

San Diego
Refugee Forum

SAN DIEGO REFUGEE FORUM

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR | Rebecca Paida, Nile Sisters Development Initiative

VICE CHAIR | Kirsten Moore, International Rescue Committee

TREASURER | Oren Robinson, Individual Member

SECRETARY | Bridget de le Garza, San Diego Unified School District

EX-OFFICIO | Abdi Abdillahi, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services

INTERIM VICE CHAIR | Laurel Dalsted, International Rescue Committee (June - December)

INTERIM SECRETARY | Madelyne Wagner, Native Interpreting (September - December)

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

African Coalition Workforce
Alliance for African Assistance
Bridge (BCC)
California Health Collaborative
CASA Cornelia Law Center
Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego
City Heights Community Development Corporation
City of San Diego
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services
East Region Adult Education
Episcopal Refugee Network
Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI
ForaCity
Friendship for Hope/Refugee Assimilation Project
International Rescue Committee, San Diego
Jewish Family Services
Karen Organization of San Diego
La Maestra Community Health Centers
License to Freedom
McGrath Family YMCA
Mental Health America of San Diego County
Mountain Health & Community Services, Inc.
Native Interpreting
New Americans Museum
New Neighbor Relief (NNR)
Newcomers Support and Development - NSD
Nile Sisters Development Initiative
OB1 Healthcare Project
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
Project Concern International
Public Consulting Group
ResCare
San Diego Metro Region Career Centers
San Diego Unified School District
San Diego Welcome Back Center
San Diego Youth Services
San Ysidro Health Center
SAY San Diego
Somali Family Service of San Diego

Southern California Immigration Project
Survivors of Torture, International
UC San Diego Center for Community Health
Union of Pan Asian Communities
United Nations Association of San Diego
United Women of East Africa
Women's Empowerment, International
YALLA

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Anne Hoiberg
B. Jean Fort
Bonnie Copland
David C Robertson
Hafifa Siddiq
Jane K Hoey
Kristen Maher
Maria Kelly Horsley
Mariana Venegas
Monica Emery
Oren Robinson
Robert Walsh

MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

The Refugee Forum had a total of 61 members in 2017. That is a 36% increase in membership from 2016.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Advocacy Task Force

Co-Chairs | Ramla Sahid, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Rebecca Miranda, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans

Meetings | Third Tuesday of the month, or subject to member availability

Background

As refugee resettlement has become a national topic, founding members wanted to establish an ongoing effort to spotlight the need to reframe the narrative of refugees positively, educate the public, and dispel myths of resettlement in the U.S.

The purpose of this taskforce is to establish a framework for working together to advance the economic, social and civic inclusion of refugees in San Diego County.

As a task force, we will leverage the power of our Forum to advocate for more services, to lift up the civic engagement capacity of refugees, and to proactively create networks of mutual support and dialogue. As advocates, we will promote inclusive communities that are culturally vibrant with strong local economies reflective of refugees.

2017 Actions and Volunteer Events

June | World Refugee Day, City Heights Library

August | Co-Host, California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) Refugee Policy Dialogue

- ❖ The Advocacy Taskforce partnered with International Rescue Committee San Diego and Los Angeles, and the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium to host the California Immigrant Policy Center as a way to identify the gaps that currently exist in state law and policy solutions that could facilitate better outcomes for refugee communities and organizations.

October | #Powerhour: #NoMuslimBanEver National Campaign

- ❖ Advocacy Taskforce Members participated and volunteered during the event as greeters and social media response team efforts. The panel discussion and information session was attended by over 200 people who were there to learn about the impacts of the Supreme Court hearing on the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban, and to urge community members to join the national #nomuslimbanever campaign that also held solidarity marches in DC and held affiliated events throughout the country.

December | Refugee Renaissance Art –Poetry-Storytelling Event, Mingei International Museum and Human Rights Day of Action 2017, Waterfront Park

Asylum Seeker Task Force

The Asylum Seeker Task Force was on hiatus in 2017.

Domestic Violence Task Force

Chair | Dilkhwaz Ahmed, License to Freedom

Meetings | Quarterly meetings at License to Freedom

Background

The San Diego Refugee Forum's Domestic Violence Task Force shall address domestic violence issues for persons fleeing war and violence conflict in San Diego, facilitate the education of the San Diego community about these issues and spearhead the Forum's advocacy efforts and involvement in public policy making around those issues.

Projects

Identify Services | The Task Force identified the services each organization offers to the immigrant and refugee population. The Task Force also identified what services are lacking from each organization and how to collaborate on possible solutions to these deficits. The organizations included were License to Freedom, County of San Diego Public Health, and Center for Community Solutions and Home Start.

Training | The Domestic Violence Task Force provided community trainings on domestic violence, health relationships and conflict resolution. Four trainings were provided to the refugees in East County and had about 200-300 in attendance. The Task Force also provided a similar training to 350 new Syrian refugees at Al Salam Mosque in March.

Domestic Violence Rally | The Domestic Violence Task Force participates in the annual Domestic Violence Rally in El Cajon in October.

Employment Task Force

Co-Chairs | Deona Dorsey, San Diego Metro Career Centers
Ilena Gudino, Jewish Family Services

Meetings | Third Monday of every month at 4pm, various locations

Causes

- ❖ Improving and expanding job opportunities for low-skilled, low-English speaking refugees
- ❖ Providing Labor Law and Labor Rights information to the community; easily accessible and understood information regarding their rights at work and acceptable documentation for employment.
- ❖ Connecting stakeholders with ongoing employment opportunities

Events

October | Sponsored Newcomers Support and Development's 2017 Job and Resource Expo

Health Task Force

Co-Chairs | Madelyne Wagner and Susan Hagos, MPH, CHES

Meetings | The second Tuesday of each month at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.

Background

The San Diego Refugee Forum Health Task Force is a resource for the Forum , the refugee and immigrant community, as well as the San Diego community at large on health and healthcare issues relating to refugees, immigrants and asylees.

The Health Task Force's goal is to improve the health of San Diego's refugee and immigrant communities. This is achieved through advocacy, community outreach, health education and healthcare navigation support.

Presentations

January | [Nile Sisters Development Initiative](#): Female Genital Cutting

February | [American Civil Liberties Union](#): Impact of Healthcare Changes on Refugees and Immigrants

March | [Mental Health American](#): Breaking Down Barriers Program

April | No Presentation

May | [Survivors of Torture, International](#): Self-Care Workshop

June | [YALLA](#): Services Overview

July | [Legal Aid Society of San Diego](#): Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy

August | [Central Region Public Health Clinic](#) Services Overview

September | [Psychiatric Emergency Response Team](#) (PERT) Overview

October | [California Health Collaborative](#): Breast and Cervical Health

November | [Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest](#): An Introduction to HIV/AIDS

Projects

Refugee Oral Health | The Health Task Force teamed up with the Azusa Pacific University Nursing Program and UCSD Pre-Dental Society to conduct oral health outreach and education. Over 200 toolkits with toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste were distributed, along with educational materials. The remaining dental kits were donated to Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services annual Family Health and Wellness Fair.

Medi-Cal Healthcare Options Map/Chart | The Health Task Force has continued to disseminate the Medi-Cal Health Care Options tool to the community. The chart and clinic information is being updated and will be translated into 13 different languages by the beginning of next year.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

World Refugee Day Event

Planning for the 2017 World Refugee Day (WRD) Celebration began on February 2, 2017; when the WRD Planning Committee met for the first time to discuss this year's event. The Committee is made up of representatives from various organizations that serve the refugee populations in San Diego, including the County of San Diego, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Chaldean and Middle Eastern Social Services, the Karen Organization of San Diego, the YMCA of San Diego, and the University of California – San Diego (UCSD). Assistance from volunteers on this committee and within the community is pivotal to the success of this event; many hours that go above and beyond daily work are put into the event and could not be done without it.

The San Diego Refugee Forum (SDRF) is the primary sponsor of the event each year, in addition to the SDRF the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, East and Central Regions (kinship caregiver fund) provided funding to the 2017 event. The SDRF funding supported the purchase of supplies for the activities, signage, water and ice, gift cards for raffle winners, and payment to our Henna artist. With the assistance of the County, the planners were able to rent the sound system, chairs, a few tables, and several tents for shade in the warm sun. The total cost for the World Refugee Day 2017 celebration was \$1838.

