



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2018
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: Taddese Fessehaye, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: January 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: March 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
Office: (904) 485-9540
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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. Taddese Fessehayee, Community Liaison Manager represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program facilitated the meeting. There were 37 people in attendance. Dane Nelson, Contract Manager, Refugee Services Program, attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

Taddese announced that LeAndra Stafford was chosen to be the new Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Northeast Region.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Cristina Parcell, Operations Manager with Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida (LSS), gave an overview of all the programs and services within her agency.

Departments:

1. AIDS Care and Education (ACE)
 - Heather Vaughn, Director
 - Has the leading suppression rate in the state of Florida
 - Offers case management services
 - Center Aids Network (CAN) has collaborated with LSS to open a Clinic in their old thrift store location. The clinic will consist of medical, dental, and pharmacy services.
2. Representative Payee Services
 - Michelle Euclid, Director
 - Rep Payee Services are offered to individuals not able to manage their money
 - The services have been extended to veterans and satellite offices are being opened for them.
 - Payments have become more streamlined for the participants
3. Nourishment Network
 - Jason Clark, Director
 - Serve seniors and students in Clay, St. Johns and Duval Counties.
 - During the hurricane they gave over 900 bags of food to Clay Co Schools, where the teachers would come to pick up the bags and distribute them to their students in need.
4. Refugee Services
 - Cristina Parcell, Director
 - Due to the new requirements for arrivals, Cristina believes the goal of admitting 45,000 refugees and 15,000 SIVs to the U.S. will not be met this year.
 - Their International Programs had a story featured in the Jacksonville Magazine Called "A Home Away from Home", about a family from Columbia who was resettled by LSS.

<http://www.jacksonvillemag.com/2017/12/28/home-away-home/>

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **World Relief (Jose Vega, Director):**
 - WR projected arrivals reduced from 220 to 200 for FFY 2018
 - Received 5 Ukrainian refugees in December 2017
 - ORR site visit scheduled for Matching Grant (MG) program on Jan. 22 – 23
 - Robin Koirola has replaced Meg Boot as the new IA Supervisor

- **Catholic Charities (Michelle Karolak, Director):**
 - CCB projected arrivals are 92 for FY 2018
 - CCB received a family of 4 in December 2017
 - ORR site visit scheduled for MG on Jan. 25 – 26 (this date may change due to scheduling)
 - ESOL (Michele Sanon, program manager), is encouraging all providers to send referrals for all new arrivals regardless of their English speaking ability

- **Lutheran Social Services (Christina Parcel, Director):**
 - LSS projected arrivals will increase from 170 to 220 for FY 2018 (due to some of LIRS affiliate offices closing in Florida)
 - LSS received 6 refugees from Afghanistan in December 2017
 - ORR site visit scheduled for MG on Jan. 22 – 23

- **Legal Aid:** Mariana Munoz, has replaced Nancy Hale and is the new director of the Immigration Project.

GENERAL UPDATES

Jaguar Foundation – Shad Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, donated 150 playoff tickets to refugees. These tickets were distributed between the three providers: LSS, WR, & CCB. The playoff package included tickets, transportation to the game, \$20 food voucher, a hat, and a towel for each participant.

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000902650/article/shad-khan-jaguars-donate-playoff-tickets-to-refugees>

World Refugee Day 2018 – The Task Force established a Planning Committee during the meeting and the members who volunteered to serve are: Meredith Moore (FSCJ), Tawanda Washington (DOH), Nena Frank (WR), and Hind Chahed (DCPS). They will meet to decide on the date and venue for the local communities to celebrate and raise awareness about refugees.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2017
 1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.
 Baptist Association of Jacksonville
 2700 University Boulevard South
 Jacksonville, Florida 32216

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