

San Diego Refugee Forum

General Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2007

I. Call to order at 10:40 am

Hamse Warfa

Present: Rodolfo Pallares, Ana P. Quiñónez, Ann Choza-Hunt, Molly Pillsbury, Esfera Bejko, Stephen McCallion, Kushbindar Lally, Jacob Gatkuoth, Elizabeth Lou, Sahra Abdi, Kathi Anderson, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Bob Montgomery, Ralph Achenbach, Diana Ross, Ester Herrera, Barbara Tucker, Paula Lloyd, Bonnie Copland, Amelia Horton, Florence Clark, Dung Le, Paulino Paidá, Shahla A-Sepah

II. Introductions

III. Minutes and Announcements

- There were no additions or edits.
- Motion to approve minutes: Barbara Tucker, Second: Elizabeth Lou
- All approved, no nays, no abstentions

- Barbara Tucker reported that Maximus currently has job openings for Farsi- and Spanish-speaking case managers.
- Ralph Achenbach announced that the IRC Economic Development Programs will be providing free tax preparation services for refugees and asylees either by appointment from 10 am – 4 pm, February 4 – April 11, or without appointment at the following walk-in times: Saturday, February 23 and March 15, 10 am – 4 pm; Wednesday, February 27 and March 26, 6 pm – 9 pm. Fliers were provided in English and are available in Arabic, Farsi, Somali, Swahili and Vietnamese.
- Ana Choza-Hunt announced that UCSD Bright Families is looking for speakers for their February conference on reproductive health in the refugee and adolescent communities.

IV. Report from Officers and Committees

- Diana Ross, Vice Chair, welcomed Dan Breuninger in absentia as a new member and announced that Barbara Humanus from the CAP office has been named the new refugee coordinator. The current account balance was reported as \$1,329.13, with the most recent transaction a \$25 credit from new member dues and debits in the amount of \$25.33 and \$16.62 for snacks and binders for archives, respectively.

- Elizabeth Lou presented on behalf of the advocacy committee on their first meeting, which was held on 1/8/08. The committee decided to identify long- and short-term issues and requested input from all attendees. The committee will analyze this input and report back to the Forum at the February meeting.
- Florence Clark presented on behalf of Mike McKay for the outreach committee that the committee defines its mission as growing forum membership. The committee requested from the officers a list of current members and suggested welcoming first-time visitors at the beginning of each meeting and featuring one member per month. Kathi Anderson designed an outreach flier which is available to be distributed to potential new members.
- Diana Ross presented on behalf of the event committee noting that a chairperson is needed.

- Hamse Warfa presented on behalf of the bylaws committee noting that a meeting has not yet taken place.
- Ralph Achenbach reported on behalf of the web-design committee that a temporary Forum website has been set up on www.SDRefugeeForum.org and that the committee will explore a collaboration with the Crawford HS Design students for a more professional look.

V. *Focus: Human Communications Institute*

- Pamela Perkins of the Human Communications Institute presented on her 7-step Domestic Acculturation Model.
 - i. Her presentation touched on a variety of topics, incl. issues of socialization and in- vs. acculturation, how communication relates to the overall processes of our daily lives, problems with assimilation, and how an understanding of the major cultural values in the US can assist in helping refugees and other migrants acculturate successfully.

VI. *County Reports*

- Paulino Paida had noted that operations are currently at 150% of capacity, that he has not received the final report from last month's ORR visit but that he will share it when he has received it, and that there are no further updates at this time.

VII. *Provider and State Advisory Reports*

- Bob Montgomery noted that the next state advisory meeting will be held on 1/30/08 and that he will provide an update at the February Forum meeting. He also noted that numbers of Iraqi arrivals were at 1/3 of their expected volume.

VIII. *Next Meeting*

- February 19th, at 10:30 am

IX. *Adjournment at 11:46 am*