



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 01, 2018
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force
FROM: Lourdes Leconte, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: April 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATION IN LIEU OF
THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

Date: June 20 2018
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M
Location: Miami-Dade College
Building 2, Breezeway
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132
Contact: Lourdes Leconte
Office: (786) 257-5173
Cell: (305) 401-3374
E-Mail: Lourdes.Leconte@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Miami 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!

401 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite N-812 Miami, Florida 33128

**MIAMI-DADE REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 09, 2018****ATTENDEES:**

Bojan, Bajic; Kerry, Allen; Sabine, Balmir-Derenoncourt; Diego, Castro; Cesar, Carpio; Dasiely , Cruz; Maria, Dominguez; Sherry, Cappers; Olga, Fernandez; Monica, Farias; Martha, Ferrer; Rosaida, Galano; Emilie, Goeser; Beatriz, Lopez; Sergio, Mora; Eduardo, Moras; Yeen, Perez; Maureen, Porras; Lourdes, Leconte; Marie, Philogene ; Christine, Reis; Oscar, Rivera; Leydi, Sosa; Evelyn, Soto; Carmen, Torres; Trayon, Wilcox; Sheryl, Lafrance; Ulises, Pacheco; Olga, Fernandez; Marielis, Amador; Maria, Hernandez; Aliuscha, Gonzalez; Caroline, Culbreth ; Emmmara, Vega; Demoree, Lopez; Captain , Ifode; Lourdes, Leconte

INTRODUCTION:

Lourdes Leconte, DCF Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Southern Region welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION:

Beatriz Lopez, Southern Region Communications Director provided the group a mini training on the use of social Media for Community Outreach with a Focus on the Refugee Population. She referenced a 2017 Case Study on Refugee Integration and Social Media and said that study revealed: Refugees have a greater preference for social media over other internet applications, age and gender did not play a role in frequency and type of social media and on average they spend seven hours a day on social media. She taught the group some basics on establishing social platforms that are meaningful and seed relevant, helpful conversations on a consistent basis and with information to engage with the members regularly. In closing she says building the social media will take work but it will be worth it. Providers u will be able to connect refugees with services while helping build a thriving social community for them.

Maureen Porras, Managing Attorney, Church World Service, CWS Miami did a presentation on Public charge, she shared with the group the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act that defines public charge (INA section 212(a)(4) “Public Charge”). She explained in detail the intricacies of this law and to which category of immigrant status this law applies to and the exceptions.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Volunteers needed for the planning of World Refugee Day 2018
- World Refugee Day Commemoration will be held in lieu of the June Taskforce Meeting On **Wednesday, June 20, 2018** @ Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus Building 2, Breezeway 300 NE 2nd Ave Miami, Florida 33132
- **Next Taskforce Meeting Friday, August 10, 2018**
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, Building 8, Idea Center Rm 8503 CD
300 NE 2nd Ave Miami, Florida 33132

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE: (Sent via E-Mail in March and April)

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

SOUTH FLORIDA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES MINUTES – APRIL, 2018

NONE

South Florida VOLAG Consortium

Oscar Rivera, the Director of CWS shared with the group the VOLAG Consortium met last in February 8, 2018. Currently only one Volag agency remains active in the area, the meetings will no longer be held monthly, will advise of the next meeting date.

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2018

MIAMI AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE

Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee

Minutes for the meeting on April 4, 2018

By Lucio Perez-Reynoso

Attendees: Brad Ginter, Dante Lendechy, Maureen Porras, Pierre Saintil, Jessica Shulruff, Sandra Maldonado, Nelson Tobar, Aileen Diaz-Albertini, Christine Reis, Berta Cassidy, Zulma Ruiz, Amelia Ramirez, Sheryl LaFrance, Maria Catalina, Alexandra Yara, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Marie Jean, Iris De Jesus, Amanda St. Jean, Michael Silva.

The Immigration Subcommittee Meeting was held on April 4, 2018 at the Offices of American for Immigrant Justice (AIJ). Berta Cassidy provided USCIS updates and Amanda St. Jean provided EOIR updates, follow by questions. Maria Dominguez from the Miami Asylum Office had prior commitments and couldn't attend the meeting. Michael Silva, Public Affairs and Border Community Liaison from CBP, joined our meeting to address some questions from the Subcommittee Members.

