



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 28, 2018
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force
FROM: Lourdes Leconte, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: February 09, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: April 13, 2018
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Location: Miami-Dade College
Building 8, Room, Room 8525
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
FEBRUARY 09, 2018**

ATTENDEES:

Bojan, Bajic; Kerry, Allen; Sabine, Balmir-Derenoncourt; Ileana, Bustelo; Berta Cassidy; Suzy Cop; Sherry, Cappers; Sosa, Duncan; Jackie Carrion; Patti, Grogan; Rosaida, Galano; Emilie, Goeser; Juan, Lopez; Dorothy Martin; Sergio, Mora; Lourdes, Leconte; Marie, Philogene ; Christine, Reis; Silvia, Lopez; Omar, Lugo; Dorothy, Martin; Dasiely, Marrero; Sergio, Mora; Marie, Philogene; Christine, Reis; Evelyn, Soto; Ana Maria, Teixeira; Edilia, Romeu; Luisa, Sanchez; Leidy, Sosa; Evelyn, Soto; Ruth Valenzuela; Emmanuel, Vega; Demoree, Lopez; Caroline, Culbreath; Kristen, Parker; Amanda, St Jean; Maria, Hernandez; Tomas, Rodriguez; Denise, Don; Ulises, Pacheco; Dianelys , Gomez; Tenesha, Avent; Paulina, Velez; Oscar Rivera, Maureen, Porras

INTRODUCTION:

Lourdes Leconte, DCF Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Southern Region welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Patti Grogan, Refugee Service Director, provided a brief update on the Program.

PRESENTATION:

Dasiely Cruz, Program Director for the Refugee Childcare Microenterprise Development Program in Miami Dade (R.C.C.D.P) Provided an overview of her program to the taskforce members. This program is run by the Children's Forum. The Forum has a long history of serving vulnerable populations in the child care field through training, advising, mentorship, and coaching. It manages the Quality Counts Career Center in Miami which serves a diverse population of family- and center-based child care practitioners through the Quality Counts initiative funded by the Children's Trust and Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Miami-Dade/Monroe. For the Micro Enterprise project, the Forum leveraged its existing partnerships with agencies and institutions that serve and train the early child care community in Miami-Dade County. It has been able to partner with local, county, and state entities that serve refugees. She is seeking to broaden that partnership with other entities at the taskforce to be able to reach a wider range of eligible refugees interested in the child care field and who would like to own their own business in that field The ultimate goal is Assist refugees in becoming economically self-sufficient and help refugee communities in developing employment and capital resources. The program has a five prongs approach to help refugees become successful child care provider's They provide help, (Financial and educational via a grant funding), ongoing support through mentoring, advice, guidance and assistance.

Sandra Wells, LEP Navigator, Florida covering Kids & Families of the University of South Florida, College of Public Health provided an overview of the ACA program with eligibility guidelines.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Volunteers needed for the planning of World Refugee Day 2018

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (Sent via E-Mail in January and February)**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM****SOUTH FLORIDA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES MINUTES – FEBRUARY, 2018****South Florida VOLAG Consortium****Feb. 8, 2018****Attendees:**

Name	Agency	Email
Silvia Lopez	CMG	Silvia.lopez@communitygrp.com
Suzy Cop	IRC	Suzy.cop@rescue.org
Ana Maria Teixeira	IRC	Anamaria.teixeira@rescue.org
Oasis Peña	IRC	Oasis.pena@rescue.org
Jose Sanchez	CWS	Jsanchez@cwsglobal.org
Oscar Rivera	CWS	Orivera@cwsglobal.org
Lourdes Pesante	Catholic Charities	Lourdes.lpesante@ccadm.org
Tomas Rodriguez	LIRS	Tomas.rodriguez@lsfnet.org
Bojan Bajic	Youth Co-op/USCRI	bb@ycoop.mail.org
Veronica Rodriguez	Youth Co-op/USCRI	Veronica.rodriguez@ycoop.mail.org
Patti Grogan	DCF/Refugee Services	Patti.grogan@myflfamilies.com
Ileana Bustelo	DCF/Refugee Services	Ileana.bustelo@myflfamilies.com
Lourdes Leconte	DCF/Refugee Services	Lourdes.leconte@myflfamilies.com
Duncan Sosa	DOHealth RHAP	Duncan.sosa@flhealth.gov

Refugee Services:

Patti Grogan, State Refugee Coordinator, provided update on the refugee world, she stated there is a visually dramatic drop in arrival numbers. Discussions on how to best manage programs in this uncertain environment. Pending budget approval at the federal level, also plays a role, and currently operating without much information. Some suggestions in how to best utilize future funding:

- Employment programs being enhanced to serve returning/past clients, who have not been in the country more than 5 years.