WRD celebrations have been held in various parts of San Diego over the past several years, including Balboa Park, and Prescott Promenade Park in downtown El Cajon. Each year the Committee works together to choose a location that is not only accessible for all attendees, but also in an area where our refugee communities reside. Due to the success and high attendance in 2016, the Committee determined that the location for the 2017 event would again be at the City Heights Library. They library generously works with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department to reserve the park adjacent to their building, allowing for a large space to use for the event that is open and accessible to the public. The event was held on June 17, 2017 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at the City Heights Weingart Branch Library/Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, located at 3795 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105.

The goal of San Diego's 2017 WRD Celebration was to celebrate the diversity of San Diego's refugee population, showcase the cultures and customs of home countries, provide connections to resources and community organizations, and strengthen the understanding among community members to create a more welcoming community for all. With various resource tables, cultural performances, and community resource tables, WRD 2017 was successful in offering a culturally vibrant atmosphere to all those that attended the celebration.

The 2017 WRD event began with an opening by the SDRF Chair Rebecca Paidá to welcome all that were in attendance and introduce the speakers. This year the SDRF was extremely lucky to have Congresswoman Susan Davis as the key speaker to further welcome everyone and discuss the importance of and the many contributions refugee communities make in San Diego. Additionally, Assistant Chief Chuck Kaye from the San Diego Police Department spoke to the crowd and shared his admiration for the refugee community within San Diego.

Cultural Performances

The 2017 WRD celebration included performances from 3 different refugee groups including: traditional Burmese dance and music performances by the Karen Organization of San Diego, Chaldean culture dancing by the Tellskuf Chaldean Association, and Vietnamese music and dancing by the Vietnamese Community of San Diego. During non-performance times participants at the event are encouraged to share music from their home countries through the speaker system for all to enjoy.

Cultural Booths and Activities

A popular aspect of the WRD events are the cultural booths and activities to showcase textiles, maps, photos, clothing and other items from the refugee communities in San Diego. These cultural booths allowed the refugee communities to show the event attendees a piece of their homeland and proudly display items near and dear to them, their families, and culture. This year there were booths showcased the Burmese, Vietnamese, and Iraqi and Middle Eastern cultures; the Center for World music also participated by bringing musical examples of refugee expression.

The other popular item at this year's event was the passport for children to collect stamps at the various activities and cultural booths they visited; once complete they turned in their passport for a raffle ticket to win a prize, which were gifts cards purchased by the SDRF. The activities included face painting, how to tie an African skirt, how to use a mortar and pestle, trying on traditional Burmese clothing, writing hello in other languages, a photo booth, and the very popular Henna tattoos by a local artist. Volunteers from the Karen Organization were key to the success of the passport and activities.

A new addition to the event this year was a local food truck (Holy Mole Guacamole) parked on the street in front of the park so participants were able to purchase food while at the event. Food permits and the ability to serve food at a public park is a challenge in the planning of this event, however utilizing the many food trucks within the community is a great work-around.

Resource Tables and Community Links

There were a total of 30 resource tables at the 2017 event, more than doubling the participation than any other WRD event. SDRF members are able to participate in the event for free as part of their membership, those that are not current members become new members for the remainder of the calendar year. The SDRF gained 9 new organizations as members as a result of this year's event. The event hosted representatives from a wide variety of resource organizations including education, physical health, mental health, resettlement agencies, many Ethnic Based Community Organizations, local governments, and local elected officials.

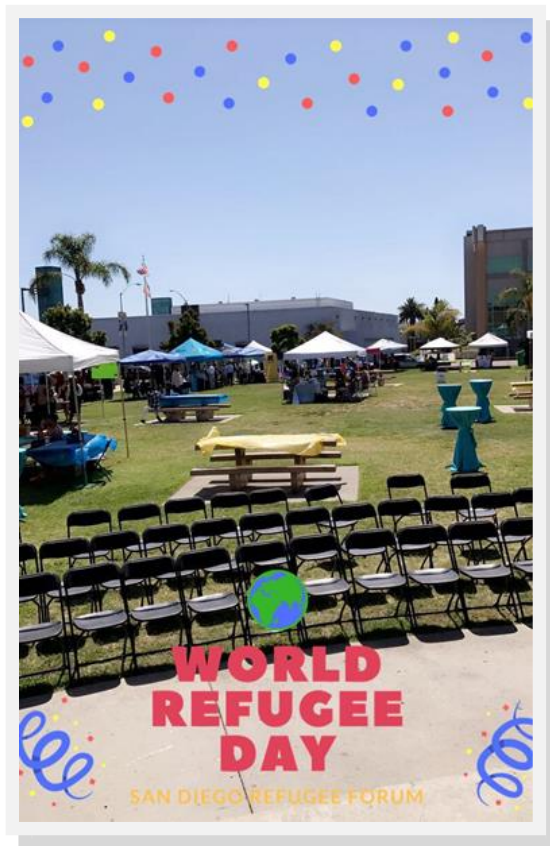
In addition to resources, another goal of WRD is to provide refugees the opportunities to connect with various community organizations to promote participation in and with their communities.

Representatives from the YMCA of San Diego County, YALLA, and the San Diego Bike Coalition attended to provide examples of programs and activities that support the whole family and allow for connection to their communities. The FBI and the San Diego Police Department were in attendance to help break down barriers and reduce the fear of law enforcement within the refugee communities.

Outreach Efforts

Various types of outreach were done to inform as many individuals, organizations, communities, and groups as possible to generate interest and participation in 2017 WRD. Save-the-dates, information, and flyers were sent to the SDRF list-serve (which includes approximately 277 recipients), announcements were made at the SDRF meetings and at various community meetings throughout San Diego, representatives from various local government representatives were made aware of the event, and a Facebook advertisement was purchased in the months prior to the event (which reached 1,789 individuals). Flyers and event information were provided to many businesses (many of which are refugee owned) in the surrounding areas of the library to promote attendance and participation. In addition, social media played an important role in promotion before and on the day of the event. A special thank you goes to Melinda Murdock of VIVID Digital Design for designing the flyer for this year's event. There was a filter created to use on Snapchat while at the event, and several members of the planning committee and of the public provided updates via social media (Twitter, Facebook Live, etc.) while they were at the event to generate additional interest.





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Messages

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Videos

News

Broadcasts

Live Well San Diego

@livewell_sd · Jun 21

Over 200 people participated in this year's **World Refugee Day** celebrate the diversity of **San Diego**: bit.ly/2rs8u5m #LiveWellSD

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Karen Org San Diego

@Karen_SanDiego · Jun 20

Happy **World Refugee Day**!! The **San Diego** Refugee Forum's #WorldRefugeeDay Celebration on Saturday was a big...

fb.me/8XrBsj6hM

Rep. Susan Davis

• @RepSusanDavis · Jun 20

Celebrated on Saturday the many contributions refugee communities make in **San Diego** for **World Refugee Day**, which is today. #worldrefugeeday

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FINANCIAL REPORT

San Diego Refugee Forum

2017 Financial Report

Revenue Sources

Bank Account balance 1/1/2017	\$9,519.23
Membership income (after fees)	\$3,187.38
Other credits	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$3,187.38

Committees/ Task Forces

Advocacy	\$74.81
Asylum	\$0.00
Domestic Violence	\$0.00
Employment	\$500.00
Health	\$500.00
World Refugee Day	\$600.14
Executive Committee - Resiliency Awards	\$953.55
Executive Committee - Refugee Summit Tickets	\$570.00
Task Forces Total	\$3,198.50

Administrative Costs

Venue	\$0.00
Supplies	\$2.45
Refreshments	\$0.00
Administrative Costs Total	\$2.45

