



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

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Chad Poppell**  
Secretary

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 17, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** Miriam Rosario (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** March 21, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Department of Children and Families  
1400 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
**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 the Broward College Central Campus/Project RENEW (BC/PR). Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked BC/PR for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

A presentation was given by Paige Duncan, Community Relations Liaison, Chrysalis Health. The presentation focused on the services available to refugees. RS providers can refer clients to Chrysalis. Chrysalis locations are in Miami, Broward and Palm Beach. They have 300 therapists and services are offered in Creole, Spanish and English. Chrysalis offers: outpatient, psychosocial rehabilitation, assessment, case management and residential behavioral health, counseling, services. These services are available to refugee children (3 years and older) and adults with private health insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. A scale fee is available to those without insurance, in some instances a grant may be available if the patient can pay. Services to children can be at home and school to minimize trauma. The referral form will be distributed by email to the RFT members and can also be access on line. Referral Form to Chrysalis Health by email at [referrals@chrysalishealth.com](mailto:referrals@chrysalishealth.com) or by fax to (954) 587-0080 (email is preferred), Community Relations Liaison: Paige Duncan, Email: [pduncan@chrysalishealth.com](mailto:pduncan@chrysalishealth.com), Cell: (717) 712-8823. Per members request a copy of the presentation will be distributed.

**NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**

**Jesus Garcia, Coordinator with Youth Co-Op, Inc.(YCI), presented on the Survey Local Job Market.** The Employment provider analyzed the local job market to determine the occupations available in the community relevant to the skills and abilities of the arriving population, developed a list of major employers and significant employers of refugees, identified prevailing wages, and maintained a record of all job development activities. The YCI uses this information of the local job market survey to identify training needed for eligible clients.

**Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison, RS DCF** discussed the need to develop a strong outreach plan. A Broward Outreach Planning Team was created. The date and time of the first planning meeting will be announced. Twelve members including community partners signed up to collaborate in assessing and identifying the needs of the population and to determine creative ways to reach out. Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison, RS DCF stated that apart from Miami, all regions are going to convert to a CRS service delivery model. The ITN is still under the silent solicitation/procurement period in Broward and Palm Beach County. Any questions are to be sent to the procurement manager.

**World Refugee Day (WRD)-** WRD will be part of the Broward outreach plan to educate the community and develop resources for refugees in Broward. Broward College/Project RENEW (BC/PR) offered to host again this year's WRD event at their OMNI Auditorium, North Campus. Members discussed previous activities and events in Broward and signed up to participate on a WRD planning team. USCIS will be invited to participate with a Naturalization Ceremony.

Meeting dates will be announced by Clara Jaramillo, PR/BC Director. A tentative date for WRD is reserved by BC/PR for either June 17 or June 18. The final date will be announced soon.

### **GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**USCIS**, Berta Cassidy Community Relations Officer (CRO) reminded all that InfoPass is a free online service that lets people schedule an appointment with a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) immigration officer and answer questions. It's convenient and available in Spanish and English. Go to <https://my.uscis.gov/appointment> to schedule your appointment online from home computer, mobile device or the computer at your local public library. The call center is available to those who cannot access InfoPass. Applicants will not have to pay a biometrics fee at this time. USCIS is implementing this process as the agency works to transition operations to a fully electronic environment. Berta provided the link to the new tool to calculate fees prior to submitting applications. USCIS has launched a new Online Fee Calculator to assist members of the public in calculating the correct fee amount to include when filing their forms with USCIS at an agency lockbox facility. USCIS developed the Online Fee Calculator to help reduce the number of applications rejected due to incorrect fee amounts. The Online Fee Calculator will determine the exact filing and biometric fees an individual needs to include with their forms and will always have the most up-to-date fee information Visit; [www.uscis.gov/feecalculator](http://www.uscis.gov/feecalculator)

USCIS is open during the Federal shutdown and services are offered. However, USCIS IS confirming that E-Verify is unavailable during the shutdown.

**ESS/DCF**- Wilber Roney; discussed the impact of the federal government furlough and SNAP benefits. Wilber explained that because of the partial US government shutdown, current customers will receive February benefits on January 20, 2019. There will be not be an additional deposit in the month of February. January will follow the regular schedule. Yuliet Alonso, DCF, ACCESS Community Liaison, explained the importance of informing refugee clients of this change. They distributed flyers in Creole, Spanish and English

**DOH**- Migdalia Diaz, DOH supervisor informed that RS-DOH appointments are up to date. She will bring this to her HQ DOH. She can be contacted via email at [Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov](mailto:Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov) with any questions.

**AHACA**- Susie Allen-Brinson, Program Administrator shared some good news with members as adults on Medicaid will have separate dental insurance and will be able to access dental care. All of the refugees receiving Medicaid will need to make sure their address is correct because they will be sending out new cards. The market place enrollment period ended Dec 15 of this years. Members were advised to remind refugees and clients of the significant events where the refugees still can enroll in the market place.

**Urban League of Broward-Raul Sigler, Jr.**, Program Director of the Senior Jobs program expressed the need to educate seniors over 55 of various employment opportunities.

**RS Contracted providers:**

**Early Learning Coalition-Broward (ELC)**, present and no reports. **Youth Co-OP, Inc. (YCI)** - Gladys reported on their office move this November. Their telephone number remains the same. YCI has experienced a decline in new intakes Referrals are welcome for those eligible clients. **Church World Service (CWS)**, Oscar Rivera, Director, reminded the task force that their legal program (with Catholic Charities) is providing assistance with EADs and Naturalization services. CWS moved offices in January. They have the same telephone number. **St. Thomas Human Right Institute (STHRI)** Miriam Garcia reported on delays on the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) impacting parolees. **Project RENEW (BC/PR)**, Clara Jaramillo indicated that Adult Education is offered in South Central and North Campus and referrals are welcome. Members welcome and congratulated Marie Lesperance on her promotion as the new supervisor for BC/PR.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2019**

Time: 10:00 to 12PM

Location: Broward Department of Children and Families

1400 West Commercial Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

**Contact:** [Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.Rosario@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (561) 227-6722  
[David.Draper@myflfamilies.com](mailto:David.Draper@myflfamilies.com) Phone: (407) 317-7335