



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

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Chad Poppell**  
Secretary

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 22, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** Miriam Rosario (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** July 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** September 19, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Children Services Council  
6600 W. Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33319  
**Contact:** Miriam Rosario  
**Office:** (561) 227-6722  
**Cell:** (561) 459-6098  
**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 Children Services Council Broward (CSCB), Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked CSCB for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Ana Maria Diaz, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta Regional Census Center [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) provided a presentation on the 2020 Census program. The program will focus on helping families register wherever they live. The presenter distributed flyers (in Spanish, Creole and English) regarding the census. The presenter explained that the census data is used for determining grants, the funding of programs, and district lines, among some of the important uses. The presenter noted that jobs with the Census 2020 are available all over Florida. The presenter asked for the collaboration of the task force in informing the local population, including refugees, of the census.

**NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**

**World Refugee Day (WRD)**- The task force discussed the recent WRD event. WRD in Broward was a well-attended event that helped educate the community on refugees and refugee issues. The event was celebrated at the OMNI Auditorium, North Campus at Broward College. Clara Jaramillo, Director Project RENEW, provided a PowerPoint presentation during the task force meeting that showed pictures of the event. The event included a refugee award luncheon and a USCIS Naturalization Ceremony. During the event, 150 candidates became US citizens. The theme of the event was “Refugees Embracing the American Culture”. Refugees shared their stories and their successes during the award luncheon. Local refugee entrepreneurs and successful students were all recognized for their contributions to the Broward community.

**Welcoming Week (WW)**- **Miriam I. Rosario (MIR)**, Community Liaison discussed the opportunity to welcome all refugees and immigrants into the Broward community through a Welcoming Week activity. She explained how this event had been conducted during the previous year. Since Welcoming Week is soon approaching, the task force discussed ideas for the event. The Welcoming Week event will be planned in collaboration with the local community, the refugee services providers, and any other organization interested in contributing. Several individuals and organizations promised to assist in the planning of the event. More information will be emailed to task force members on this topic.

**GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**USCIS**, Berta Cassidy Community Relations Officer (CRO) spoke about a Presidential Memorandum on Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens. With the memorandum, the Administration seeks to enforce long-standing immigration laws, ensure consistency among federal and state agencies responsible in administering any federal means-tested public benefit programs, and protect the American taxpayer.

**ESS/DCF-** Wilber Roney; discussed RAP/ACCESS benefits eligibility and the need for clients to maintain accurate information.

**RS Contracted providers:**

**St. Thomas Human Rights Institute (STHRI), Christine Reis, Attorney** stated that there are still delays in the processing of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). **Project RENEW (BC/PR)**, Clara Jaramillo indicated that Adult Education is starting the Fall class sessions in August and registration is starting now.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting:** **Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Children Services Council of Broward  
6600 W. Commercial, Lauderhill, FL 33319

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