



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Rebecca Kapusta
Interim Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2018
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: September 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: November 14, 2018
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Contact: LeAndra Stafford
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E-Mail: Leandra.Stafford@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Jacksonville 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 twenty-five to thirty 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, 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!

5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211

JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Jacksonville Baptist Association. LeAndra Stafford, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program facilitated the meeting. There were 29 people in attendance. Molly Conrad, Procurement Manager of Refugee Services was in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

GUEST PRESENTATION

- 1.) Sarah Humphreys, Women's Center of Jacksonville, Victim Advocate.
 - A. The Women's Center is a certified rape crisis center
 - B. They serve as a rape recovery team for all genders
 - C. They offer physical and forensic exams, advocacy, and other avenues of support like responding to a sexual assault at hospitals with an officer
 - D. They offer co survivor and LGBTQ support groups
 - E. They are trained to work with young children and they offer counseling for children 12 years and up and refer the younger children for other counseling services
 - F. The Green Dot program is for bystander intervention, this program includes: education on consent; trauma informed education to medical staff, and advocacy of non-English speakers (with use of a language line)
 - G. The counseling services are based on sliding scale for regular counseling; LGBTQ counseling is always free; and victim of sexual assault is free
 - H. Bosom Buddies is group therapy for those with Breast Cancer
 - I. The Women's Center also offer other services: community education in expanding Horizon education; one on one tutoring; childcare; GED classes; and ESOL classes (for information about these classes please contact: Ruthann Martin at (904) 722-3000 ext 230)
 - J. The Women's Center also has an additional location at 5300 Emerson St.
 - K. Rape Crisis Hotline (904) 721-7273 available 24/7
- 2.) Melissa Jamillah, Step Up for Students
 - A. Step Up for Students offers Scholarships programs for Duval Co students
 - B. There are two new programs: Hope Scholarship and Reading Program
 - C. The Hope scholarship is for victims of Bullying for grades K-12, if the bullying occurs on school grounds, the victim can get a scholarship to transfer to a private school
 - D. The reading program is for 3rd – 5th grade for tutoring
 - E. They also have a special needs program that offer \$10,000 per year to help with services for student.
 - F. Other scholarships that are available are for lower income individuals and is income based

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **World Relief (Jose Vega, Director):**
 - WR had 76 arrivals since Oct. 2017
 - Expecting a family of 4 from Afghanistan to arrive on September 14th and two single arrivals from the Ukraine
 - IA has 53 cases = 43 are BIS and 10 ICM
 - FLIC (Florida Immigration Coalition) is working with WR and they will start the English Innovations classes in October. Classes will be Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9:30 – 12 pm for 12 weeks. So far 15 people have signed up for the class. The class is for both immigrants and refugees. Jose clarified that all new arrived refugees will be referred to CCB for ESOL
- **Catholic Charities Bureau (Michelle Karolak, Director):**
 - CCB had 50 arrivals since Oct. 2017
 - 49 Match Grant slots allocation of the 68 slots; request for referrals for MG
 - ESOL did 284 intakes, 368 students tested, 429 were enrolled in the lower levels and 360 vouchers for this fiscal year.
 - They will start GED classes in October. It will be available two days per week 11 am to 2 pm for free and they will pay for the GED test
 - They are also offering a Citizenship class on Tuesdays also free
 - Michelle Karolak will be leaving CCB on September 29th due to budget cuts, Matt Schmitt, the Associate Director will be the contact person
- **Lutheran Social Services (Cristina Parcel, Director):**
 - LSS has 58 arrivals to date
 - In October there are scheduled 6 arrivals from the Congo and 2 SIVs
 - 38 MG allocations
 - 32 Employment intakes and 47 placements in July
 - Free Vision Screening on 09/13/18 2pm – 4 pm
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
 - No updates
- **Early Learning Coalition:**
 - No updates
- **Department of Health**
 - Since arrivals have slowed down tremendously the Refugee Clinic is no longer fully staffed
 - They are streamlining the clinic to be more efficient and to have staff busy all day on the refugee days. Mondays will be lab days and Fridays will be for assessments
 - They are still accepting walk-ins for immunizations at anytime
 - Clarification: Refugees have one year to complete immunizations free of cost. After the first year they will have to pay

- It is also important they stick to their immunization schedule. A patient can be complete his/ her schedule within 8 months if they keep up their immunization schedule
- Adult vaccines are not covered by Medicaid, they are strictly paid for by the Refugee Program, so if they don't get their immunizations completed within the first year they will have to pay out of pocket.

GENERAL UPDATES

USCIS – No Updates

FSCJ ESOL – No Updates

The Healing Project (Christine Rothberg)

- They had 40 sessions for this month
- 59 people were seen last month
- There is a trauma support group for Arabic speakers that starts in the month of October (it will be closed group; open by invitation only)
- They are starting a community listener program, the volunteers will learn to identify depression, panic attacks, DV and will be trained to guide people to resources that are provided in the community. They will have Mental Health First Aid Training, it is five-hour training. Each month they will convene with Christine to discuss what they are seeing in the community

AHCA (Dewece Ogden)

- The medical providers in this area (Region 4) have been signed to an additional five years. However, Molina will no longer be in this area and customers may not have the same plan
- The legislators have carved out funds to now offer three different dental plans to adults for preventative dental services. These plans will be separate from the Medicaid medical plans
- Please make sure customers are aware of the changes occurring on Feb 1, 2019 and they may have to choose a new plan and a dental plan
- You may call 1-877-254-1055, for concerns or complaints of the providers

Out of the Box Stories – This month out of the box story was told by Christine Rothberg. She explained this situation required the active participation of several providers who served the refugee and the community volunteer to assist with the mental health issue of this refugee. This refugee is not consistently taking the required prescription to assist her. The group of providers who are assisting her with services are exploring options to incentivize her to take her meds such as paying her a stipend for doing a “job” and taking her meds.

NEW ISSUES/ ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1.) Agape Clinic has relocated to 3900 University Blvd. Suite 2; Monday and Wednesdays are for Adult appointments and Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays are children. Open House will be 10/05/2018 at 10 am.
- 2.) Red Cross (Susan Eccher) advised the group they can do group education for hurricane safety. They have a website Safeandwell.org for anyone to register to leave

love ones a message or to check if they are safe. They are currently in need of volunteers and donation of money is preferred to items