GRAND TOTAL **\$9,505.66**

Balance on 2/1/2018 **-\$13.57**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Adhara Muceri, Akhlas Putras, Andrea Frost, Andrew Rice, Anne Hosley, Awichu Akwamya, Ban Bakkal, Bernardo Mazón, Bridget de la Garza, Carla Croft, Cathy Lee, Chris Miller, Ciria Brewer, David Gangsei, David Murphy, David Robertson, Diana Rhoades, Eric Miller, Gilli Weinstein, Guerline Jozep, Ham Abdulalad, Jane Hoey, Jason Porter, Joel Day, Juan Estrada, Julio Rivera, Karen Longstreth, Kate Morrissey, Kathi Anderson, Kevin Mitchell, Kirsten Moore, Kristell Denlka, Kristen Mahar, Lisa DuGolt, Lisa Vang, Long Bui, Loredana Miteso, Lori Gutierrez, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Margaret Lujan, Mariano Diaz, Michele Estill, Mohammed Tuama, Munquith Alhajjaj, Neda Rivera, Neil Hovland, Oliver Cabana, Oren Robinson, Rebecca Paida, Ric Oquita, Rita Shamoon, Rosario Iannacone, Roseann Castaneda, Ryan Williams, Sara Boldan, Susan Hagos, Sysvanh Kabkeo, Tarryn Mento, Tiffany Tang, Yadira Dickey

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting, welcomed attendees, and thanked previous Forum officers for their work and dedication.
 - b. Forum participants introduced themselves.
 - c. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that SDRF membership in 2016 included 40 paid members (36 organizations and 4 individual members). It is time for organizations and individuals to renew their membership for 2017. Benefits of membership include being able to vote in elections for forum officers, serve as a chair or co-chair of a task force, having a resource table at the World Refugee Day festival, and having the name of the individual or organization posted on the SDRF website. Membership fees are \$60 for an organization and \$30 for an individual. Oren is working on initiating an online payment system that can be accessed on the forum website. Click the link below to access the payment portal:
<https://paysubsonline.com/ThirdpartyRegistration.aspx?clubID=4dc739f06656338f983b44c1a7efb12d>
 - d. Social Media. The forum's Facebook page has been updated (www.facebook.com/SDRefugeeForum). Attendees are encouraged to visit and "like" the page.
 - e. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer), and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.
3. Task Force Updates. Rebecca Paida (Chair) encouraged participants to review the list of task forces on the forum website and consider becoming involved in a task force.
- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force has had approximately 20 participants in recent months. More participants are welcome. The next meeting is Feb. 9, 2017 at 12 p.m. at Alliance for African Assistance. Contact Oren Robinson to confirm meeting date.

- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force last meeting was at the offices of 2-1-1. More participants are welcome.
 - c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates
 - d. **Employment Task Force:** No updates.
 - e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force met on Jan 11, 2017 and identified Susan Hagos as new co-chair. The task force is working on identifying a project for 2017. The next meeting will be Feb. 7, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.
 - f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** World Refugee Day event will be in June with possible location of City Heights Library, same as last year. The next meeting will be in February. Maggie Fenn will send out an email to the SDRF listserv with possible meeting dates.
4. County Agencies & Committees.
- a. Reception & Placement. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates
 - i. Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.
 - ii. Catholic Charities: No updates.
 - iii. International Rescue Committee: The International Rescue Committee reported a recent drop from the surge late in federal fiscal year 2016.
 - iv. Jewish Family Services: No updates.
 - b. County (Abdi Abdillahi)
 - i. Total number of refugee arrivals for the month of Dec. 2016 to San Diego County was 365. This included: Afghanistan (47); Democratic Republic of County (7); Egypt (5); Guatemala (1); Indonesia (50); Iraq (206); Sri Lanka (2); Uganda (34); Uzbekistan (7). Arrival data is posted on the SDRF website under "Resources."
 - ii. Total refugee arrivals in San Diego County for federal fiscal year 2016 (Oct.1, 2016-Sept. 30, 2017) was 1,187.
 - c. **State Advisory Council (Mohammed Tuama):** The State Advisory Council meets on a quarterly basis. The last meeting was a phone conference held on December 8, 2016.
 - d. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto was not present.
5. Updates from Sacramento from Sysvahn Kabkeo, Chief, State of California's Refugee Programs Bureau
- a. Sysvahn thanked the forum for their support and thanked Kathi Anderson for her work as immediate past Chair of the forum.
 - b. U.S. arrival numbers for the first quarter of the current federal fiscal year: 25,671. Southern CA is set to get quite a few arrivals in the month of January 2017.
 - c. Funding.
 - i. California will continue to have eight impacted counties. Funding will be divided amongst the eight counties.

- ii. Targeted assistance augmentation funding should be coming out in February. Last year, this was about \$600,000.
 - iii. Cuban-Haitian Entrant Program. Small amount of the funding will be available. At this time, no decision about which counties will receive this funding. Last year, the Wilson Fish Program in San Diego was allocated the entire amount.
- d. Upcoming Events. A Refugee Summit (state conference) will be held in San Diego at the Wyndham Hotel from August 29 - September 1, 2017.
- e. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) will conduct a monitoring visit in Sacramento during the week of Feb 6, 2017.
- f. January is Human Trafficking month. Sysvahn encouraged partners to promote awareness of human trafficking. The Refugee Programs Bureau has a small state-funded program with plans to train county welfare to work staff in central California regarding human trafficking.
- g. Syrian support project. \$360,000 received in California. Funding can be used to support any refugee, but the emphasis for this support is on Syrian refugees.
- h. Sysvahn responded to question regarding "brain waste." There is a White House task force addressing this and the Refugee Program Bureau is developing a resource for refugees who are professionals to help them find services to assist them in establishing equivalent professional credentials in the U.S.

6. Focus. FBI's Role in Refugee Interaction. Special Agent Carla Croft, International Human Rights Unit, FBI San Diego and Yadira Dickey, Community Outreach Specialist

- a. The FBI's international Human Rights Unit leads the FBI's efforts to investigate violations of the five primary US human rights laws: genocide, torture, war crimes, the recruitment/use of child soldiers, and female genital mutilation.
- b. The International Human Rights Unit addresses all tips to identify an U.S. nexus to war criminals and other perpetrators and provides support to other U.S. agencies and international partners.
- c. FBI has a strong victim assistance program, immigration status doesn't matter. Victim services are based on what the individual victim needs.

7. Spotlight. IRC Asset Building. Lending and Tax Preparation. Zachary Bezold, Microenterprise Business Counselor

- a. Housed in the IRC's Center for Financial Opportunity. Goal is to improve financial well-being of the client. Four major areas: Employment, Career Development, Vocational ESL, and Microenterprise services.
- b. The Financial literacy program teaches the basics of the U.S. financial system and encourages good habits in budgeting, credit, tax preparation, and banking.
- c. IRC's Microenterprise Program supports refugees to start and expand their own businesses by providing intensive technical assistance and micro-loans.
- d. Free tax preparation is available to anyone who meets income eligibility requirements.

8. Community Announcements

- a. Nile Sisters Development Initiative provides behind-the-wheel driving instruction.
 - b. The IRC accepts vehicle donations. Contact person is Andrea Source.
 - c. Intrepid Theatre has started an 8-week project with Crawford High School refugee students. The goal is to create awareness of refugees. Performance will be March 12, 2017 at the Horton Grand Theatre. The performance is free and open to the public.
 - d. La Jolla Athenaeum has commissioned a theatre piece for young audiences which will tour schools in San Diego. Public performances are scheduled for Feb. 27, 2017 and March 6th at noon. Contact person is Ric Oquita.
 - e. Nile Sisters Development Initiative is hosting a short film screening and dialogue on female genital cutting on January 25, 2017, 6-8 p.m. at University of San Diego (USD). For tickets, access Eventbrite at www.nilesisters.org.
 - f. Newcomers Support and Development is assisting refugees with college degrees and professional licenses to obtain professional certification in the U.S.
 - g. The Museum of Man is undergoing a re-imagining and want to reengage the community. Contact person is Jason Porter.
 - h. David Robertson, University of California, San Diego (UCSD) may have graduate students interested in examining the impact of refugees on the San Diego economy.
 - i. Joel Day, City of San Diego advised the mayor and city council on human rights issues that affect lives of those in San Diego and invited participants to contact him with input. dayj@sandiego.gov.
 - j. There will be a peaceful prayer circle with Juan Vargas and Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher on Sat, January 21 at Chicano Park.
 - k. Cajon Valley Union School District has open part-time position of community liaison. The job announcement is on the Cajon Valley Union School District website.
9. Approval of Minutes. Kathi Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (November 2016), and Oren Robinson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: February 21, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Alejandra Solorzano, Alex Gunn, And Roman, Anne Hoiberg, Anne Smith, Asya Anderson, Awichu Akwanya, Bob Walsh, Bridget de la Garza, Candace Hadley, Diana Rhodes, Elizabeth Lopez, Eric Miller, Irene Radley, Jamie Schroer Colbert, Jane Hoey, Joel Day, Juan Estrada, Kathi Anderson, Kathryn Turner, Kristan Maher, Kristelle Dealca, Lara Easton, Leeann Lumsden, Lisa Griffin, Lori Gutierrez, Madelyne Wagner, Manquit Alhajjaj, May Hasan, Mohammed Tuama, Monica Emery, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Nicole Crosby, Nicole Keeley, Oliver Cabana, Oren Robinson, Patricia Cosulich, Paulina Reyes, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Paida, Rezhen Ahmed, Rita Shamoon, Roberto Sarmiento, Roseann Castaneda, Ryan Williams, Sara Ramos, Shlyn Guarian, Susan Hagos, Tiffany Tang, Val Marcone, Wesley Oliver

