



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

Rick Scott
Governor

David E. Wilkins
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 2013
TO: Members of the Orlando Area Refugee Task Force
FROM: Pedro Padua, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: April 10, 2013 TF Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: June 12, 2013
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
Location: Orange County Health Department
832 W. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32805
Contact: Pedro Padua
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This task force has been active in the Orlando 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 thirty to thirty-five people attends 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!

400 W. Robinson Street, S1111D, Orlando, Florida 32801

ORLANDO AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

This meeting was held at the Senior Resource Alliance, located at 988 Woodcock Rd., Orlando, FL 32803. Twenty six people were in attendance. Hiram Ruiz, Director of Refugee Services, Tera Bivens, Contract Manager and Pedro Padua, Central Region Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services (RS) Program. Everyone introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Sandra Johnson, Assistant Area Coordinator for SHINE (**Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders**), made a thorough presentation about the Medicare Program. She explained SHINE's mission is "To provide free and unbiased health insurance counseling through a dedicated network of volunteers, empowering Florida seniors to make informed health care choices". Volunteer counselors help seniors to identify, understand, and enroll in: Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, Medicare Supplement Insurance Policies, Medicare Prescription Drug Low-income Subsidy, Medicare Savings Programs, Long-Term Care Planning and Financing and other public and private health insurance.

Medicare is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—Part of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Eligibility requirements: United States citizen or legal, permanent resident of the United States for at least 5 continuous years prior to enrollment. Also, they must have paid into the system for 10 years or 40 quarters. Age: At least 65 years old or, if under age 65: Receiving Social Security disability income for at least 24 months; *or* End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD); *or* Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and "Lou Gehrig's Disease"

Enrollment is coordinated by the Social Security Administration (SSA)—Or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). May be enrolled automatically in Part A and Part B by the Social Security Administration when approaching age 65 and receiving Social Security income benefits; otherwise, the individual must voluntarily enroll during one of the official Medicare enrollment periods.

Medicare Part A & B (Fee for Service); Beneficiaries are responsible for: **Part A** in 2013 Premium free for most people; \$1,184.00 deductible per benefit period; Additional copayments after 60 days of inpatient coverage and Different costs for other Part A services. Part A helps pay for the following services when deemed "medically necessary:" Inpatient Hospital Care, Blood (after the first 3 pints), Skilled Nursing Facility Care, Home Health Services (limited) and Hospice Care.

Part B in 2013 has a \$104.90 monthly premium (may be more, based on income) and \$147.00 annual deductible with 20% coinsurance for most Part B services; however, some programs may help with costs.

Part B help pay for Doctors' Services, Outpatient Medical Services, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS), Preventive Services. Many are now 100% covered with 20% coinsurance on most services; however, services must be **medically necessary**

Part C - Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans is Medicare coverage provided by private insurance companies as an alternative to Original Medicare. All plans are approved by CMS. Not all policies are available in all areas and costs may vary. Usually all Part A and B services are covered through plan but may have to use providers in plan's network and must still pay Part B premium. Some plans may reimburse part of it. May have additional plan premium and may include Prescription Drug Coverage (MA-PD) and some may provide extra benefits beyond Medicare (vision, hearing, dental, travel coverage, etc.).

Part D is Prescription Drug Coverage provided by private insurance companies—All plans must offer a minimum, standard benefit level. Availability, coverage, benefits, and costs vary. Depending on the plan, beneficiaries may have to pay: Monthly premiums, Annual deductible (no more than \$325) or Copayments or coinsurance (usually 25%) with a maximum out-of-pocket of \$4,750.

Ms. Johnson explained that due to complexity of these programs, SHINE strives to provide unbiased information so people can make informed choices. Anyone interested in a presentation can contact Diana Chin, SHINE Liaison at 407-514-1823 or Sandra Johnson, Assistant Area Coordinator at 407-514-1823 at Senior Resource Alliance, located at 988 Woodcock Road Ste. 200, Orlando, FL 32803.

People are also encouraged to visit or call: **Florida SHINE Program** at 1-800-96-ELDER
www.floridashine.org, www.elderaffairs.state.fl.us

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
There is a tutorial link at: www.medicare.gov

GENERAL UPDATES

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

There was no one present to report.

ACCESS:

Gloria McCrimon, Senior Human Services Program Specialist mentioned there have been no problems reported with the implementation of the customer authentication pilot. Refugees were excluded based on the fact they would not have prior history in the US and there is no data to use in authentication. She added next step will be statewide implementation, but no date has been set.

AHCA:

Fitzroy Bacchus reported that Florida Medicaid is in process of implementing the new Statewide Medicaid Managed Care for Long Term Care. This would be applicable for people who are over 65 years old and for people who are older than 18 years of age that are receiving Medicaid due to disability. These people must chose a health care plan between June and August; if no choice is made, they'll be assigned to one of the plans available. Notifications are mailed out in April.

