



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

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Mike Carrol**  
Secretary

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 5, 2017  
**TO:** Members of the Broward Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** **Miriam Rosario (RS)**  
**SUBJECT:** May 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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### **THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

**Date:** July 20, 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Department of Children and Families (DCF)  
1400 West Commercial Blvd. Fort Lauderdale  
**Contact:** Miriam Rosario  
**Office:** (561) 227-6722  
**Cell:** (561) 459-6098  
**E-Mail:** [Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Miriam.rosario@myflfamilies.com)

This task force has been active in the Broward 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!***

Southeast Region - Circuit 15  
111 South Sapodilla Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

## **BROWARD COUNTY REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was held at the Family Success Administration Division. Miriam Rosario, Community Liaison represented the DCF, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Miriam thanked the Family Success Administration of Broward County for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

A power point presentation given by Milory Senat, Operations Analyst/Community Affairs from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) provided an overall and introduction to their services programs. The APD services program provides support services, assessments and referrals, to those with eligible defined developmental disabilities. The APD applications are available in different languages and a staff can also make home visit if needed. APD has a long wait list however families in crisis will be given priority. All participants were aware of the program and were encourage to refer to APD. Milory emphasized to the members to make referrals to APD and they will determine eligibility. Material was distributed providing a quick reference guide for when applying for services and documentation needed.

### **NEW ISSUES/ACTION TAKEN**

#### **Florida Disaster/Hurricane Season Preparedness presentation and discussions; Simonette W. Jackson, SHSPS/DCF:**

Beginning June 1st, 2017 through the end of November will mark the official Hurricane season. The Southeast Region Refugee began its unique Food for Florida Disaster Exercise. The Food for Florida program offers emergency food assistance to eligible victims of hurricane or other types of disaster ones the community receives Presidential disaster declaration is received. The department is preparing to handle quick distribute of food benefits to eligible families in the aftermath of a disaster. DCF has stream line the application, pre-application process and card issuance with wireless Satellite technologies. Also the department is able to respond to each user by implementing the early release of benefits to current food assistance customers if needed. The exercise looks on how to best meet the needs of all Floridians in a time of crisis. Information was provided on documents needed as verification requirements for identity, residency household composition and income/assets. Discussion on how to prepare refugees families on disaster plan and the organizations emergency plan.

**The World Refugee Day (WRD)-** Clara Jarramillo, Project RENEW (PR)/Broward College Two WRD events scheduled in Broward for the month of June. This year theme is Keeping the American Dream Alive. The WRD Symposium on June 6 at 8:30-1:30 pm will be at the Dr. Michael Chizner Auditorium BC Central Campus was discussed. Guests; Dr. Eileen Davis-Jerome, President Broward County Chapter United Nations Association, Patti Grogan, RS-DCF and Hiram Ruiz, Consultant, Refugee Policy and Services are among the presenters. A WRD Proclamation will be presented by the Mayor of the Town of Davie. The WRD June 16 event will at the Omni Auditorium- North Campus BC. This event includes a naturalization ceremony by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services(USCIS) of 100 people followed by a Refugees Award Ceremony honoring the successful Outstanding Refugees nominated for scholarships, Volunteer and Students Award recognitions. A WRD Proclamation is being

presented by the Broward County Commission. Opening remarks by Patti Grogan and a reception is being organized by the WRD planning committee. This workgroup will meet to finalize plans for the events.

### **GENERAL UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**USCIS**, Berta Cassidy from USCIS briefly discussed the six-month Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly has extended TPS for eligible nationals of Haiti (and eligible individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) through Jan. 22, 2018. Current beneficiaries of Haiti's TPS designation seeking to extend their TPS must re-register by July 24, 2017. TPS beneficiaries who re-register may request a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Those who re-register and request a new EAD during the 60-day re-registration period may receive an automatic extension of their expiring EAD for up to 180 days from the date their current EAD expires. Current EADs will not be automatically extended without a new EAD request. Additional information on TPS for Haiti—including guidance on eligibility, the application process, and where to file—is available online at **[www.uscis.gov/tps](http://www.uscis.gov/tps)**. Find further details on this extension of TPS for Haiti, including application requirements and procedures, in the Federal Register. She encourages the public to be extra vigilant about immigration scams. Berta discussed the new look of the Lawful Permanent Residence Card (green card) and Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) Cards. Both have been redesign the EAD shows an Eagle and the LPR shows the Statute of Liberty. Sample material distributed to show with the new designs. Scammers take advantage of times of uncertainty. For information on protecting clients, **visit [uscis.gov/avoidscams](http://uscis.gov/avoidscams)**. Additional information: to check the status of a pending application, petition, or request, go to Case Status Online, can also call us at 1-800-375-5283 (TDD for deaf and hard of hearing: 1-800-767-1833) or make an appointment at a local field office at [infopass.uscis.gov](http://infopass.uscis.gov).

**Department Motor Vehicle Highway Safety (DMVHS)-** Richard Schwable and Nathan Tabatha from the DMVHS discussed regarding required ID card for asylum applicants. DMVHS need verification and ID in their office the day they are seeking Florida ID. Based on their Policy and Procedures all refugees will have an alien registration number (A#) and have a valid passport and/or I-94. They will be required to present a Valid Passport and/or I-94 with Refugee Stamp to be issued, along with a secondary document. The secondary documents are required and DMVHD might accept an Approval Letter from Children and Family indicating customer is approved for benefits. FL ID card is free for those with "SNAP" only approved letter.

**Community Action Agency-** Montfort Alexis, Human Services Supervisor informed on the Self-Sufficiency Case Management Program. It provides assistance for Education; case management, tuition assistance, assistance with education and training expenses, such as books, tools, Board exams. Day Care while in school, buss pass and gift card might also be available. Broward resident 18 years and up with a Household income of 125 % of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Program available to those enrolled or planning to enroll in an education/training program. The program can also be used for the Career Source of Broward (CSB) too. Orientation is held the first Friday of every month starting at 9:30 am. Contact 654-357-5029 or email [malexis@broward.org](mailto:malexis@broward.org) for additional information. This is a service of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

**ESS/DCF-** Discussion regarding the different benefits such as ABA, RAP and TANF and each services criteria. Any concerns to be email to RS thru Miriam Rosario, SER CL.

**DOH-** Migdalia Diaz, supervisor on leave however informed that she can be contacted via email at Migdalia.Diaz-Nieves@flhealth.gov with any questions.

**CSB-** not present.

**RS Contracted providers:** **PR-** Clara Jarramillo reported on their registration process for summer and fall program. PR have two intake sessions, no GED in been offer during these sessions. **Church World Service (CWS)** –Silvio Padilla discussed his Legal services and referrals process, The IA and Information and Referral program are actively helping many new arrivals specially in the Haitian community. **Youth Co-OP, Inc. (YCI)** - Gladys Sanchez and Jeanette Alban reported on their Vocational Career Laddering, Youth Program which offers GED and Career planning and Educational Path. YCI also offers Credentials/translations services. YCI is experiencing a decline in new intakes, and referral are welcome for those eligible with less than five years of arrival in the USA. **Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. (BRHPC)**–Kimberly Borromeo reported on the Child Care Services (CC). She emphases on the importance for clients to ask for an appointment by calling 954-561-9681 ext. 1204. They need to have all documents and the referral form. The referring agencies can email the referral form and set a request for appointments on behalf of the clients. Broward has slot available for CC. No additional updates.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Meeting:** **Thursday, July 20, 2017**

Time: 10:00 to 12PM

Location: 1400 W. Commercial Blvd, FL Department of Children Services

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