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer), and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.
- c. Forum participants introduced themselves.
- d. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 24 paid members (15 organizations and 9 individual members). Oren reminded everyone that SDRF now offers an option to pay membership fees online.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** No updates.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The next meeting will be on March 15, 2017 at 10:30 AM at 2-1-1. The Task Force will be identifying a focus for their work this year.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force will be planning an employment fair for refugee clients.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force met on February 7, 2017 and met with the ACLU to learn more about the status of the ACA and the way that any changes could affect the refugee and immigrant community. The task force also emailed out a survey to members of the SDRF Google Group to elicit impact on potential projects for the year and encourage participants to complete this survey. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th at 1 PM at Nile Sisters.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Day Task Force met in February. The location and date for World Refugee Day 2017 is still being decided.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No representative present.

- b. **Catholic Charities:** No representative present.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** IRC San Diego resettled 88 arrivals in January 2017 and 72 so far in February. No additional arrivals are scheduled from today onward due to U.S. due to slowing down of refugee processing. Not anticipating any new arrivals coming for the foreseeable future with the exception of SIVs. Two cases from Afghanistan in next two weeks.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** No representative present.
- 5. *County Agencies and Committees*
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** The total number of refugee arrivals for the month of January 2017 was 365 (38% Iraqi, 16% Syrian, 15% Afghan and 31% other). The total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County for the Federal Fiscal Year so far (Oct '16-Jan '17) is 1,552.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Maggie Fenn):** No updates
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No updates
- 6. *Focus Presentation: San Diego City Attorney's Office Criminal Division*
 - a. Lara Easton, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney gave an overview of City Attorney's Office Criminal Division including the Neighborhood Prosecution and Collaborative Court Unit. This unit collaborates with the San Diego Police Department, other agencies, and the community respond to crimes include prostitution, graffiti, vandalism, gang offenses. Deputy City Attorneys work in neighborhoods such as Mid-City. Ms. Easton suggested SDRF might want to consider having a task force devoted to human trafficking.
 - b. Nicole Crosby, Chief Deputy City Attorney, gave an overview of the Domestic Violence Unit which handles misdemeanor cases of domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual battery, stalking, and child abuse. The unit includes 13 full-time attorneys, three full-time victim advocates, three investigators, three legal secretaries, and six court clerks. The Family Justice Center provides a wide range of services to victims of domestic violence. Ms. Crosby stressed these services are provided to all victims of domestic violence regardless of one's immigration status.
 - c. Kathryn L. Turner, Chief Deputy City Attorney, gave an overview of the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit (CEPU). This unit prosecutes violations of law that arise from consumer transactions or actions that damage the environment. Most investigations are based on complaints from law enforcement agencies, but they also investigate complaints of false or misleading advertising. Citizens can make a complaint, by calling the hotline (619) 533-5600 or by an online complaint form. Recent consumer scams include fraudulent immigration consultants practicing law without a license. The CEPU publishes a newsletter from consumer which can found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney> under Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.
- 7. *Spotlight Presentation: San Diego Futures Foundation*
 - a. Alejandra Solorzano, Project Coordinator, presented on the San Diego Futures Foundations (SDFF) a non-profit organization located in City Heights whose goal is to make technology affordable for underserved populations in San Diego. The organization provides training in digital literacy and adaptive technology and offers a

“Girls that Code” club. It provides services such as e-waste recycling, web design, IT services, computer repair, and video production. SDFP has distributed over 46,000 computers in the community. www.sdfutures.org.

8. *Community Updates:*

- a. Native Interpreting is hosting a four-hour training on interpreting on April 1, 2017. Enrollment fee is \$30. Madelyne Wagner provided a flyer on this event.
 - b. Women’s History Museum is hosting an event on February 23, 2017 at 6 p.m. to celebrate African American women. This is a free celebration.
 - c. License to Freedom is hosting a community forum to focus on health relationships on February 25, 2017 at Masjid As-Salam.
 - d. Office of Emergency Services, County of San Diego is offering a workshop on April 28, 2017. The public is invited to attend.
 - e. Lisa Griffin, teacher at High Tech High School announced that her students High are doing a project on refugees and immigrants. Students are looking forward to ways to support the work of the forum participants. They are actively seeking guest speakers and opportunities to do community service related to refugees and immigrants.
 - f. Patricia Cosulich, student at University of San Diego, is conducting research on access to mental health care for refugees in San Diego.
 - g. Intrepid Theatre will present, “Exiled Voices” on March 12, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Horton Grand Theatre. This performance is the culmination of eight-week long project in which professional artists are matched with refugee students at Crawford High School. Crawford High School. RSVP for performance on the Intrepid Theatre website. Contact person is Tiffany Tang.
9. *Approval of Minutes: Kathi Anderson made a motion to approve the minute from the previous meeting and Oren Robinson seconded the motion. The minute were approved.*

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*
2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*
 - a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
 - b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
 - c. Forum participants introduced themselves.
 - d. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 24 paid members (15 organizations and 9 individual members). The benefits of membership are having name on the SDRF website, members can post to and receive messages on the SDRF email distribution list, free resource table at the World Refugee Event in June 2017, and have the ability to vote on SDRF matters and. Online payment option is available. Survey will be sent out soon to elicit feedback related to cost of membership fees.
3. *Task Force Updates*
 - a. **Advocacy Task Force:** No updates.
 - b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates.
 - c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** Successful event in the beginning of March focusing on health relationships. 200 Syrian families were invited. The task force is planning similar events for this year.
 - d. **Employment Task Force:** No updates
 - e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force will focus on oral health this year. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1, 2017 at 1 PM at Nile Sisters.
 - f. **World Refugee Day:** This year's World Refugee Day event will be Saturday, June 17th from 12 to 4:00 PM at the Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, 3700 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105 with performances at the City Heights Library Performance Annex. The task force would like to create a new flyer design for this year's event and invited anyone interested in designing new flyer to contact the task force chairs, Maggie Fenn or Laurel Dalsted. Next meeting will be March 28, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. at the IRC, Room 205.
4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
 - a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No representative present.
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** No representative present.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** March 2017 numbers, 81 arrivals in Feb.; not many on the books right now. Most arrivals are SIVs coming from Afghanistan and Iraq
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** No representative present.
5. *County Agencies and Committees*
 - i. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** Total number of refugee arrivals for the month of February 2017 was 212. Refugees were from Iraq (38%); Syria (16%); Afghanistan (15%); and Other Countries (31%). Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County so far (October 1, 2016-February 28, 2017) during current federal fiscal year is 1,764.