- Educational programs targeting ESL clients who have not been in the country more than 5 years.
- Legal services programs shifting to complete more LPRs, instead of EADs

Notification received from 11 of the 25 resettlement affiliates in Florida of closures by the end of Sept. 30th (current fiscal year).

Key is to try to maintain a network, but the scope of what it will look like, is hard to gauge. Rising housing cost issues continue to be a large barrier, most notably in the Miami and Orlando areas. The economies are much harder to navigate for low-income families.

Department of Health-RHAP:

Duncan Sosa provided updated numbers on clients served. As of January, they have served 191 people, mostly Cubans, for new screenings. They are providing follow up services to existing clients, roughly 1400.

Health screening hours have gone back to Mon-Fri, from 7:30a-4pm.

Community Medical Group:

Silvia Lopez, Director of Social Services, informed attendees of slowdown of new applications submitted in January. They completed 90 applications for the month. In comparison, to same time in 2017, where 1231 applications completed.

Services have gradually shifted to Medicaid/Medicare recipients. Expansion to the Tampa area continues and actively hiring for openings in March 2018. CMS also planning on expansion into other parts of the country.

Parolee Orientation Program:

Month	Total	Cuban	Haitian	Left the county
Jan 2018	76	11	65	62
YTD Jan				

Comparison of January through December 2017: 2,206 C/H Entrants.
1,452 Cubans and 752 Haitians.

CWS, clarified that the POP program has not been shut down, but it has new guidelines/restrictions. There continues to be services available for Cuban Medical parolees, along with clients who have been paroled with humanitarian visas.

- No one in Removal proceedings is allowed to participate
- For people with removal proceedings, they need to prove severe hardship or medical reason. They are being approved on a case by case basis.

Reception and Placement Program updates

Agency	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	January 2018	FY 2018 Capacity
CC	0	0	0	0	0
CWS	0	8	0	3	100*
IRC	3	1	0	5	9*
LIRS	0	0	0	0	0*
Youth Co-Op	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FY18 (Oct-Jan)	20				109*

After PRM announcement in December of affiliate case load, the only resettlement office in Miami who will continue to provide refugee resettlement services will be CWS.

LIRS and IRC announced that the R&P Program will cease in their offices, effective March 31st.

New FY18 capacity updated for South Florida region.

Updates from Refugee Coordinator-Havana:

The US Embassy continues to be non-operational with minimum staff presence. Awaiting Mid-March decision from State Department, whether personnel will be sent to Havana, or be reassigned.

For refugee cases, applications are still being accepted at the drop box in the consular section. Currently not being processed.

Immigrant visas are being processed out of Bogota, Colombia. Awaiting information on CFRP applicants traveling to Bogota for interviews. There is a real concern due to cost and length of stay.

Matching Grant Program updates

Agency	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	January 2018	FY 2018 CAPACITY
CC	17	4	2	7	89
CWS	71	29	26	55	400
IRC	23	9	7	3	385*
LIRS	17	12	4	2	35*
Youth Co-Op	104	36	17	36	714
TOTAL FY18 (Oct-Jan)	481				1887

Discussion on continuing EAD delays. All agencies commented on EAD delays past 180-day mark. All agencies have escalated issue to national headquarters, as well as USCIS liaison.

LIRS announced that they ceased all MG new enrollments as of Jan. 26th. Their capacity has been updated to reflect enrollments completed as of January 2018. IRC announced scaling back MG enrollments for FY18. Awaiting new number confirmation from HQ and ORR

Other items:

- Announcements:
 - IRC Miami Executive Director, Suzy Cop, announces closing of its office at the end of fiscal year. Tallahassee IRC office will remain open.
 - Community Medical continues to hire for the 2 Medical centers opening in Tampa area.
- Next meeting scheduled:
April 11th @ 2pm CWS offices.

