To obtain this goal, the plan is to diagnosis, treat, protect, respond, and establish an HIV Health Force.
- The presenter stated that because Duval is identified as one of the counties with the heaviest diagnosis of HIV, the push for rapid treatment and protection is imperative
- In the protection category, the Department of Health (DOH) and the community partners are educating the public about the pre and post exposure drugs now available
- DOH has a rapid test available. An individual can get tested, see a doctor, and get medication within 72 hours.
- The presenter noted that they are working to reduce the stigma of getting tested.
- The presenter encouraged all refugees to get tested and to continue to get tested as they assimilate into their new environments.
- Currently all refugees are tested as a part of their health assessment at DOH

2.) TaWanda Washington, Assistant Director of Nursing, Florida Department of Health - Duval

Hepatitis A Virus and How it Affects the Refugee Population

- The presenter stated that the Hepatitis A vaccine is offered to everyone.
- The outbreak of Hepatitis A is nationwide. Last year, Florida declared a public health emergency

- The presenter stated that last year Duval County had 75 new cases
- The primary groups to transmit the disease are drug users, man to man transmission, the homeless, and incarcerated individuals. White males lead in transmission.
- The presenter stated that the primary reason the crisis has not abated is the fact that people do not always seek testing or services (this is true for drug users and non-drug users).
- DOH is currently targeting zip codes that have been hotspots for the disease.
- Besides testing and vaccine, the main way to prevent transmission is to wash hands with soap and water.
- There is a two-dose vaccine. Refugees currently receive the vaccine during their Health Assessment at the Refugee Clinic.
- The presenter stated that everyone (including refugees) need educated on the importance of practicing precautions and getting proper preventative care.
- The presenter spoke briefly on the importance of washing one's hands to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. She also gave some other pointers on preventing the spread of the disease.

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **Lutheran Social Services (LSS) (Nina Frank, Refugee Services Program Manager):**
 - LSS will have the Resettlement Quarterly Consultation with Catholic Charities Bureau (CCB) on March 19.
 - LSS Reception and Placement (R&P) program has started back up. They have received seven refugees in January and seven in February.
 - Refugee Assessment: Tiered Case management Program - LSS has conducted seven entry assessments, seven walk-in assessments, and two Follow-up assessments.
 - Youth: LSS is currently serving 22 clients in their youth program.
 - Employment: LSS placed fifteen clients in employment and four in career laddering.
 - Mentoring: LSS has 20 mentees who have completed 80 hours of mentoring.
 - Community Events
 - ❖ World Refugee Day (WRD): LSS would like to invite anyone who would like to be on the WRD planning committee to contact Nina Frank. LSS is currently working on establishing a date and confirming a venue
 - ❖ LSS is working in partnership with YMCA to instruct refugees on 'water safety'.
 - ❖ One-Jax is conducting a 4-day seminar for teenagers in metro town 2020.
 - ❖ The mayor's 'Youth Work' program has released program applications.

- ❖ International summer academy will have summer camps in partnership with LSS' youth department. The summer camps will be held at Kim's Open Doors

- **Catholic Charities Bureau (CCB) (Matt Schmitt, Associate Director):**
 - CCB has had two cases arrive in January (9 individuals) and four cases arrive in February (10 individuals)
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes: 21 students completed intakes, 21 students were tested, and 23 students were enrolled. CCB provided 209 hours of guidance and retention
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
 - There has been an uptick in people wanting to apply for citizenship.
- **Early Learning Coalition:**
 - No Updates
- **Department of Health (DOH)**
 - Updates have been made concerning the I-693. Refugees have only one year from arrival to complete all vaccines at no cost to them. They have 90 days to get an evaluation or assessment from a doctor from the date of arrival in order to qualify for any of the vaccines at no cost.
 - DOH continues to educate refugees on the importance of keeping their medical appointments even if they are working. It is important that they get their vaccinations completed within their first year.

GENERAL UPDATES

USCIS

- No Updates

ACHA

- No Updates

FSCJ ESOL

- No Updates

YMCA

- The YMCA will be conducting a New American Community Health Fair on April 25th

Red Cross

- No Updates

Center for Language & Culture (CLC)

- No Updates

Project for Healing

- A resource book will be completed in April in partnership with the University of North Florida (UNF)

Beyond-90

- Beyond-90 assisted 42 Individuals with job applications, food stamps, and Medicaid. They made two referrals to the refugee employment program and four to the Refugee Youth/Mentoring program.
- Beyond-90 conducted two classes on computer/typing and sewing
- Beyond-90 conducted at driver's permit preparation class.
- Beyond-90 is currently doing fundraisers for their summer youth program.

NEW ISSUES/ ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1.) None