- a. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):** Conference call on March 9th. There were 9 applications for two openings on the State Advisory Conference. They are revising the procedure for elections because of the large number of nominations
 - b. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No updates.
- 6. *Focus Presentation: Vision for Justice Collaborative Project by Annie Rutenber and Roberto Sarmiento, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP)*
 - a. SDVLP is non-profit law firm that provides free legal services. Mission. Practice areas. Impact. Location of offices. Immigration status does not matter.
 - b. Offers Family Law Clinic, assistance with filing restraining orders, guardianship matters
 - c. Contact information: Main office phone (619) 235-5656
 - d. Women's and Families Resource Fair, Sat., March 26, 2017 at Jacobs Center, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - e. Annie Rutenber provided an overview of the Vision for Justice Collaborative (VJC)
 - i. Provides free legal help to refugees and immigrants for victims of a crime with civic legal services such as restraining orders, divorce, custody child/spousal support, immigration, employment.
 - ii. Works in partnership with License to Freedom and Casa Cornelia.
 - iii. Two free legal clinics: City Heights Walk-in Clinic, La Maestra in the gallery room. Translation is not provided; therefore, clients are encouraged to bring an individual who can interpret for them, and El Cajon Clinic (appointment only).
 - iv. Contact: (619) 564-6944. For help in Arabic, Kurdish, or Farsi, call (619) 401-2800
- 7. *Spotlight Presentation: Child Welfare Service, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency – Central Region by Shlyn Guarian, Community Outreach Liaison*
 - a. Vision for Live Well San Diego
 - b. Neighborhoods for Kids and Child Welfare are the same program is about keeping kids in familiar environments and enhancing relationship building in neighborhoods.
 - c. Started with school project 2001/2003. Social workers located at schools.
 - d. Described the model of four clusters used in the central region.
 - e. If a community organization would like to share information on their organization with social workers, please contact Shalyn Guarian. (619) 521-7359.
- 8. *Community Updates:*
 - a. Native Interpreting is hosting an introductory one-hour training on interpreting on April 1, 2017. Enrollment fee is \$30. Madelyne Wagner provided a flyer on this event.
 - b. Office of Emergency Services, County of San Diego is offering a workshop on April 28, 2017. The public is invited to attend.
 - c. STARPAL offers a youth center Tues-Friday at 2:30 p.m. The offer tutoring and field trips. Youth who participate in STARPAL have been improving their grades. Tutoring from college students.
 - d. Intrepid Theatre presented "Exiled Voices" on March 12, 2017 at at the Horton Grand Theatre and has tentatively scheduled another performance at Crawford High School tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2017. This performance is the culmination of eight-week long project in which professional artists are matched with refugee students at Crawford High School. Performance is free and open to the public.
 - e. Karen Organization of San Diego shared their latest newsletter.

- f. UPAC offers a Noble Works Program that helps individuals with severe mental illness find meaningful employment.
 - g. Planned Parenthood is now providing treatment services of FGC as well as child-spacing, cancer screening, and other.
 - h. The San Diego Police Department has a Family Justice Center, clothing, advocacy, emergency housing, housing for pets, immigration assistance, and legal assistance.
 - i. SAY San Diego, through the Crawford Community Collaborative, is hosting an event for parents of students in the Crawford Cluster to have input into the district's LCAP (funding) plan. This event is March 25, 2017, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at Ibarra Elementary School.
 - j. *The Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations held this month was attended by Dilkhwaz Ahmed and others from San Diego.*
 - k. The Women's Museum of California is holding an panel discussion of women who participated in the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), report back about the results of their presentation. This event is March 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the museum in Liberty Station.
9. *Approval of Minutes:* Diana Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Awichu Akwamya seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Alex Gunn, Andrea Frost, Ann V., Bashar Amir, Bill Sutton, Bridget de la Garza, Brittney Najar, Catherine Shaba, Chris Williams, Dhaju Nuir, Diana Rhodes, Elisa Barnett, Eric Miller, Guerline Jozef, Jackie K., Jackline Mola, Jama Mohamed, Jennifer Navala, Kathi Anderson, Kent Lee, Laurel Dalsted, Loredana Mitescue, Madelyne Wagner, May Hasan, Michelle Ly, Molly Blume, Monica Emery, Neda Rivera, Oren Robinson, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Paida, Sara Ramos, T. Brown, Tiffany Tang

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer), and Abdi Abdullahi were present.
- c. Forum participants introduced themselves.
- d. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 29 paid members Oren encouraged attendees to complete the 2017 Feedback Survey which was sent out to the forum email distribution list to get input into forum membership fees.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. *Advocacy Task Force:* No updates.
- b. *Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:* A meeting will be held at 2-1-1 in May.
- c. *Domestic Violence Task Force:* No updates.
- d. *Employment Task Force:* No updates.
- e. *Health Task Force:* The Health Task Force will participate in World Refugee Day by providing information or items related to oral health. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 1 PM at Nile Sisters.
- f. *World Refugee Day:* This year's World Refugee Day event will be Saturday, June 17th from 12 to 4:00 PM at the Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, 3700 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105 with performances at the City Heights Library Performance Annex.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. *Alliance for African Assistance:* 11 arrivals in March 2017. April 2017 projected 40 arrivals.
- b. *Catholic Charities:* April 2017 45 arrivals scheduled.
- c. *International Rescue Committee:* April 2017 35 arrivals scheduled
- d. *Jewish Family Services:* No updates.

5. *County Agencies and Committees*

- a. *County (Abdi Abdillahi):* Total number of refugee arrivals for the month of April 2017 was 137. Refugees were from Iraq (37%); Syria (15%); Afghanistan (17%); and Other Countries (30%). Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County so far (October 1, 2016-April 30, 2017) during current federal fiscal year is 1,901
- b. *State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):* The next meeting is scheduled for June.
- c. *Refugee Health (Christine Murto):* No updates.

6. *Focus Presentation: Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBO) Panel*

- a. Panelist:
 - i. Mohammed Tuama, Newcomers Support and Development
 - ii. Elizabeth Lou, Nile Sisters Development Initiative
 - iii. Diana Rhodes, Karen Organization of San Diego
 - iv. Jawra Mohamed, United Women of East Africa Support Team
 - v. Jake Young, Refugee Net
- b. Panelists shared their name, organization and brief description of their organization's services and communities they serve.
- c. Panelists responded to the following questions:
 - i. What is the role of your ECBO beyond the refugee resettlement and/or asylum process?
 - ii. What resources or support networks does your ECBO leverage?
 - iii. How has your work/community been affected by the current political atmosphere?
 - iv. What challenges do you face when attempting to gain resources for the communities you serve?
 - v. What services are needed most?
 - vi. What opportunities/goals and/or challenges faced by your communities.
 - vii. What are some major upcoming events, initiatives, or legislation you would like to share with SDRF members?

7. *Community Updates:*

- a. Student at SDSU Business Dept. involved in a research project to explore ways to use data to help NGOs that serve refugees. If interested in participating in pilot program, contact Dalal Hal.
- b. Honoring the Journey" conference for service providers will be held on June 1, 2017. Cost is \$75. Contact person is Elisa Barnett, Academy for Professional Excellence SDSU School of Social Work, <http://theacademy.sdsu.edu>. This event will include a resource fair.

8. *Approval of Minutes.*

- a. Awichu Akwanya made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (April 2017), and Jane Hoiberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Adeem K., Alex Gunn, Alicia DeLeon Torres, Alvin Cook, Andrea Frost, Angel Carretero, Ann V. Anne Hoiberg, Ariana Campos, Arwa J. Zakir Kakavand, Bianca Martinez, Bridget de la Garza, Charity White, Chris Williams, Delia A., Dilkhawaz Ahmed, Donnaly C., Elizabeth Lou, Eric Miller, Fernando Ortega, Hamoun Dolaqshahi, Jane Hoey, Jennifer Navala, Jorge Ortiz, Juan Estrada, Kelly Wraight, Kim Thomas, Kirsten Moore, Loredana Mitesce, Lori Gutierrez, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, May Hasan, Michele Estill, Mohammed Tauma, Oren Robinson, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamon, Ryan Williams, Susan Hagos, Vernita Gutierrez, Zainab Danso,

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
- c. Forum participants introduced themselves.
- d. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 29 paid members.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** No Updates
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No Updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No Updates
- d. **Employment Task Force:** No Updates
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force will participate in World Refugee Day by providing information and items related to oral health. The next meeting will be on May 9, 2017 at 1 PM at Nile Sisters Development Initiative
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The task force has had a great response for resource tables. Please spread the word to encourage cultural booths, performances and vendors. The task force is also looking for more performances for the event. The forms to sign up as a resource vendor or performance is on the Refugee Forum website. The World Refugee Day event will be on Saturday, June 17th from 12 to 4 PM.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Approximately 40 refugee arrivals in April and about 40 so far in May. On track for approximately 600 for the federal fiscal year.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** No Updates
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** Approximately 40 refugee arrivals so far in May.
- d. **Jewish Family Services:** No Updates

5. *County Agencies and Committees*

- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** Total number of arrivals for the month of April was 152. Refugees were from Iraq (36%), Afghanistan 19%); Syria (14%) and Other Countries 31%). Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County to date during current federal fiscal year is 2,053. County arrival data is posted on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the "Resources" tab.

