



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 19, 2019
TO: Members of the Orlando Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: David Draper, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: August 14, 2019 Task Force Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
Location: Catholic Charities of Central Florida
1771 North Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL. 32807
Contact: David Draper
Office: (407) 317-7335
Fax: (407) 245-2766
E-Mail: David.Draper@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Orlando 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 thirty to thirty-five 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 at the local, state and national level, request for proposals, training, workshops, conferences, discuss refugee service needs and explore solutions to those needs. Meeting participants 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!

400 W. Robinson Street, S1111C, Orlando, Florida 32801

ORLANDO AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

This meeting was held at Engelwood Neighborhood Center located at 6123 La Costa Drive, Orlando, Florida 32807. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. David Draper, Community Liaison Manager, represented the Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Everyone introduced themselves and the agencies that they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

I. Office of the Attorney General – Kalyn Knight/Victims Services Program Specialist

- Gave a presentation on identity theft and ways to prevent it
- Also focused presentation on common online scams perpetrated against the general population and refugees. Gave tips on avoiding such scams.
- Gave information on how to report scams and identify them
- Answered task force questions related to identify theft and online scams.

II. Dar Al Arab – Weam Jabbar

- Presented on the organization Dar Al Arab
- Discussed the services being offered by Dar Al Arab. Services focus on immigrant and refugee women and children.
- The services currently being offered by Dar Al Arab include women empowerment; supporting victims of domestic violence; immigration/legal services; education and training; cultural orientation; social services; charities; refugee services; and youth program services.
- Answered task force questions related to Dar Al Arab and the services they offer.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT UPDATES

- Recap of World Refugee Day Orlando Event. Discussed the June World Refugee Event. Noted that over 300 people were in attendance. Recognized individuals and organizations that assisted in the planning of the event. Discussed the successes and the challenges of this year's event.
- Discussed the upcoming Welcoming Week event. Location and date are still being determined. The event will likely be a casual potluck that occurs at a local community center. Future planning meetings will be occurring over the next few weeks.

GENERAL UPDATES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wesline Valentin, Haitian Services Coordinator for 4C in Pine Hills announced an upcoming Caribbean Health Summit occurring on Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 8:00 AM - 2:00 pm at Camping World Stadium (1 Citrus Bowl Pl, Orlando, FL 32805).

Vesna Bozic, Community Relations Officer USCIS briefly discussed a USCIS final rule that clearly defines the long-standing public charge inadmissibility law.

Maria Diez, Program Supervisor with the Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Youth Program. Maria stated that they continue to see new Haitian, Venezuelan, and Cuban clients. Clients continue to see delays as they wait for their EADs.

David Draper, Community Liaison Manager from Department of Children and Families (DCF) mentioned that DCF Refugee Services continues to transition most of Florida to a "Comprehensive Refugee Services" service delivery model.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Location: Catholic Charities
1771 North Semoran Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32807

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