



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 22, 2018.
TO: Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force
FROM: **Miriam Rosario (RS)**
SUBJECT: May 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: July 19, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Children Services Council of Broward,
6600 W. Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33311
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 Department of Children and Families (DCF). Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked the Economic Self-Sufficient (ESS) Program, DCF for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A power point presentation (PPP) on “Public Benefits & Immigration” was given by Peterson **St. Philippe, Attorney, Catholic Charities Legal Services**. This presentation focused on the definition and procedures to utilize “public charge” (PC) to an individual seeking admission to the USA or seeking to adjust status to permanent resident (obtaining a “green card”). Despite current definition Peterson explained of the proposed federal rule change definition of public charge and filed with OMB. The final language is unclear however both current definition and proposed definition were discussed. The expected public charge rule likely would significantly change the use of public benefits by legal immigrants and their U.S.-born dependents. A proposed rule is expected soon. USCIS stated of the web site for review of PC Q&A. Catholic Charities Legal Services stated, they are providing consultation on the PC. The members that asked for the distribution of the PPP will receive via email.

A second Overview presentation by **Kimberly Borromeo, Family Services Senior Supervisor with Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.** She presented on the child care services options and eligibility for services available in Broward County; child care, school readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) programs. VPK is an educational program that helps 4-year old on or before September 1 of program year to be ready for kindergarten. VPK is free and has no income restrictions. The Head Start and Early Head Start program are with the Broward Schools. She also discussed on the RS child care (RS CC) services and is available for eligible refugee children. The RS CC referral is needed from YCI and/or Project RENEW (PR). Written informative material on VPK was distributed. For more information on VPK and to register online by visit: www.browardchildcare.org

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Client Outreach Plan for 2018

RS providers are intensely doing outreach plans with the community organizations and contacting previous clients as ways to increase intake and those served. The RS are collaborating and partnering with community base organization in an effort to outreach clients. Consequently, WRD celebrations will share community resources and will be an outreach activity as well.

Planning for World Refugee Day (WRD) 2018

Jeanette Alban, Youth Co-Op, Inc. (YCI) reported on the completion activities coordinated for the WRD event. She thanked all that registered and assisted in the WRD event. The celebration of “World Refugee Day” will be on Friday, June 15, 2018 at Broward College’s North Campus

in Coconut Creek, Florida. Refugees will be recognized for the accomplishments and awards will be given into cover different categories. This year a resource fair will be coordinated with various community organizations. The event will honor and recognize refugees on an award luncheon and a naturalization ceremony by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Should you have any questions and/or to RSVP, please contact Clara Jaramillo (Broward College/Project RENEW) at 954-201-3713.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

USCIS, Gina Sankar, Section Chief at the Oakland Park Field Office, provide updates. USCIS has begun phasing in use of the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery service to mail Green Cards and other secure documents. USCIS will destroy Permanent Resident Cards, Employment Authorization Cards (EADs) and Travel Documents returned as 2nd notice undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service after 60 business days if USCIS is not contacted by the document's intended recipient to provide the correct address. USCIS encourages applicants to report a change of address within 10 days of relocation using the procedures outlined at uscis.gov/addresschange.

The need for ongoing implementation in educating clients in the timeframe to update and report change in address, as this requirement as this may also impact on other services and benefits such as; Social Security Administration (SSA), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and ESS/DCF. Discussion to offer a "Fact Sheet" was proposed. USCIS inform available on their web-site and to contact their office thru info-pass if necessary. Additionally, USCIS spoke about Haiti-the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and the impact for Haiti. TPS beneficiaries who re-registered may request a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Additional information available- <https://www.dhs.gov/tps> . 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. Material on USCIS Oakland Park Field Office schedule visits to libraries to provide general information was distributed.

DOH- Migdalia Diaz, supervisor DOH 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. Migdalia asked the members to remind clients of the 90 days of arrival in the USA and not to 3 months to receive refugee's DOH benefits. She stated that they are seeing less number of new arrivals and most of new cases are from Venezuela and Haiti.

Career Source of Broward- Keisha Hall and Jaime Connell, Program Managers informed on their OJT and training programs available at no cost and low income (40K) if you are laid-off, unemployed and underemployed; including Information and Technology, Health Care, Financial, Business Administration. Material on this training was distributed.

Kid Care- Willene Boyce, Family Support Worker invite members to their coming Health Fair event in August. Once complete the flyer will be distributing to all.

Social Security Administration (SSA)- Hazel Vergara, CLAIMS Representative/SSI informed on their SSA and importance to report on current address. SSA material was distributed.

ESS/DCF- Teresa Hernandez, Specialist from ESS/DCF remind all on the different benefits such as ABA, TANF, SNAP, RAP and their services criteria.

RS Contracted providers: Project RENEW (PR) Jocelyn Martinez, Program Director not present, however Project RENEW submitted reported via email. PR reported “enrolling around 400 clients to start classes next Monday, May 21st; PR are updating more than 700 clients files and entering data in RSDS”. **Church World Service (CWS)** – Erasmo Gomez discussed their Legal services, Match Grant and assistance program specially to the Haitian community. **Youth Co-OP, Inc. (YCI)** – Jeannette Alban reported on their Employment, Vocational Career Laddering, Youth Program which offers GED and Career planning and Educational Path. YCI also reported on their well accepted Training Program services. 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 Instituted**, no updates. **Catholic Charities Legal Services (CCLS)**- Peterson St. Philippe Attorney from CCLS informed on a new staff hire to assist “victims of crime”.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: **Thursday, July 17, 2018**
Time: 10:00 to 12PM
Location: Children Services Council of Broward County,
6600 W. Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33319

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