



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2017
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force
FROM: Lourdes Leconte, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: April 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: June 14, 2017
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Location: [Miami Dade College](#)
[Wolfson Campus](#)
[200 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33128](#)
Contact: Lourdes Leconte
Office: (786) 257-5173
Cell: (305) 401-3374
E-Mail: Lourdes.Leconte@myflfamilies.com

WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATION

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
APRIL 14, 2017**

ATTENDEES:

Gloria, Alonso; Bojan, Bajic; Ileana, Bustelo; Berta, Cassidy; Maria, Dominguez; Evelyn, Soto; Dan, Briggs, Suzy, Cop; Regina, Bernadin; Evelyn, Soto; Dasiely, Cruz; Cristobal, Perez; Zoriada, Ballestas; Oscar, Willumesen; Dr. Cherryl, White; Lucy, Tucker; Andy, Soler; Paulina, Velez; Michelle, Ramirez; Michelle, Godoy; Amanda, St. Jean; Zoraida, Ballestas; Dr. Iris, Jackson;

INTRODUCTION:

Lourdes Leconte, DCF Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Southern Region welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION:

Jennifer Weiss, Special Needs Case Worker for International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Miami provided an overview of a new program IRC has called Intensive Case Management (ICM) in the Miami area. Such programs exist in preferred communities. IRC's Preferred Communities Program in Miami assists with the long term successful integration of refugees in their new communities. Significant portions of newly arrived refugees and other IRC clients are considered vulnerable. The Preferred Communities Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program focuses on providing supportive case management by working with a team to connect clients to needed education, services, and resources necessary to gain self-sufficiency. It provides case management services for up to 12 months to refugees and asylees who have special needs, such as significant medical needs, that cannot be fully addressed through standard resettlement services. By means of a strengths-based, client-centered model of service delivery, the ICM program aims to increase self-reliance and community integration among the most vulnerable clients. Services include connecting them with internal and external resources, closely monitoring their progress through a series of assessments, and helping them achieve long-term goals through their service plan.

REFUGEE SERVICES (RS) UPDATE:

Ileana, Bustelo, RS Deputy Director, provided a brief update, about the RS program. She stated the House Bill 427 that is seeking to withdraw the state's involvement in the Refugee Program, has not been moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Volunteers are still needed for the planning of World Refugee Day 2017, many participants indicated their willingness to be part of the planning committee for the 2017 WRD celebration.

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (*Sent via E-Mail in March*)

- Refugee Services Integration Assistance Services in Broward & Palm Beach Counties
- Invitation to Negotiate (ITN # 01K17BS1 - Adult Education Services for Refugees and Entrants in Duval County)

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

SOUTH FLORIDA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES MINUTES – MARCH 2017

**South Florida Volag Consortium
March 8, 2017**

Attendees:

CWS- Jose Sanchez
CC-Evelyn Soto, Jackie Carrion
EMM-Charlande Mitchel
IRC-Ana Maria Teixeira
LIRS-Carmen Torres
Youth Co-Op-Gustavo Diaz, Bojan Bajic
DCF- Lourdes Leconte
CMG- Silvia Lopez

Special Guest: Nancy Denis, Attorney, CWS

Discussion on eligibility documentation for DCF benefits. Handout provided to all agencies regarding Cuba and Haitian Entrants eligibility for ORR-Funded Benefits and Services. Handout includes a list of all immigration statuses and form numbers that allow for benefits to be accessed.

Examples of forms that are resurfacing in the Miami-Dade area include Form I-221, Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing, DHS Form I-220A Notice to Appear, etc. Clarification was made that all Cuban and Haitian Entrants are eligible to apply for ORR Funded benefits and services, unless the Final Order of Deportation has been issued. Additional clarification was provided in the case where a Cuban or Haitian national enters the country with a visitor's visa and then files for asylum. Pending asylum applicants are also eligible for benefits once they receive receipt from asylum office of their application.

Further guidance will be forthcoming as cases continue to be processed. Access Partner Community Medical Group stated that they assist anyone who goes to their sites to apply for benefits, as it is the job of DCF to determine eligibility.

