



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2018
TO: Members of the Palm Beach Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: **Miriam Rosario (RS)**
SUBJECT: January 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: March 16, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: West Palm Beach City Hall
WPB, Florida 33401
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 Palm Beach 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!

2383 Phillips Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32308

PALM BEACH AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the West Palm Beach City Hall. Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A power point presentation given by Don Jarrell at United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). Don shared that due to changing priorities, USCIS is now prioritizing asylum cases and cases are settled quickly. However, legal permanent residency applications are taking over a year to process and naturalization applications can take from 4-9 months to process. Info pass appointments are also being phased out and a pilot project is underway in Jacksonville to determine its effectiveness. All updates can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/>

He also discussed the 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.

To read more – <https://dhs.gov/news/2018/01/08/secretary-homeland-security-kirstjen-m-nielsen-announcement-temporary-protected>

NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN

Client Outreach Plan for 2018

Miriam provided brief report on visually dramatic drop in arrival numbers. Notification received from resettlement affiliates in Florida of closures by the end of Sept. 30th (current fiscal year). Catholic Charities Dioceses of PB will be closing their Reception & Placement program and will continue their Match Grant Program. Discussions on how to best manage programs in this uncertain environment. Some suggestions in how to best utilize future funding and increases outreach; Employment programs being enhanced to serve returning/past clients, who have not been in the country more than 5 years. Project Transition is accepting registrations for their Adult Education classes and will be increasing their outreach by participating in various community events. RS providers were encouraged to collaborate & to meet to review their outreach plan. A meeting among RS providers was coordinated by Miriam Rosario.

Planning for World Refugee Day (WRD) 2018

Sindy De Leon, Supervisor YCI and Marcia Bahia, PB Sheriff Office discussed the WRD celebrations and the planning of forming the WRD planning committee. All the members will like to participate and increase community involvement specially with USCIS. Milli Rodriguez, Health Care District will contact Dr. Manzanero for possible partnership with Palm Beach State College.

GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Discussion on the designation of Haiti for TPS is terminated effective at 11:59 p.m., local time, on July 22, 2019. The 60-day re-registration period runs from January 18, 2018 through March 19, 2018. Church World Services stated they will be having a free event to help the Haitian community obtain legal information and to register for TPS. They asked for a partnership and need of a free venue. Maribel de Jesús, Multicultural Outreach Librarian | 561-233-2783 | Palm Beach County Library System offered their branches and also Sandra Perez, Program Administrator from Catholic Charities. The event will be held this coming weekend.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: Friday, March 16th 2018
10:00 to Noon
West Palm Beach City Hall
WPB, Florida 33401

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