



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2019
TO: Members of the Orlando Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: David Draper, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: April 10th, 2019 Task Force Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
Location: Catholic Charities of Central Florida
1771 N. 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 Catholic Charities located at 1771 N. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL, 32807. Thirty-one people were in attendance. David Draper, Community Liaison Manager, represented the Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Rosa Chaves, Community Liaison for the Central Region, was also present. Everyone introduced themselves and the agencies that they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

I. **Agency for Health Care Administration AHCA Orlando – Tamyika Young Medical/Health Care Program Analyst, BUREAU OF MEDICAID RPA ORLANDO –**, provided an overview of the Medicaid program.

- Tamyika explained that Medicaid is an assistance program which provides health coverage to low-income families and individuals including children, parents, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- AHCA manages the Florida Medicaid Program while the Department of Children and Families (DCF) determines Medicaid eligibility through the ACCESS program.
- AHCA is also responsible for administering Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program (SMMC) which has two components: Integrated the Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) with Long Term Care (LTC). They also have a dental program.
- DXC-Technology is the fiscal agent for Medicaid and manages Florida Medicaid Management Information System (FMMIS).
- Any individual can stay connected with AHCA through social media: Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter.

GENERAL UPDATES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weam Jabbar from Women and Children Organization states that they have free Health Immigration Fair on April 27, 2019 at UCF and at Marriot Hotel in May 24, 2019. They continue offering immigration consultation Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-5:00 pm.

Vesna Bozic, Community Relations Officer USCIS introduced herself as the new USCIS Community Relations Officer for District 10, covering the greater Orlando, Jacksonville, and southern Georgia areas. She announced that USCIS accepted the invitation for our WRD event on June 22, 2019 and she is looking for approval to have a Naturalization Ceremony that coincides with the event.

Pastor Gabriel Ipasu, President of African Community Outreach AFKO states that their office is moving from OBT to Summit Church facilities at Colonial Drive. Also, they need sponsors for their refugee soccer team in Orlando.

Felipe Rodriguez, Specialist in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Senior Specialist from Office of Multicultural Affairs City of Orlando announced the Hispanic Office's (HOLA's) 15th anniversary event with Mayor Buddy Dyer was a great success.

Wesline Archelus-Valentin, Haitian Coordinator for 4C in Pine Hills announced a Haitian Health and Cultural Event on May 17th, 2019 from 3:00-5:00 pm at 2804 Belco Dr. Orlando, FL 32808.

Fatima Ait Rami, Outreach Director from Icorlando announced their Interfaith Ramadan event. She will send out dates.

Inez Nazario-Vega, Founder and owner of B4G Academy Announced their event on June 29th, 2019 at Volusia County. They have space for vendors. Vendors can communicate and make reservations to volusiachamber.com

Salma A. Miranda, MHSA Trafficking Victims Assistant Program Case Manager from Bethany Christian Services of Florida shared a flyer regarding services for victims of human trafficking.

Debbie Vega, Director of Comprehensive Refugee Services with Catholic Charities (CC) stated that they continue to see new Venezuelan asylee clients. Clients with Parole are seeing delays as they wait for their EADs. Case management has been busy serving new arrivals. English classes are being offered at the Orlo Vista site. Catholic Charities is offering pre-literacy classes on site. CC has been conducting outreach to Venezuelans to ensure they know about available services. The Catholic Charities food pantry is open to the public. The refugee employment program has been attending job fairs.

David Draper, Community Liaison Manager from Department of Children and Families DCF explained that most regions of the State are moving towards a Comprehensive Refugee Services model. Miami is the only area that will not utilize this service delivery model.

Rosa Chaves, DCF Community Liaison for Central Florida announced that Orlando's World Refugee Day event will be held at Summit Church and provided information about the event.

NEXT MEETING

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