



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

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Mike Carrol**  
Secretary

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 1, 2017  
**TO:** Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** Debbie Ansbacher, Refugee Services (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** January 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** March 8, 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 43 people in attendance. Rebecca Lockenbach and Dane Nelson, 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 Elizabeth Baez-Beatey, public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration. She explained the law defines disability as the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. Those who had a transplant may be eligible for disability for 12 months. The claims evaluation is done in five steps. The information is available at <https://www.ssa.gov> The Bluebook links with information are at <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/index.htm> and <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/AdultListings.htm>

Lilia Waldero, Director, Refugees Physician Integration Project gave a presentation of the coaching services her company provides to foreign medical professionals wanting to practice in underserved specialties in Florida.

### **REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE**

- **Childcare:** Rosa Murrilo is now the contact for refugee funded childcare at the Early Learning Coalition. Rosa's email is [rmurillo@elcduval.org](mailto:rmurillo@elcduval.org)
- **Adult Education:** Catholic Charities Bureau was represented by Michelle Sanon. Michelle reported they have added two new locations, one downtown at the Jesse Dupont Center and one at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Testing for new clients is done on Thursdays.
- **Legal Aid:** Nancy Hale reported they have seen an increase in Haitian Parolees coming in to the clinic for services.
- **Integration Assistance:** Robin Koirola reported he is now the Senior Medical Case Manager at World Relief in Integration Assistance program.
- **Ethnic Community Based Organization (ECBO):** Laura Robinson, VISTA Member, represented Refugee Community Services. Laura reported the new hours for the office are 12pm-6pm Tuesday through Friday and Saturdays 9-12. Sarmeila Koirola reported they have ongoing citizenship classes on Saturdays.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**Agape Clinic** – Dr. Jeffrey Goldhagen announced the new Agape Clinic at Kennerly will be serving adults and Children. It is a Federally Qualified Health Center. They are seeking support from the Refugee Resettlement Community. The clinic address is 6138 Kennerly Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32216. The phone number is 904-760-4904.

**Duval Schools/Center for Language and Culture** – Hind Chaled reported they will host Tax preparation Fridays and one Saturday.

**CareerSource**-Ernestine Hilton explained the formula for Service hours for TANF clients and how adult English classes can be used to supplement non-core hours required.

**Volunteer**-Rick Wallace, Good Neighborhood Team, World Relief reported they are in the planning stages of starting a middle and high school new arrival school.

**UNF Nursing**-Connie Rausch reported her nursing students do five semesters of outreach working with the same refugee clients. They are currently serving clients mostly from Southside Baptist Church and in the area of Emerson Street.

**World Relief**- Michelle Clowe reported a concern about clients having delays receiving the Florida ID after applying at the DMV. All others confirmed they too are also experiencing the same delays.

**Next Meeting:**     Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
                             1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.  
                             Baptist Association of Jacksonville  
                             2700 University Boulevard South  
                             Jacksonville, Florida 32216

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