Reception and Placement Program updates

Agency	February 2017	FY 2017 YTD
CC	0	6
CWS	18	55
EMM	4	25
IRC	8	50
LIRS	4	24
Youth Co-Op	5	14
World Relief		26
TOTAL	39	200

Discussion on issuance of new Executive Order that will take place on March 16. Agencies discussed the adjusted FY17 projected arrivals for each of them. CWS is still receiving refugees with SIV status. CAM cases continue to be a mix of refugee status and parolee status. Discussion on current refugee admissions ceiling of 50,000. As of Feb. 28th, RPC reported 37,027 refugees have arrived. The number does not include SIV arrivals. Impact on additional programs that assist refugees, such as ORR Matching Grant and Preferred Communities were discussed. Currently, all agencies waiting on additional guidance from National offices.

Matching Grant Program updates

Agency	February 2017	FY 2017 YTD
CC	33	245
CWS	46	250
EMM	11	114
IRC	98	419
LIRS	68	216
Youth Co-Op	116	558
World Relief		78
TOTAL	372	1880

All agencies currently awaiting additional guidance from National offices regarding slot re-allocations. Agencies reported that continue see an increase in Cuban/Haitian Family Reunification parolees. At this time, CWS and Catholic Charities continue to enroll clients into MG, while other offices are currently holding as they have reached their 50% threshold. ORR inquiry to national offices regarding the flow of Cuban/Haitian Entrants in Miami and any changes to report. All agencies reported an increase due to the CHFRP and the assurance from discussion with Todd Anderson, US Refugee Coordinator-Havana, that embassy is on track to meet the 20,000 CHFRP visas by the end of fiscal year.

CAM Program updates

CAM arrivals were seen in month of February. Percentage of Refugee Vs Parolee status recipients varies by agency.

Parolee Orientation Program updates

Month	Total	Cuban	Haitian	Left the county
February 2017	215	156	59	93
Jan 1 to March 7	558	410	148	200

The POP in 2016 provided orientation to 3320 C/H Entrants. Discussion on finding solution to properly capture all clients. Access partner sites continue to assist in guiding parolees to CWS for the POP. Discussion of a “DCF flyer” that has been brought by parolees to the POP. Clients assure POP that flyer was issued by officers at MIA. Further investigation will be done by Lourdes Leconte, DCF Community Liaison, as DCF has not issued this flyer. The US Interest Section provides orientation letter in the packages of CFRP entrants.

Other items:

- Community Consultations-
Additional inquires in reaching out to other government entities and stakeholders.
Meetings held with elected officials during the month of February include the offices of: Marco Rubio, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Carlos Curbelo, Rene Garcia, Mario Diaz-Balart.
Advocacy campaigns being held by various agencies at the national and local level discussed.
- Asylum Office Orientations-
Discussion on continued presentations done monthly at the Miami Asylum office and their benefit in providing information on the benefits available in the community. Decrease in number of people attending this non-mandatory orientation was noted.
- Resettlement Agency closing-
Discussion on continued the closure of World Relief on May 31st. Cases have been reallocated at the national level to various resettlement agencies in the Miami Dade area.
- World Refugee Day Event-
Discussion on upcoming World Refugee Day event for South Florida. Planning has already begun, with date of June 14th set. Miami Dade College Office of Human Rights is partnering to provide the Chapman Center on Wolfson Campus as the venue. Current theme is being discussed around inclusivity and diversity.
- Next meeting scheduled:
April 12, 2017
2pm
CWS offices

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2017**MIAMI AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE****Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee****Minutes for meeting on April 5, 2017**

By Miriam J. Garcia

Attendance: Gloria Alonso, Oscar Alvarez, Berta Cassidy, Mariela Concepcion, Maria R. Dominguez, Miriam J. Garcia, Yanelys Garcia, Brad Ginter, Marie Jean, Lourdes Leconte, Dante Lendechy, Guillermo Maceda, Sandra Maldonado, Bruce Marmar, Dorothy Martin, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Pierre Saintil, Jessica Shulruff, Alexandra O. Yaya.