New Refugee Arrivals:

Catholic Charities – Jennifer Powers, Resettlement and Match Grant Program Coordinator, reported they have received 95 arrivals year to date. In January they had 17 arrivals (14 Cuban & 3 Iraqi). They had 20 arrivals in February (12 Cubans, 4 Somalis, 3 Sudanese, and 1 Iraqi) and 23 arrivals in March (13 Cubans, 7 Iraqis and 3 Eritreans).

Lutheran Services of Florida - Kathryn Geller, Resettlement and MG Program Manager for LSF Orlando could not attend the meeting, but sent in a report indicating they had 7 arrivals in March (5 Congolese, 12 Cuban and 1 Iraqi).

RS-CONTRACTED PROVIDER UPDATES**Catholic Charities of Central Florida:**

Leslie Hungerford, Coordinator of Comprehensive Refugee Services (CRS), reported the program sees 70 to 100 clients per month. She mentioned there has been an increase of asylees from Egypt and added the employment program is exceeding placement. Debbie Cruz, Case Management Supervisor indicated that they see about 72 families or 136 individuals per month. She added they have about 70 Haitian clients with expired I-94 that are of particular concern because the only program they are eligible for is ESOL. **Note:** CRS provided a list of all clients affected. List was forwarded to RS attorney Yolanda Coto for follow up with USCIS.

Ms. Cruz stated that computer lab was started in March for people wishing to apply for public benefits. They have dedicated staff to ensure applications are properly completed. Maria Diez, Coordinator of Youth Services, mentioned they have 122 youth enrolled in the program and 20 of them are new clients.

Sisko Kule, President of Congolese Community in Orlando, Inc., offered his assistance to Catholic Charities in working with arriving refugees from Congo. Ms. Cruz replied that the volunteer coordinator will be in touch with him to arrange a meeting.

Orange County Public Schools:

Claudia Good, Refugee Adult Education Program Coordinator, reported enrollment numbers are high; she has many students moving out from ESOL who are in process of taking TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) to be able to enroll in technical programs in the fall. There are 18 students at Seminole State College and 60 students enrolled at the Osceola Adult Learning Center (ALCO). She added as a result of improved tracking there is a strong progression from new arrival class to regular on-campus program.

Community Coordinated Care for Children:

Milord Per-Shara, Eligibility Specialist, reported they have 33 children currently enrolled with 50 children on the waitlist. Of those 50, 19 are Priority 1 and of those 19, 14 are new arrivals. They currently have 7 spots available and will be enrolling from those 14 that are Priority 1 and new arrivals. She added they are expecting an increase in their budget from Catholic Charities through an amendment that will be finalized soon to enroll more children.

County Health Departments:

Seminole County Health Department – There was no one present to report.

Orange County Health Department – There was no one present to report.

Osceola County Health Department – Ms. Heyda Rodriguez De Jesus, Health Services Representative attended the TF meeting for the first time, but did not have information to share.

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE

Hiram Ruiz, Director of Refugee Services noted that statewide there has been an increase in arrivals; particularly Cubans. He added that while overseas arrivals decreased, there has been a major increase on border arrivals; primarily single adults without children. This has resulted in a substantial increase on spending for Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance. He noted this could have national implications since these are entitlement programs. The increase in arrivals has also impacted employment and adult education providers.

RS 2013 Statewide Consultation:

Hiram mentioned more than 300 people have registered to attend the Statewide Consultation and arrangements for additional hotel rooms had to be made to accommodate everyone. The agenda and workshops are all finalized. He added there will be refugee performances during a luncheon plenary and during the reception. In addition refugees from Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville and Miami have been invited to attend all day Thursday for free.

World Refugee Day:

Staff from Catholic Charities reported event will take place on Saturday, June 22 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Sister Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Winter Park. They are planning to have vendors with a variety of food from the Middle East; Burmese Dancers, Art Exhibit and Talent Show involving refugee children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Citizenship Day:**

Attorney Lina Restrepo from Justice for Our Neighbors announced that they are partnering with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) to sponsor "Citizenship Day" on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at their Ministry Office located at 2125 E. South Street, Orlando, FL 32803. She added more than 20 attorneys have volunteered to assist clients to file application for free. Hiram commented that Citizenship is a very important step which opens doors to rights and benefits; but many refugees don't apply. He said one factor could be the \$680.00 fee that's required.

Respite Care:

Alexandra Mercier from Senior Resource Alliance mentioned that she has funds available for respite to caregivers providing care to eligible seniors in Orange and Seminole Counties.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Location: Mid Florida Tech High School
2900 W. Oakridge Rd
Orlando, FL 32809

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