



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 24, 2018
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: **Miriam Rosario (RS)**
SUBJECT: July 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: September 20, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Children's Services Council of Broward County,
6000 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 the Children Services Council of Broward County (CSCBC). Miriam Rosario (MIR), Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked the CSC Broward County for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A presentation was given by A J Baptist, CSCBC and Jesse Kearney, US Patriot Industries, on **Internet Security, Protecting your Digital Footprints**. They shared some important Internet Safety, Methods and Techniques and new ways to improve protection on social media and what to include and what not to. Mr. Kearney answered many questions on how to educate and protect refugees' rights and client's identity.

World Refugee Day Debriefing

Jocelyn Martinez Project RENEW (PR) showed a video of World Refugee Day highlights. The event was hosted by Broward College in collaboration with the Broward and PB Refugee Task Forces. Miriam thanked and congratulated all for their collaboration and for the successful event! World Refugee Day was held on Friday, June 15, 2018; Elected Officials presented proclamations, refugee awards, and scholarships. The event was attended by over 400 people. Over 10 organizations were on site, and 100 Broward residents were naturalized.

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**Welcoming Week Planning (WW),**

Noraya Razzaque, Refugee AmeriCorps Member with Church World Service (CWS), shared important best WW practices and information on how to become a more welcoming community. Noraya provided members with presentations. These practices have already been implemented in the CWS community and have created new opportunities that have increased client participation. She has created new partnership with Lynn Universities, schools, Palm Beach Sheriff Office, Mental Health Awareness, Elected Officials and local libraries. CWS states that clients most preferred activities are the language café which are very popular among recent arrival. Noraya also offered cultural orientation. Gabriela (who will replace Noraya as the new AmeriCorps volunteer) will continue these outreach practices.

West Regional Library Broward County – Welcoming Week.: The RTF members and community partners and volunteers will work on an annual event. Mary Cassell, Librarian Senior West Regional Library was not present but will provide venue and information on this partnership and all the services the Broward Library can provide to RS providers and clients.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Adam Chioffe indicated EA extensions for 18 months. USCIS recalled 800 EADs that were created in error. Additional information available- <https://www.dhs.gov> . He reported on the outstanding partnership with DCF and RTF members and the excellent USCIS WRD Naturalization ceremony coordinated with Project RENEW and Broward College. USCIS also

has sessions with the Library Information Desk and USCIS. These sessions are free and open to the public. Additional information: to check the status of a pending application, petition, or request, go to Case Status Online, can also call us at 1-800-375-5283 (TDD for deaf and hard of hearing: 1-800-767-1833) or make an appointment at a local field office at infopass.uscis.gov.

ESS/DCF- There was a discussion regarding the different benefits such as DSNAP, RAP, TANF and the impact of the delay of EAD on services. Any concerns to be email to RS thru Miriam Rosario, SER CL.

DOH- Migdalia Diaz, DOH supervisor informed that RS-DOH appointments are up to date and she can be contacted via email at Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov with any questions.

KidCare- Rebecca Miele invited all to participate during the FL Kid Care Back to School Immunization Fair. The fair will be held next August 11, inside the Lauderhill Mall, from 10-2 PM. Outreach Material and vendor registration forms were distributed.

Harmony Development Center- Gloria Gonzalez, Program Manager, provided brief information on their Bridge to New Opportunities Program and Kinship Initiatives for Support Services. The Bridge Program provides Behavioral Health Counseling and life coaching services to youth with mental health/substance abuse problems (age 9-17 years old). The goals of the Kindship program are to connect the kindship families with multiple community services tailored to their individualized needs. The counselors will provide all the support to the children and entire families. Age requirement birth to 17 years old. Referral forms were distributed

Urban League of PBC/Broward-Raul Sigler, Director, provided information and distributed materials regarding their Urban Seniors Jobs Program.

RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (PR) Jocelyn Martinez with PR reported on their registration process for winter program. PR is doing strong outreach and is asking the community partners for referrals. – **Early Learning Coalition-Broward (ELC)**, Kimberly Borromeo, Senior Supervisor Family Services stated they have child care services slots available. **Youth Co-OP, Inc. (YCI)** - Jesus Garcia reported on the possibility that they will be moving offices. YCI is experiencing a decline in new intakes and referral are welcome for those eligible with less than five years of arrival in the USA. **St Thomas University Human Rights (STHRI)-** Cristina Reis Attorney from STHRI Legal Services reported on EAD delays (averaging up to 6 months). The STHRI is diligently helping these clients and providing direct services and referrals to alleviate these delays. STHRI has been educating clients on travel out of state and USCIS restrictions. There was a discussion on differences between parole and advance parole. Cristina indicated the possibility that they will move offices to a new location and offered members the opportunity for new partnerships and to co-locate. **CWS** , Oscar Rivera, Director, No additional updates.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, September 20, 2018**

Time: 10:00 to 12PM

Location: Children's Services Council of Broward County,
6000 W. Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33319

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