The Immigration and Legal Issues Subcommittee meeting was held on April 5, 2017 at the offices of Americans for Immigrant Justice (AIJ) where Berta Cassidy provided the USCIS update and Maria Dominguez provided the Miami Asylum Office update, and they answered questions as follows:

- **NVC.** Representatives from NVC were in town and held a number of stakeholder sessions. They provided information about NVC operations, and included information about CFRP. They have not yet scheduled new cases. They are planning to start doing so in August, 2017. They are trying to complete scheduling of interviews for those cases that were grandfathered. For I-130 cases in general, NVC indicated that they will terminate cases where they have not heard from the petitioner for a year. Petitioners would need to contact the NVC by email or telephone each year in order to avoid termination. After 3 years with no contact, the file is physically destroyed. NVC spoke regarding their Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC).
- **FORM REVISIONS.** Form I-693 (Medical Examination) latest version is dated 02/07/2017. Beginning April 28th, civil surgeons must use the 2/7/17 edition. If form G-28 is not completed properly attorneys will not receive any correspondence from USCIS. USCIS will notify the applicant on the receipt notice that the G-28 is not accepted and that USCIS will only communicate with the applicant about his/her case.
- **EL SALVADOR TPS EAD EXTENSION.** USCIS is automatically extending the validity of certain Employment Authorization Documents issued under TPS for El Salvador for an additional 6 months. On July 8, 2016, DHS announced the extension of the designation of El Salvador for TPS for a period of 18 months. With that extension, DHS also automatically extended the validity of EADs issued under TPS El Salvador for 6 months, through March 9, 2017. To avoid gaps in work authorization, USCIS is now automatically extending the validity of those EADs for an additional 6 months, through September 9, 2017. EADs issued under TPS designation for El Salvador with an expiration date of September 9, 2016 printed on the front of the card, those EADs will now expire on September 9, 2017.
- **I-601A APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL UNLAWFUL PRESENCE WAIVER.** USCIS has seen an increase of rejections of Forms I-601A. The current

version (edition date 12/23/2016) must be submitted. They will not accept previous versions of the form. Complete all required fields and sign the form. Submit proper filing fee of \$630. If younger than 79, biometric fee of \$85 must be paid. Submit a printout from the Electronic Diversity Visa Entrant Status Check page at dvlottery.state.gov confirming that you are a DV program selectee or derivative or the U.S. Department of State (DOS) immigrant visa processing fee receipt showing payment of the fee in full.

- **MIAMI ASYLUM OFFICE.** The Miami Asylum Office confirmed the next Asylum Division Quarterly Stakeholder in-person and **phone (listen only)** engagement scheduled for May 2nd, 2017 at 2 pm Eastern Standard Time. The announcement was distributed among those in attendance. Maria Dominguez, Training Officer, addressed questions from attendees and reminded everyone at the meeting to contact us regarding asylum matters through the Legal Subcommittee Chair (Miriam Garcia) or through our customer email: Miami.Asylum@uscis.dhs.gov

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. at the offices of Church World Service (CWS) 1924 NW 84th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33126.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2017

2017 REFUGEE TASK FORCE

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

April, 2017

- REVEST is enrolling students for the upcoming term beginning May 10 and ending Aug. 26, 2017. So far over 3000 ESOL students have been enrolled program wide and more are expected. Approximately 1832 have been tested and more orientations are planned. So far, 48 Orientation sessions have been scheduled. Demand continues to be high for an opportunity to receive VESOL and Vocational classes.
- The REVEST Program has successfully served over 200 Vocational students in over 500 training courses for the current Term Spring 2173, which is about to finish by the end of April. In addition, we have already started CCC and CTEC registrations for the Summer, having processed around 130 registrations already. We continue to hold Vocational retraining sessions for advisors based on the new changes in the MDC Information System.
- Faculty meetings were conducted with all REVEST instructors March 23, 24, 2017. All CASAS testing procedures were reviewed with instructors to ensure a successful testing

session. CASAS testing is taking place April 5, 6 and 7, 2016. We expect completion rates to remain steady. All REVEST students were trained to use scantrons and employ basic test-taking skills. We are very proud of the hard work of our determined faculty and especially our students.