- b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):** Next phone conversation is scheduled for June 8, 2017 at 10 a.m. Mohammed will send phone number and access code to SDRF listserv.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine reported that 110 refugee health screenings were conducted in April 2017. A new program to address latent TB infection was started in March.
- 6. **Focus Presentation: Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest Specializes on East African Sensitive Care: Dr. Sierra Washington**
 - a. Dr. Washington presented on the organization's mission and services provided and encouraged participants to share information about the services with refugees who may not know about the services available through the organization.
 - b. Provides reproductive and sexual health care, education, and advocacy for the people of San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties.
 - c. Euclid Community Center, Planned Parenthood, offers treatment of Female Genital Cutting (FGC).
- 7. **Spotlight Presentation: Overview of Newcomers Support and Development: Mohammed Tuama**
 - a. Mohammed Tuama is director and founder of this organization which started with a group of six individuals and has grown to 450+ members.
 - b. Registered as non-profit in 2015.
 - c. Help refugees, immigrants SIVs with foreign credentials, teachers, doctors, technicians in addition to those without a credential but skills to be transferred to U.S. including business support and cultural aspects.
 - d. Activities: Tours of factories in El Cajon and training programs.
 - e. Civic engagement program started to promote leadership. Educate community about health issues and advocate for themselves. Resident leadership academy.
 - f. Resident Leadership Academy: 1) focusing on soccer; 2) focusing on Community Improvement Project. Will have a video.
- 8. **Community Updates:**
 - a. The San Diego World Refugee Day Celebration is Saturday, June 17, 2017, 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the Officer Jeremy Harwood Memorial Park, 3700 Fairmount Ave., SD 92105.
 - b. The Refugee Programs Bureau, of the California Department of Social Services, is organizing the 2017 Refugee Summit being held August 30-31 in San Diego, California. Location is the Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel.
 - c. The Alliance for African Assistance is offering an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for clients on June 13, 2017 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Location is 4305 University Ave.
 - d. The Alliance for African Assistance's Utility Advocacy Program provides assistance to clients having difficulty paying SDGE and telephone bills. They will visit your organization to meet with your clients. Contact Brittney at 619-286-9052.
 - e. Native Interpreting is offering a workshop on different interpreter and translator certification programs on Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the College-Rolando Library. www.nativeinterpreting.com.
 - f. The Grossmont Healthcare District (GHD) has awarded a grant to License to Freedom which will support License to Freedom's community outreach efforts.
 - g. Hamoun Dolatshahi, a senior at UCSD is creating space for refugees to interact with non-refugees and is looking for a host organization to support this effort.

- h. Women's Museum of California in Liberty Station will feature four Iraqi women sharing their stories on May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
 - i. Elizabeth Lou, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, announced that May is mental health awareness month and thanked those who have been participating in community dialogues on mental health. A report of the findings from the community dialogues ([Advancing Equity: Refugee and Ethnic Mental Health](#)) is available online.
- 9. *Approval of Minutes*
 - a. Kirsten Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (April 2017), and Rebecca Paida seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Abdi Abdullahi, Adeem Ismaeil, Alicia Deleon-Torres, Andrea Frost, Angel C., Ann V., Anne Hoiberg, Bridget de la Garza, Carmen Kcomt, Carol Crisp, Christine Murto, Dan Collins, Danielle Fair, David Roberston, Diana Rhodes, Dilkhawaz Ahmed, Donna Daun, Eric Miller, Eyal Bergman, Fadi Yousif, George Kuhrts, Guerline Jozef, Holly Arnold, Jamie Schroercolurt, Jessica Marin, Juan Estrada, Justin Mudekereza, Kate Morrissey, Kirsten Moore, Laura Alessio, Lucia Acevedo, Mariana Venegas, Mary Rutland, Michelle Ly, Munquith Alhajjaj, Nawal Alkatib, Paola Guzman, Priscilla Campos, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Ross Fackrell, Saif Ayoob, Samantha Hurst, Sheri Easterly, Sodaba Sherzai, Sumitra, Susan Schiele, Tiffany Tang

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), and Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
- c. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 40 paid members. SDRF has met their membership goal for 2017. Membership fees are used to fund SDRF task forces which have a small budget for the year. Membership fees will increase slightly for 2018. Oren thanked the thirty-five-member organizations completed the online survey regarding membership fees.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** Eight individuals signed up for the task force at the Advocacy Resource table at the World Refugee Day event.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No update
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force had a resource table at the World Refugee Day event.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** No update.
- e. **Health Task Force:** Susan Hagos thanked the many health-related organizations that participated in the SDRF World Refugee Day Event. Over 200 dental kits were distributed.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The SDRF World Refugee event was held on June 17th and was attended by over 200 individuals. Maggie Fenn thanked the many individuals and organizations who contributed to the event. This year's event included a Kids' Corner with many different activities for children that was manned by volunteers coordinated by Diana Rhodes.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No update
- b. **Catholic Charities:** No Update
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** Nine (9) arrivals in May 2017 and nine arrivals to date in June. All arrivals were from Afghanistan.

- d. ***Jewish Family Services:*** Nine (9) arrivals in May 2017 and nine arrivals to date in June. All arrivals were from Afghanistan.
5. ***County Agencies and Committees***
 - a. ***County (Abdi Abdillahi):*** Total number of arrivals for the month of May was 136. Refugees were from Iraq (35%), Afghanistan 23%; Syria (13%) and Other Countries 30%. Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County to date during current federal fiscal year is 2,217. When reporting CalWorks cases, one family is considered one case. County arrival data is posted on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the “Resources” tab.
 - b. ***State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):*** Mohammed Tuama reported that the California has been approved for 9,358 arrivals in current federal fiscal year. Based on arrivals to date, California can resettle up to 830 remaining arrivals between now and September 30, 2017.
 - c. ***Refugee Health (Christine Murto):*** Christine Murto reported that 136 refugee arrivals had health screenings in May 2017. She also shared information about the Community Action Partnership (CAP) programs for senior refugees. Senior refugees can receive individualized assistance is selecting a health care plan that is best for them
 6. ***Focus Presentation: 2017 Refugee Resilience Awards***
 - a. Rebecca acknowledged the presence of representatives from Congressman Vargas and Senator Feinstein’s office at today’s meeting.
 - b. Awards were presented to nine refugees/asylees who have been in the U.S. for five years or less and who have demonstrated outstanding resilience and contributions to the community. Individuals were nominated by members of the San Diego Refugee Forum.
 - c. **Award Recipients:**
 - i. Giselle De La Rosa, presented by Survivors of Torture, International
 - ii. Hawazin Khalef, presented by IRC San Diego
 - iii. Mohammad Fatih. presented by IRC San Diego.
 - iv. Mustafa Thabit, presented by IRC San Diego.
 - v. Mwadawa Saidi, presented by IRC San Diego.
 - vi. Rand Fadhiil, presented by Christine Liboon, IRC San Diego.
 - vii. Saif Ayoob, presented by Newcomers Support and Development
 - viii. Shatha Dahash, presented by License to Freedom.
 - ix. Toh Neh, presented by Karen Organization of San Diego
 7. ***Community Updates:***
 - a. Eyal Bergman and superintendent of his school district went to Washington D.C. to advocate for additional funding for refugee children.
 - b. Women Empowerment raised money for micro-loans for women. They are looking for cultural dancers for a fund-raising event.
 - c. Family Health Centers of San Diego is looking for a bilingual (Arabic-English) child development specialist.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Alvin Cook, Andrea Silva, Awichu Akwanya, Becky Levine, Bridget de la Garza, Carmen Hernandez, Danielle Eguiza, David Murphy, Deona Dorsey, Donnaly Crull, Guerline Jozef, Jackline Mola, Justin Kramer, Kathi Anderson, Kim Thomas, Kirsten Moore, Kelly Wright, Lizeth Lopez, Lori Gutierrez, Lucia Acevedo, Madelyne Wagner, Munquith Alhaijaj, Oliver Cabana, Oren Robinson, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shannon, Rudy Vargas, Ryan Williams, Shyln Guarian, Vernita Gutierrez, Viviana S. Sherman, Zachary Rivera

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), and Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
- c. Forum participants introduced themselves.
- d. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) gave the following report:
 - i. Current membership is 43.
 - ii. Benefits of membership include being able to nominate individuals for the forums' annual Refugee Resilience Award, vote during elections, have a resource table at the forum's World Refugee Day Event at no cost, and have name posted on forum website.
 - iii. Membership fees can be paid online at www.sdrefugeeforum.org or by check.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** Rebecca Miranda reported that the Advocacy Task force met last week and decided to focus on events to increase awareness of refugee issues. Will develop action toolkit and will be looking for educational materials related to advocacy to distribute at events. Rebecca Miranda was elected co-chair of the task force. The next meeting of the Advocacy task force will be August 8, 2017 at 12 p.m. at the Alliance for African Assistance.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates
- d. **Employment Task Force:** No updates
- e. **Health Task Force:** Madelyne Wagner reported that the Health Task Force met on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Agenda included a presentation by the Legal Aid Society of San Diego: Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy. The next meeting of the Health Task Force will be Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Niles Sisters Development Initiative.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** Maggie Fenn suggested that anyone who has pictures of the event, please post them to the Word Refugee Day Facebook page.