APPLICATIONS PROCESSING TIMES: USCIS is piloting a redesigned processing times webpage. The pilot tests 4 forms using new automated methodology to calculate processing times for the following: N-400, I-485, I-90, I-751. USCIS shows processing times as an estimated time range to be more accurate, timely, and easy to understand. Non-pilot forms are also reflected as a range by adjusting the timeframe to 30% above current cycle times.

INFOPASS: Applicants needing stamps as temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence should make an Info Pass. Emergencies, such as a death in the family, may be considered on a walk-in basis, however, the applicant needs to bring supporting evidence of the emergency.

UNDELIVERABLE CARDS: USCIS destroys cards that are undeliverable after 60 business days if USCIS is not contacted regarding the card.

CBP: Berta Cassidy introduced Michael Silva, the Public Affairs & Border Community Liaison, to the Subcommittee Members. After the introduction, he graciously addressed and answered

some of the Subcommittee Member's questions regarding parole under his area of work. Mr. Silva will give us a presentation at our next meeting.

EOIR: The EOIR opened its first Immigration Court in Louisville, KY on April 2, 2018. Now there are 61 Immigration Courts Nation-Wide.

MIAMI IMMIGRATION COURT: The Court held a Stakeholders Listening Session on March 14, 2018. Chief Immigration Judge Sukkar presided the meeting. Courts have been holding these sessions throughout the United States to listen concerns of practitioners and communities around the Country.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2018 from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM at the Office of Church World Services (CWS) 1924 NW 84th Avenue, Miami, FL 33126.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2018

ADULT EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

February 8, 2018

- REVEST successfully began classes for the current cycle on January 10th, 2018 and we currently have over 1800 students registered for VESOL classes in our four Centers. The term will end on April 28th, 2018. Regarding the Summer Term 2185(May 9-August 25, 2018) 33 Orientation Sessions are scheduled. About 1000 students will be tested using the Pre-CASAS placement test. 84 classes are programmed for the Summer Term.
- REVEST continues registrations for the Spring 2183, and we have already served around 80 new vocational students despite the dramatic cuts in our budget recently. We continue to hold individual and group vocational retraining sessions for advisors, with the participation of CE coordinators, in order to continually help us expand our knowledge about the new changes in the MDC Information System.
- Faculty meetings were conducted with all REVEST instructors Jan. 18, 19, 2018. Topics included establishing a Florida I.D. to assist in establishing Florida residency, professionalism in the workplace, and strategies to enhance student retention.
- REVEST is concerned with the possible impact of the current climate regarding immigration and its effect on clients seeking services. We have noticed a decline in inquiries for services and are interested if any other agencies are experiencing similar effects. There may be a fear of disclosing personal information that is keeping some clients from seeking benefits they are eligible for.

- The total enrollment in the SAVES program as of January 31, 2018, was 2,052. Of these, 606 are new students to the program and 196 are 16 to 18 youngsters enrolled in the Success Management Academy (SMA) SAVES GED in Spanish Program. The current trimester began on January 8, 2018 and will end on Friday, April 06, 2018. The next academic trimester will begin on April 9, 2018. Graduations for students in the SAVES program are held at the end of each term.
- SMA GED in Spanish program is proven to be an excellent alternative for refugee youth that would otherwise not make it in the regular high school programs. Students are graduating and continuing to study English and choosing a career pathway either through vocational/technical training or transitioning to MDC. Due to the success of this program, the M-DCPS Superintendent and the School Board On January 25, 2018, were briefed about its implementation and achievements.
- To facilitate student access to the GED in Spanish SAVES program, this program is available in 8 schools around Miami Dade County: (1) Hialeah-Gardens SHS, (2) Westland Hialeah SHS, (3) Hialeah Adult Education Center, (4) Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center, 5) Miami Springs Adult Education Center, (6) Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College, (7) Miami Coral Park Adult Education Center, and (8) Jose Marti Mast 6-12 Academy.
- Miami Sunset Adult Education Center has been added to the list of SAVES schools. As of now, SAVES has a total of 16 schools.
- SAVES continues to issue vouchers for books and tuitions for students who are ready and interested in vocational/technical courses that are not offered at their current schools. Some of these courses are: Aircraft/Airframe Mechanics and Truck Driving. Participating schools are Baker Aviation and Miami Lakes Technical Colleges. SAVES has 33 students in these schools.
- SAVES works closely with the M-DCPS marketing department to reach out to the community and disseminate information about the SAVES programs. SAVES is currently advertising via newspaper, radio, career fairs, and opening of school meetings. New SAVES Website and Marketing Video for M-DCPS technical colleges are available through the following links: www.savesdadeschools.com and <https://youtu.be/pttdZJ5ssLw>. Also the M-DCPS Parent Academy is being used as a vehicle to market the SAVES program.
- New SAVES success stories, which highlight the achievements of some of our students, are uploaded to the SAVES website (www.savesdadeschools.com).
- If you have any questions about our program, you can call us at the number below or visit the SAVES website at www.savesdadeschools.com.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT – APRIL 2018