- The total SAVES Program enrollment as of March 31, 2017, is 4,463. Of these, 2,101 are new students to the program, and 329 are 16 to 18 youngsters enrolled in the SAVES GED in Spanish Program. The current trimester ends on April 7, 2017. The next academic trimester will begin on April 16, 2017.
- A SAVES District meeting was held on January 25, 2017. Important information was discussed with the school staff. Next SAVES District meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2017.
- SAVES preliminary performance results for the fall term 2016-1 are as follows: PSAV OCPs earned: 58% - (45% contract requirement) - ELI Completers: 53% - (40% contract requirement) - ELI LCP's earned: 54% - (40% contract requirement). SAVES surpassed all contract goals. We are very proud of these results and most of all for our students' achievements.
- The Auditor General conducted a very exhaustive, detailed, and meticulous single audit. The audit began in October of 2016 and ended on February 24, 2017. The auditor examined records pertaining to payroll, invoices, expenditures, program records, and student folders. The audit yielded very positive results with zero findings. The SAVES program was commended for its hard work, dedication to the program, and to the students. The staff was also commended for its commitment to keeping up with the students, their progress, completion, accuracy of student's folders and required documentation, inventory records, payroll, billing, and all other requirements.
- The GED in Spanish program has been expanded and is now available in 7 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, and 7. Miami Coral Park Adult Education Center.
- New SAVES success stories, which highlight the achievements of some of our students, have been uploaded to the SAVES website (<http://saves.dadeschools.net>). In addition, two success stories posters were published and they are displayed throughout the county.
- If you have any questions about our program, you can call us or visit the SAVES website at <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

REFUGEE HEALTH CLINIC REPORT – APRIL 2017

None

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT – APRIL 2017

None

USCIS UPDATE – APRIL 2017

USCIS Miami

April 2017 Update

- ❖ **TPS El Salvador EAD Extension** - USCIS is automatically extending the validity of certain Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) issued under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador for an additional 6 months. On July 8, 2016, DHS announced the extension of the designation of El Salvador for TPS for a period of 18 months. With that extension, DHS also automatically extended the validity of EADs issued under TPS El Salvador for 6 months, through March 9, 2017. To avoid gaps in work authorization, USCIS is now automatically extending the validity of those EADs for an additional 6 months, through September 9, 2017. **If you currently have an EAD that was issued under the TPS designation for El Salvador and has a September 9, 2016 expiration date printed on the front of the card, your EAD will now expire on September 9, 2017.**
- ❖ **Multilingual Resources Page** – Would you like to see what USCIS information is available in languages other than English? Please visit our Multilingual Resources Page at: <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/multilingual-resource-center>
- ❖ **Upcoming Outreach Sessions** - Below is a listing of our upcoming outreach sessions and events. These sessions are free and open to the public. If you need additional information, please contact – Berta.m.cassidy@uscis.dhs.gov

Date	Time	Type of Event	Location
April 5th	12:30 - 2:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Little River Branch Library, 160 NE 79 St. Miami, FL.
April 5th	4:00 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	South Dade Regional Library, 10750 SW 211 St. Cutler Bay, FL.
April 6th	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Shenandoah Branch Library, 2111 SW 19th St. Miami, FL.
April 10th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Doral Branch Library, 10785 NW 58 St. Doral, FL.
April 11th	4:00 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Dade Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way, Miami, FL.
April 11th	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	California Club Branch Library, 700 Ives Dairy Rd. Miami, FL.
April 11th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Tamarac Library, 8701 W. Commercial Blvd. Tamarac, FL.

April 12th	10 am - 4:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	FIU Graham Center, 11200 SW 8th St. Miami, FL.
April 12th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Regional Library, 8601 W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, FL.
April 17th	1:00 - 4:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Kendall Driver's License Center, 11735 SW 147th Av. Suite #23, Miami, FL.
April 18th	10 am - 2:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Lobby, 111 W 1st St. Miami, FL.
April 18th	12:00 - 3:00 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Miami Dade College Kendall Campus, 11011 SW 04 St. Miami, FL.
April 18th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	North Regional/Broward College Library, 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd, Coconut Creek, FL.
April 20th	4:00 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Kendale Lakes Branch Library, 15205 SW 88 St. Miami, FL.
April 20th	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Arcola Lakes Branch Library, 8240 NW 7th Ave. Miami, FL.
April 24th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Miami Lakes Branch Library, 6699 Windmill Gate Rd. Miami Lakes, FL.
April 24th	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Northwest Regional Library, 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs, FL.
April 25th	12:30 - 3:30 pm	USCIS Information Desk	Mall of the Americas Driver's License Center, 7795 W. Flagler St., Suite #82C, Miami, FL
April 26th	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 the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

- Miami Field Office –
 - April 7 and 28
- Hialeah Field Office –
 - April 13
- Kendall Field Office –
 - April 7, 14, 21, and 28
- Oakland Park Field Office –
 - April 28