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
 - a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No updates
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** No updates
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** Thirteen (13) arrivals in June 2017 from Afghanistan and Somalia. David Murphy shared update on the current status of court rulings on refugee arrivals which is changing on a weekly basis. Current maximum number of arrivals in U.S. for 2017 federal fiscal year is 50,000, and this number has been met. Because the original cap was 110,000, there are many refugees in the pipeline. No additional refugees admitted unless they have been accepted by a resettlement agency and have a “bona fide” U.S. tie.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Fifty-two (52) arrivals in June (mostly SIVs from Afghanistan and Iraq). Twenty-six (26) arrivals expected in July.
5. *County Agencies and Committees*
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** Total number of arrivals for the month of June 2017 was 136, similar to the previous month’s total number of 138. Monthly refugee arrivals report now includes data at the bottom of page listing the number of CalWORKS cases, number of *individuals within the* CalWORKS cases including children, and number of singles or couples with no children. Monthly refugee arrival data is posted on the forum website under “Resources” tab.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):** Maggie Fenn reported that the by-laws are being revised to modify the member voting process. The newly elected SAC members will be invited to the August SAC meeting. The next State Advisory Council meeting will be an in-person meeting that is open to the public, no need to RSVP. This meeting will be Wednesday, August 30, 2017, 8:00-9:00 a.m. at the Wyndham San Diego Bayside, 1355 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego 92101.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No updates
6. *Focus Presentation: Overview of Resources Provided by Mental Health America, San Diego Focusing on Minority Mental Health presented by Jacki Mola*
 - a. Focus is to promote mental health wellness education. Promote prevention, treatment, and maintenance of mental health problems. Hope to break down the stigma of getting help for mental health, especially for those that are under-served.
 - b. Offers Mental Health First-Aid trainings. Minimum of 10 participants required.
 - c. All programs are free and funded by the County.
 - d. Programs Offered:
 - i. Breaking down Barriers.
 - ii. Father 2 Child.
 - iii. Father 2 Child Second Chance Mentoring
 - e. Services & Activities
 - i. Educational Presentations
 - ii. Advocacy
 - iii. Information and Referral Services
 - f. Advisory groups. Jackeline welcomes participation of anyone from the community who supports the target populations.

- g. The PowerPoint of this presentation will be posted on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under "Resources."
7. *Spotlight Presentation: Haitian Bridge Alliance, Inc. (HBA) presented by Guerline Jozef*
- a. Began in April 2016 when there was an arrival of individuals from Haitian arriving in U.S. via Mexico who walked from Brazil after earthquake and economic hardships in Haiti.
 - b. HBA helped Haitians get to their final destinations such as New York
 - c. Services provided:
 - i. Translation services.
 - ii. Legal clinics
 - iii. Employment readiness program (in Creole)
 - iv. Drivers Ed program
 - v. Toy drive
 - vi. Assistance getting passport
 - vii. Visits and translation for Haitians who are detained.
 - viii. Support Needed: financial, translation, and other.
8. *Community Updates:*
- a. Rebecca Paida acknowledged representatives from local government offices who are in attendance at today's meeting.
 - b. Bread and Rose Center for Feminist Research and Activism, San Diego State University, is conducting research (survey) aimed at building a directory of organizations that serve refugee populations and the services they offer. The link to the survey is goo.gl/ZES5y3. If questions, contact Dhaha Nur, dnur@sdsu.edu.
 - c. A resource fair for social workers will be held in November. (Shalyn Guarian, County of San Diego, Child Welfare Services.)
 - d. The East African Community Center is hosting an event for for male youth and parents on August 11, 2017 from 2-5 p.m. Focus on it mental health. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Awichu Akwanya, aawichu@unitedwomenofeastafrika.org
 - e. The CARE Community Center is having its first resource fair, Saturday, July 29th 2017 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 p.m. located at 12 N. Euclid Ave, National City, CA 91950. Resources will include food bank, mobile health clinic, housing assistance, Medi-Cal and Cal-Fresh enrollment, workshops and more; Contact: Oliver Cabana, DA's office, oliver.cabana@sdcdca.org.
 - f. Nile Sisters Development Initiative has three upcoming events. Information on these event is available on their website.
 - i. Refugee and Ethnic Populations Health Convening hosted in partnership with the Office of Minority Health Resource Center. Dates: July 20-21, 2017. Location: San Diego State University. Free of charge.
 - ii. Panel of South Sudanese leaders and stakeholders, "Refugee Crisis: Spotlight on South Sudan" August 17, 2017. Reserve spot on NSDI website.
 - iii. Community Picnic, supported by City of San Diego, International Affairs Board, Date: August 5, 2017.
 - iv. The City of San Diego International Affairs Board and Human Relations Commission is hosting a joint meeting on the subject of refugees in San Diego.

Date: July 19, 2017, 5:30 p.m. Location: Silver Room, City Administration Building Concourse, 202 C. St. San Diego, 92101. Contact: Joel Day.

- v. Mohammed Tuama shared that a resolution was recently adopted to establish an indoor soccer field in El Cajon. Pilot project to provide civic engagement for refugees will start in August 2017. First job and resource fair for skilled and foreign credentialed newcomers will be held October 26, 2017.
- vi. Kirsten Moore, co-chair of San Diego Refugee Forum said thank you and farewell as she will be moving from the U.S. at the end of the month.
- vii. Bridget de la Garza reminded everyone that up for the San Diego Refugee Forum listserv to share and receive community announcement. The link to join is located on the main page of the www.sdtypeforum.org.

9. *Approval of Minutes*

- a. Approval of Minutes from June 2017. Kirsten Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from June 20, 2017 general meeting. Maggie Fenn seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: August 15, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Adrian U., Andrea Frost, Angel C., Ann V., Anne Hoiberg, Arwazakir Kakavand, Awichu Akwanya, Bridget de la Garza, Dan Nyamangah, Elizabeth Castro, Elizabeth Lou, Fred Miller, Heather S., Holly Arnold, Ilena Gurdino, Jason Berrovitch, Jennifer Norala, Jessica Mia, Juan Estrada, Juan McClendon, Julie Herbst, Kate Morrissey, Luis Lechuga, Madeline Kristoff, Madelyne Wagner, Monica Knight, Paola Guzman, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shannon, Rodolfo Pallares, Roxana Popescu, Sarah Pinto, Shyln Guarian, Vernita Gutierrez

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair) and Bridget de la Garza (Secretary) were present.
- c. Rebecca gave the following report on behalf of Oren Robinson (Treasurer):
 - i. Current membership is 43.
 - ii. The San Diego Refugee Forum is offering an opportunity drawing to members of the forum to win one of three free tickets to attend the Refugee Summit in San Diego, August 30-31, 2017. A link with the entry form will be emailed to the forum listserv and to those who signed up during the meeting. Any number of submissions may be made for an organizational member, but there will be no more than one ticket issued per member organization. Deadline to enter is Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** Rebecca Miranda reported that the Advocacy Task force met August 8th and is pleased to have many new members. The task force is creating a toolkit of educational material that can be used to increase awareness of refugees and refugee-related issues at community events. The task force welcomes contribution of material for the action toolkit. Information on the next meeting of the Employment Task Force will be sent out on the San Diego Refugee Forum listserv.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates
- d. **Employment Task Force:** Mohammed Tuama reported that the Employment Task Force last met on August 8, 2017. The task force discussed supporting existing employment efforts of SDRF member organizations such as the Job & Resources Expo that is being organized by the Newcomers Support and Development on October 26, 2017 in El Cajon. Information on the next meeting of the Employment Task Force will be sent out on the San Diego Refugee Forum listserv.