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2018

**MIAMI AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE
Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee
Minutes for the meeting on February 7, 2018
By Lucio Perez-Reynozo**

Attendees: Brad Ginter, Dante Lendechy, Maureen Porras, Berta Cassidy, Zulma Ruiz, Kristian Parker, Adonia Simpson, Pierre Saintil, Edilia Romey, Amelia Ramirez, Lourdes Leconte, Dorothy Martin, Denise Don, Yanelys Garcia, Marie Jean, Lucio Perez-Reynozo, Mariana Martinez, Amanda St. Jean.

The Immigration Subcommittee Meeting was held on February 7, 2018 at the Offices of the American for Immigrant Justice (AIJ). Berta Cassidy provided the USCIS updates and Amanda St. Jean provided the EOIR updates, follow up by questions.

Berta Cassidy introduced Kendall Field Office Director, Kristian Parker, and Community Relations Director, Zulma Ruiz, both were present at our meeting on February 7th.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS): USCIS provided TPS updates/handouts for the following countries: Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, and El Salvador.

NICARAGUA TPS terminates on January 5, 2019. Individuals who already have TPS have a re-registration period from Dec. 15, 2017 through February 13, 2018. EADs are automatically

extended through March 6, 2018. In addition, the work permit of TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register and apply for work permit will be automatically extended until July 4, 2018

HONDURAS TPS extended through July 5, 2018. Individuals who already have TPS have a re-registration period from Dec. 15, 2017 through Feb. 13, 2018. Their work permit is auto-extended until July 4, 2018.

HAITI TPS terminates on July 22, 2019. Those individuals who already have TPS have a re-registration period from Jan. 18, 2018 through March 19, 2018. Their work permit is auto-extended until July 21, 2018. Individuals who had a Form I-821 and/or Form I-765 pending as of Jan 18, 2018, do not need to file a new application or applications. If TPS is approved, they will be granted TPS through 7/22/2019. If they had a pending TPS-related application for an EAD that is approved, it will be valid through the same date.

EL SALVADOR TPS terminates on September 9, 2019. Individuals who already have TPS have a re-registration period from Jan. 18, 2018 through March 19, 2018. Their work permit is auto-extended through September 5, 2018. Individuals who had a Form I-821 and/or Form I-765 that was still pending as of January 18, 2018, do not need to file either application again. If the pending TPS application is approved, they will be granted TPS through September 9, 2019. If they had a pending TPS-related application for an EAD that is approved, it will be valid through the same date.

MATTER OF VASQUEZ: which held that Cuban Consular certificates were accepted to prove Cuban citizenship, has been rescinded. Cubans must have a valid Cuban passport or a Cuban civil registry document issued in Havana.

US Embassy in Havana: Department of State has designated the US Embassy in Bogota to process Immigrant Visas in Bogota, Colombia. USCIS services such as I-130s or I-730s will be processed in Mexico City.

USCIS FORMS: USCIS will accept applications without the bar-code that appears on the G-28. Recommended using the latest Adobe software and Internet Explorer.

DACA: USCIS resumed accepting DACA renewals. DACA beneficiaries with the expiration date on and after September 5, 2016 may renew their DACA. DACA beneficiaries with expiration date before September 5, 2016 may request DACA as if this is an initial request. USCIS does not accept DACA initial requests and advance parole requests.

N-400: individuals can submit applications for citizenship on-line now. They must create an user-account, pay on-line, and view case status on-line. The exceptions are for military citizenship applications, those applying outside of the US, and citizenship application fee waivers.

IMMIGRATION COURT: On January 18, 2018, the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) issued new guidelines in motions to change venue to address the Immigration Court case-load as well as to avoid unnecessary delays.

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING: The Miami Immigration Court is going to hold a stakeholders meeting in the coming months.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 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 – FEBRUARY 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.

