



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 21, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Palm Beach Area Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** **Miriam Rosario**, Refugee Services (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** May 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** July 19, 2019  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** West Palm Beach City Hall  
**Contact:** Miriam Rosario  
**Office:** (561) 227-6722  
**Cell:** (561) 459-6098  
**E-Mail:** [Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com)

This task force has been active in the Palm Beach 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

**PALM BEACH AREA COUNTY REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING****INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was held at the West Palm Beach City Hall, Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked Mayor of WB City and staff for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves, services and the agency they represented.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Jaime Cruz, Red Cross Military & International Services, South Florida** provided a presentation on the Restoring Family Links program. This focuses on helping family members find their lost family member anywhere in the USA and outside USA. The presenter distributed flyers (in Spanish, Creole and English) regarding this program which focuses on connecting families in the US with long-lost family members overseas (Restoring Family Links program). The program is free and is available all over Florida. Please share with anyone who could benefit. Other Red Cross services and their importance was also discussed (including natural and man-made disaster preparedness).

**NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**

Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison, RS DCF discussed the development of a strong outreach plan (OP). Members discussed their collaboration to help refugee clients and newly arrived asylees in the community. The Palm Beach Outreach Planning Team met and discussed collaboration and outreach strategies. A flyer focused on asylees was discussed and distributed.

World Refugee Day (WRD)- WRD will be part of the Palm Beach (PB) outreach plan to educate the community and develop resources for refugees in Palm Beach. Palm Beach College is hosting WRD event again at their Duncan Theater, Lake Worth Campus. Members discussed a new Refugee Award program and the USCIS Naturalization Ceremony. Sindy De Leon (YCI) has reserved WRD for June 27, 2019 with a Refugee Award ceremony. She distributed WRD nominations forms.

**GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

USCIS, Berta Cassidy Community Relations Officer (CRO) introduced Roketa Mansfield as a USCIS new CRO in the South Region. Ms. Mansfield will also represent the Southeast Region and has many years of experience with immigration and USCIS. Beta reminded all about Information Services Modernization –This program ends self-scheduling of InfoPass appointments and instead encourages applicants to use USCIS online information resources and the USCIS Contact Center. As a reminder, individuals needing in-person service must make an appointment through the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283.

**ESS/DCF-** Gus Artau; discussed RAP/ACCESS benefits eligibility.

**CSCB**-Marta Roque from CareerSource's PB office spoke about the new programs and services available through CSB. She distributed informational material.

**RS Contracted providers:**

**CCDPB**, Sandra Perez, Catholic Charities, mentioned that some Cuban arrivals are only receiving an Order of Release of Recognizance. Catholic Charities also mentioned delays in EAD processing.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting: Friday, July 19, 2019**

Time: 10:00 to 12PM

Location: West Palm Beach City Hall

401 Clematis ST., WPB City, FL 33401

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