



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

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 8, 2015
TO: Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: Debbie Ansbacher, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: March 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: May 13, 2015
Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Location: Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216
Contact: Debbie Ansbacher
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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

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Department of Children and Families. Patti Grogan, Director of Refugee Services represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program. There were 31 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order and meeting participants introduced themselves and the agency they represent.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

William L (Roy) Richardson, Jr., Community Outreach and Planning Specialist, US Dept of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, 400 West Bay St, Suite 956, Jacksonville, FL spoke about employee rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Kelly Browne, Refugee Health Program Administrator gave an update on the state refugee health. The screening rate in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 was 97.7% (up from 93% in FFY2010). There has been better tracking of unscreened clients. The Duval County Health Department Refugee Clinic staffing now consists of two clerks, two Health Service Technicians, a Registered Nurse, an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, and a Program Manager. To expedite scheduling, the clinic is authorized to pre-register clients who have not yet arrived. After arrival the demographic information is to be submitted. There is no need to submit paper copies of the overseas' medical exams. This information can be accessed by the clinic online. The clinic will follow the statewide structure of two appointments. At the first appointment, labs are drawn and at the second appointment the patient will see the provider with the lab results and obtain a physical. The Duval County screening rate is at 96%, up from 84%. The no shows for the second screening from November until March have increased. There was discussion on where those requiring case management are referred. A meeting will be coordinated to further discuss this.

REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE

- **Adult Education:** Catholic Charities staff reminded everyone the testing is held Thursdays at 9:30am at Catholic Charities, 134 East Church Street.
- **Employment:** Bill Brimm, Lutheran Social Services, reminded everyone that they can serve clients up to five year in country.
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:** Nancy Hale announced there would be a citizenship day event 4/1815 at Florida Coastal School of Law.
- **Youth:** Kasey Guenther reported the youth program has 100 students in tutoring and/or career development. They are looking for referrals to come in.

GENERAL UPDATES

- **World Refugee Day:** Elaine Carson, World Relief, reported a World Refugee Day Planning group had been formed and was looking at Hemming Park and downtown for the Naturalization.

- **USCIS:** John Taylor discussed ongoing outreach at public libraries. They offer naturalization 101 presentations. The USCIS building renovation should be done June 2015. They will offer tours and mock interviews at the site after opening.
- **ACCESS:** Sandy Beaumont, Partner Liaison, asked the agencies to remind clients that their EBT cards have expiration dates and they need to ensure their addresses are current in the ACCESS benefits system.
- **Mental Health:** Christine Rothberg reported a Burmese men's AA group led by two recovering Burmese has been created. Christine continues 17 sessions weekly at the three refugee resettlement agencies.

Refugee Arrivals January 1-31, 2015:

Catholic Charities	16
World Relief	29
Lutheran social Services	<u>10</u>
Total	55

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2015
1:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.
Baptist Association of Jacksonville
2700 University Boulevard South
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

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