

San Diego Refugee Forum

General Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2009

I. Call to order at 10:30 am

Hamse Warfa

Present: Ralph Achenbach, Lejla Voloder, Rosanna Balistreri, Ayaan Khalif, Awichu Akwanya, Holly Hough, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Cynthia Estrada, Rene Santiago, Christine Seisun, Lora Guillen, Morgan Congdon, Mike McKay, Besma Coda, Paulino Paida, Jen Cordaro, Dan Breuninger, Barbara Hansen, Jamie Regalbutto, Melissa DuBois, Rita Shamoun, Kelly Brainard, Borke Truesdale, Prisci Orozovich, ,Sheryl Ashley, Ann Durham, Abdi Mohamoud, Ahmed Sahid, Jibriel Blejani, Cara Kiggins, Bryan Nazareth, Brent Freeman, Bonnie Copland, Ramla Sahid, Jill Webber, Sara vaz, Sid Voorakkara, Debra Palmer, Maacah Marah, Nohelia Pantel, Jill McGougan, Juan Estrada, Faiza Ahmed, Elizabeth Lou.

II. Introductions & announcements

- Jen Cordaro of Alliance for African Assistance announced the availability of free cultural sensitivity workshops on the Myanmar populations in San Diego through the agency's 'Building a Healthy Myanmar Community' Program. Those interested in offering the workshop to their staff, students, clients or peers can contact Jen at (619) 286-9052, extension 252.
- Prisci Orozovich of the California Department of Public Health, Refugee Health Services, announced a special training co-sponsored by the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau, and the California Department of Public Health, Refugee Health Program, and presented in collaboration with the San Diego Refugee Forum on Tuesday, December 15, from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the community room of the SDPD Multi-cultural Community Storefront, 5348 University Avenue. More details are available on the Refugee Forum website, www.SDRefugeeForum.org.

III. Minutes

- Lejla Volder moved to approve last month's minutes. Motion was seconded by Awichu Akwanya. All present approved. No nays, no abstentions.

IV. Presentation: Cultural & linguistic services of the five Medi-Cal health plans in San Diego County and the "Healthy San Diego" cultural & linguistic workgroup.

- Jill McGougan, Cultural and Linguistic Specialist for Molina Healthcare of California, provided an overview of the interpretation and translation services provided by the five Medi-Cal plans in San Diego County. A list with access numbers to these free services is available in the resources section on the Refugee Forum website, www.SDRefugeeForum.org.

V. Committee Updates

- Ralph Achenbach reported on behalf of the advocacy committee that the Refugee Forum's refugee healthcare summit focusing on language barriers will take place on Friday, April 9, 2010. The advocacy committee will convene a special planning meeting to be scheduled for the beginning of December. All interested can contact Ralph for more details: ralph@SDRefugeeForum.org.

VI. Election of officers

- Ralph Achenbach was elected incoming chairperson, and Elizabeth Lou, Sara Vaz and Awichu Akwanya were elected as incoming officers. According to the election procedures explained by the election and nominations committee, the incoming leadership team will meet to delegate the tasks of vice chair, treasurer and secretary.

VII. Financial Reports

- Lejla Voloder gave the following amount as the current balance on the accounts:
\$9,308.58.

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VIII. County Updates

- Rene Santiago, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency, Central & South Regions, provided an update on the use of federal stimulus funds for job creation and the agency's efforts to work with refugee service providers. A pre-proposal conference for a competitive procurement process for welfare to work, refugee employment, and childcare stage one, will take place on December 3, at the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Coast Highway, Tower 7.
- Bryan Nazareth distributed information on the County's 'Buynet' to access further information on the purchasing and contracting process. Buynet can be accessed online at <http://buynet.sdcounty.ca.gov/>.

IX. Provider & State Advisory Committee Reports

- Mike McKay reported that more than 500 new arrivals were resettled in San Diego County in September, and that the number for the month of October was approximately half that amount.

Adjournment at 12:05 p.m.

Next Meetings:

- *H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness & Planning Meeting: December 15th, 10:30 am*
- *Special advocacy committee planning meeting: Please contact ralph@SDRefugeeForum.org for date and time.*
- *Advocacy committee meeting: December 15th, 9:00 am*