



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carrol
Secretary

EMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2017
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: Debbie Ansbacher, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: May 10, 2017
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Contact: Debbie Ansbacher
Office: (904) 485-9540
Cell: (904) 524-1316
E-Mail: Debbie.Ansbacher@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. Debbie Ansbacher, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program. There were 51 people in attendance. Lisa Thompson and Peggy Cadeaux, Contract Managers, Refugee Services Program, attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

GUEST PRESENTATION

- A presentation was given by Bill Brim, Lutheran Social Services, Refugee Employment Services Program Manager. There have been 750 clients served by the employment program this year, up from 491 clients served last year. Walk-in clients are seen every Thursday 10am to noon. The vocational trainings most requested include Certified Nursing Assistant, LPN, Cosmetology, and CDL truck driving. He asked that clients be referred back to employment if a job is lost or if the client has been in a job a long time and could possibly be placed into a higher paying position with the new skills learned.
- Jeff Litton, Missions Engagement Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the facility and explained the mission of the Jacksonville Baptist Association. They are connecting with local apartment complexes and schools to offer compassion ministries to international groups at those sites. Jeff can be reached by email at jlitton@jaxbaptist.org.

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **Youth Program** Nina Frank represented the Lutheran Social Services Youth Program. The program is now accepting referrals for youth ages 16-19. There are services for both Career and Academic Paths. The Career Path clients can be served for up to two years and the Academic clients for one year.
- **Adult Education:** Michelle Sanon represented Catholic Charities Adult Education. Michelle requested clients referred but enrolled in Match Grant at the referring agency, please obtain the childcare referral and bus pass from that agency. Meredith Moore represented Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). They are now offering ESOL at two campuses. The campuses are Downtown and Baymeadows. The college is now on a new trimester cycle and also offers a stacked course for new arrivals to enter classes.

GENERAL UPDATES

- Lutheran Social Services is hosting Real Sense doing taxes March 15th and 20th, 9am to 4pm. Clients can call 904-448-5995 to make an appointment.

- Dental resources for children were shared and discussed. The Duval County Health Department provides dental services. They accept children with Medicaid.
- Early Head Start was represented by Christine Stephens. They are seeking young children and those with special needs to enroll for services.
- Staff and leadership from the Agape Clinic at 6138 Kennerly Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32216 were present. The phone number to schedule appointments is 904-760-4904. Adult providers are Dr. Jamie Revollo or Dr. Shirley Jones. The pediatric provider is Dr. Shelly Thompson. They asked that clients being referred bring any labs done with them or have the labs sent prior to the medical appointment.
- Staff from the UF Health Pediatric Clinic were present and schedule refugee clients on Wednesdays.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2017
1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.
Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Contacts: Debbie.Ansbacher@myflfamilies.com Phone: (904) 485-9540
Taddese.Fessehayee@myflfamilies.com Phone: (407) 317-7335