None

USCIS UPDATE – APRIL 2018**USCIS Miami & Caribbean District
April 2018 Update****❖ Processing Times Web Page**

USCIS has launched a pilot to test a redesigned processing times webpage that displays the data for all forms in an easier-to-read format and also tests a new way of collecting data and calculating the processing times for some forms.

The pilot will test four forms using a new automated methodology for calculating processing times. The four forms are:

Form N-400, Application for Naturalization;

Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card;

Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status; and

Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence.

The updated page displays processing times in a range for each form based on the date USCIS receives it. The low end of the range for pilot forms shows the time it takes to complete 50 percent of cases, and the high end shows the time it takes to complete 93 percent of cases. The high end for the non-pilot forms will be adjusted by 30 percent above current cycle times to reflect the time it takes to complete a majority of the cases.

❖ Undeliverable Documents

Starting April 2, USCIS will destroy Permanent Resident Cards, Employment Authorization Cards (EADs) and Travel Documents returned as 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.

❖ Outreach Sessions

Below is a listing of our upcoming outreach sessions and events that will take place during the month of April. These sessions are free and open to the public. If you need additional information, please contact – Berta.M.Cassidy@uscis.dhs.gov or Zulma.T.Ruiz@uscis.dhs.gov

Date	Time	Type of Event	Location
April 9 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Doral Branch Library 10785 NW 58 Street, Doral, FL
April 10 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Dade Regional Library 9445 Coral Way (SW 24 St) Miami, FL
April 10 th	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	California Club Branch Library 700 Ives Dairy Rd. Miami, FL
April 10 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Tamarac Branch Library 8701 W. Commercial Blvd. Tamarac, FL
April 14 th	10:00 – 11:30 am	Naturalization Information Session	Sunny Isles Library 18070 Collins Ave. Sunny Isles Beach, FL
April 16 th	1:00 – 4:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Kendall Driver's License Center 11735 SW 147 th Avenue, Suite 23 Miami, FL
April 16 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Regional Library 8601 W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, FL.
April 17 th	10 am – 2:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Stephen P. Clark Government Center Lobby 111 NW 1 st Street Miami, FL
April 19 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Kendale Lakes Branch Library 15205 SW 88 St. Miami, FL
April 19 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Arcola Lakes Branch Library 8240 NW 7 th Ave. Miami, FL
April 24 th	12:30 – 3:30 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Mall of the Americas Driver's License Center 7795 W. Flagler St. Suite #82C Miami, FL

April 24 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Miramar Branch Library 2050 Civic Center Pl. Miramar, FL
April 24 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	North Regional/Broward College Library 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd. Coconut Creek, FL
April 30 th	5:30 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	NW Regional Library 3151 University Dr. Coral Springs, FL

❖ **Upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies**

Below are scheduled dates for administrative N-400 naturalization ceremonies and the corresponding field offices where the ceremonies will take place (unless otherwise listed). Please note that although these dates are current on the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

- Miami Field Office –
 - April 6
 - April 13
 - April 20

- Hialeah Field Office –
 - April 14
 - April 28

- Oakland Park Field Office -
 - April 20
 - April 27

- Kendall Field Office –
 - April 20
 - April 21
 - April 23