REFUGEE HEALTH CLINIC REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018

None

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018

None

USCIS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2018

**USCIS Miami & Caribbean District
February 2018 Update**

❖ **TPS Reminders:**

➤ **Haiti**

TPS To Terminate On:	July 22, 2019
Re-registration Period for People Who Already Have TPS:	Jan. 18, 2018 – March 19, 2018
Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Auto-Extended Through:	July 21, 2018
Federal Register Notice Citations:	83 FR 2648

➤ **El Salvador**

TPS To Terminate On:	Sept. 9, 2019
Re-registration period for People Who Already Have TPS:	Jan. 18, 2018 – March 19, 2018
Employment Authorization Document (EAD)Auto-Extended Through:	Sept. 5, 2018
Federal Register Notice Citation:	83 FR 2654

➤ **Nicaragua**

TPS To Terminate On:	Jan. 5, 2019
Re-registration Period for People Who Already Have TPS:	Dec. 15, 2017, through Feb. 13, 2018
Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Auto-Extended Through:	March 6, 2018 Additionally, the EADs of TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register (Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status) and file a request for a new EAD (Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization) will be automatically extended through July 4, 2018.
Federal Register Notice Citation:	82 FR 59636

➤ **Honduras**

TPS Extended through:	July 5, 2018
Re-registration period for People Who Already Have TPS:	Dec. 15, 2017, through Feb. 13, 2018
Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Auto-Extended Through:	July 4, 2018
Federal Register Notice Citation:	82 FR 59630

❖ **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals(DACA):**

Due to a federal court order, USCIS has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA.

To read more, please visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-response-january-2018-preliminary-injunction>

❖ **Outreach Sessions**

Below is a listing of our upcoming outreach sessions and events that will take place during the month of February. 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
February 1 st	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Shenandoah Branch Library 211 SW 19 Street Miami, FL
February 6 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Tamarac Library 8701 W. Commercial Blvd. Tamarac, FL
February 7 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	South Dade Regional Library 10750 SW 211 Street Cutler Bay, FL
February 12 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Regional Library 8601 W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, FL
February 12 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Doral Branch Library 10785 NW 58 Street, Doral, FL
February 13 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Dade Regional Library 9445 Coral Way (SW 24 St) Miami, FL
February 13 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	California Club Branch Library 700 Ives Dairy Road Miami, FL
February 15 th	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	College Fair	COPE Center North 9950 NW 19 th Ave Miami, FL
February 15 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Kendale Lakes Branch Library 15205 SW 88 Street Miami, FL

February 15 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Arcola Lakes Branch Library 8240 NW 7 th Avenue Miami, FL
February 16 th	10:00 – 3:30 pm	Resource Fair	Stephen P. Clark Center 111 NW 1 st Street Miami, FL
February 20 th	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	College Fair	Miami Northwestern Senior High School 1100 NW 71 Street Miami, FL
February 20 th	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Information Desk	Stephen P. Clark Center 111 NW 1 st Street Miami, FL
February 20 th	12:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Job Fair	St. Thomas University 16401 NW 37 Avenue Miami, FL
February 20 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	North Regional/Broward College Library 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd. Coconut Creek, FL
February 23 rd	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	College Fair	Doral Academy Preparatory High School 11100 NW 27 th Street Miami, FL
February 26 th	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	College Fair	South Miami Senior High School 6856 SW 53 Street Miami, FL
February 26 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Northwestern Regional Library 3151 University Drive Coral Springs, FL
February 26 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Miami Lakes Branch Library 6699 Windmill Gate Road Miami Lakes, FL

February 27 th	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	College Fair	Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School 1410 Countyline Road Miami, FL
February 27 th	12:30 – 3:30 pm	Information Desk	FLHSMV- Driver License Center Mall of the Americas 7795 W. Flagler Street, Suite #82C Miami, FL
February 27 th	5:00 – 8:00 pm	College Fair	Overtown Success Center, OYC 450 NW 14 Street Miami, FL
February 28 th	5:00 – 8:00 pm	College Fair	American Senior High School 18350 NW 67 th Avenue Hialeah, FL
February 28 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Miramar Branch Library 2050 Civic Center Place Miramar, 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 –
 - February 9
 - February 16
 - February 23

- Hialeah Field Office –
 - February 24
 - February 26

- Oakland Park Field Office -
 - February 23

- Kendall Field Office –
 - February 8 - (Special Ceremony at Everglades National Park)
 - February 9
 - February 23