- e. **Health Task Force:** Madelyne Wagner reported that the Health Task Force last met on August 8, 2017. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., and will include a presentation by the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT).
 - f. **World Refugee Day:** No updates
4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No updates
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** No updates
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** There were twelve (12) arrivals in June 2017. A few cases are scheduled for the month of August.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Recent cases have been SIV.
5. *County Agencies and Committees*
- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** Total number of arrivals in the County of San Diego for the month of July 2017 was 104. This includes 104 individuals eligible for CalWORKs including children and 19 singles or couples without children under the age of 18, similar to the previous month's total number of 138. Arrivals to date in Federal Fiscal Year 2017 have been: 34% from Iraq, 25% from Afghanistan; 12% from Syria, and 29% from other countries. Monthly refugee arrival data is posted on the forum website under "Resources" tab.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):** Mohammed Tuama reported that the SAC recently elected two individuals to fill the public seats: Kathi Anderson, Survivors of Torture International, and an individual from Sacramento. The next State Advisory Council meeting will be an in-person meeting that is open to the public. No need to RSVP. This meeting will be Wednesday, August 30, 2017, 8:00-9:00 a.m. at the Wyndham San Diego Bayside, 1355 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego 92101.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Christine Murto reported that there 89 individuals screened in July. Seventy-two (72) from Afghanistan and the others from Iran, Iraq, Kenya, and Somalia.
6. *Focus Presentation: Overview of CalWORKS Housing Support Program presented by Rudy Pallares, Program Specialist II, Housing Support Programs, County of San Diego*
- a. The Housing Support Program provides assistance to CalWORKS families experiencing barriers to self-sufficiency due to homelessness or housing instability. The goal for the Housing Support Program is rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. It involved intensive case management and subsequent wrap-around services to foster housing retention. This presentation included: Eligibility criteria; service delivery models, referral process, program design, services and benefits, challenges, and questions and answers.
7. *Spotlight Presentation: Overview of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) presented by Mejgan Afshan, Public Affairs and Policy Coordinator, CAIR San Diego*
- a. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. The San Diego Chapter was established as a full-time office in 2006 to serve the needs American Muslims in San Diego County. The mission of

CAIR is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. The presentation included an overview of the programs offered related to civil rights, civic engagement, community outreach, youth empowerment, and education, and ways to get involved. CAIR San Diego offers services of a Pro Bono lawyer who has helped cases of individual from various backgrounds.

8. *Community Updates:*

- a. Rebecca Paida, Chair, acknowledged representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Susan Davis, Representative Scott Peters, and Representative Juan Vargas who are in attendance at today's meeting.
- b. Sarah Pinto announced that the San Diego County Public Health has a program to address prevention of Zika virus infection and can provide training to organizations that work with pregnant women.
- c. Mohammed Tuama announced that the NSD is organizing the 1st Annual Skilled & Foreign Credentialed Newcomers Job & Resources Expo on October 26, 2017. Mohammed will send information on this event to the San Diego Refugee Forum listserv.
- d. Dan Nygamangh announced that the Crawford Community Collaborative meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The purpose is to connect students, families, and community. The meeting on August 18, 2017 will be at Crawford High School.
- e. Behavioral Health Services is hosting a community input forum (in-person) forum on August 29, 2017 at the Jacobs Center.
- f. The County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program offers assistance to families with children under the age of 6. Refugee families are disproportionately affected by lead poisoning. For more information, contact www.sdlead.org, (619) 692-8487.
- g. Kate Morrissey, San Diego Union Tribune, is interested in talking with individuals regarding today's news regarding unaccompanied minors from Central America.
- h. Bridget de la Garza reminded everyone that up for the San Diego Refugee Forum listserv to share and receive community announcement. The link to join is located on the main page of the www.sdtypeforum.org.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: September 19, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee, 5348 University Ave., Suite 205

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Abby Maayah, Alexander Medvinsky, Andrea Frost, Awichu Akwanya, Bethlehem Degu, Brandon Scott, Carmen Kcomt, Charity White, Deborah Lee, Deona Dorsey, Diana Rhoads, Elizabeth Castro, Elizabeth Lou, Emily Brown, Eric Miller, Hafifa Siddiq, Ilena Gudino, Jackie Mola, Jamie Schoer Colbert, Jane Hoey, Justin Mudekoreza, Kate Morrissey, Katia Garcia, Kelly Wraight, Kim Thomas, Laura Alessio, Laurel Dalsted, Ler Vah Do, Lucia Acevedo, Madeline Kristoff, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Mahvash Alami, Maria Kelly Horsely, Misty Jones, Nancy Cordova, Nawal Alkatib, Neil Hovland, Oliver Cabara, Oren Robinson, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamoon, Tiffany Tang, Virginia Magnus, Will James and William Ackermann

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida opened the meeting and announced that there has been a temporary change to the Executive Committee. Laurel Dalsted is acting Vice-Chair and Madelyne Wagner is acting Secretary until the November elections.
- b. Oren Robinson announced that there are 57 active Refugee Forum members. The benefits of being a Refugee Forum member include being able to vote and participate in the task forces.
- c. The annual officer elections will take place in November for the Vice Chair and Secretary position, along with a vote for proposed changes to the by-laws.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force has been working on participating in national mobilizing efforts around the upcoming Supreme Court decision on December 10th. The task force will meet again on October 2nd at 2 PM at Alliance for African Assistance.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force elected two new Co-Chairs: Ilena Gudino and Deona Dorsey. The Employment Task Force will meet on October 9th at 4 PM at the Alliance for African Assistance. The task force plans to bolster more employment events and engage more employers in their meetings.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at 1 PM at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** No updates

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Alliance for African Assistance has 28 arrivals for the month of August, all SIVs from Afghanistan and Iraq. They expect 18 arrivals for the month of September with a mixed immigration status.
- b. **Catholic Charities:** No representative present.

- c. **International Rescue Committee:** International Rescue Committee had 9 arrivals for the month of August, mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan. They expect 5 arrivals for the month of September from Iraq, Kazakhstan and Somalia.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services had 17 cases for the month of August, mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan. They have 3 cases for the month of September, two of which were self-travel SIVs.
- 5. *County Agencies and Committees*
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** San Diego had 100 arrivals for the month September (49 Afghan, 1 Cuban, 12 Congolese, 1 Ethiopian, 12 Haitian, 1 Iranian and 24 Iraqi). San Diego County has had 2,557 arrivals for the Federal Fiscal Year (Oct '16-Aug '17).
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammad Tuama):** The State Advisory Committee met in August, in person, at the Refugee Summit. This was the first meeting with the new community member, Kathi Anderson of Survivors of Torture, International. There are currently two community members from San Diego on the committee.
 - i. The state of California has \$10 million in funding for the schools impacted with refugees. Mohammad recommended working with the refugee community to discuss how to spend this money.
 - ii. There will not be a State Advisory Committee in September. Information regarding the next SAC meeting will be emailed out to the Refugee Forum.
- 6. *Focus Presentation: What to Know About Your Library by Misty Jones of the San Diego Public Library, City of San Diego*
 - a. The library is FREE all of the time. Every single thing that they offer is free to the San Diego Community.
 - b. The City of San Diego has 35 branches and about 7 million people visited the libraries in 2016.
 - c. Programs/Services:
 - i. Story Time: For youth 1-5 years old to ensure that kids are able to read by the time they enter kindergarten.
 - ii. Free internet and Wi-Fi at all locations
 - iii. Read San Diego: For illiterate adults and new Americans. This program will teach individuals how to read and write in English, as well as math skills.
 - iv. U.S. Citizenship classes and GED programs
 - v. Career Online High School: Accredited high school diploma program
 - vi. Seven International Book Clubs
 - vii. Do Your Homework at the Library: Tutors and volunteers at 18 different locations to tutor children after school (6,000 students came through this program last year).
 - viii. STEAM: Program focused on getting young people focused on careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. This is a two-month program and reached over 1,000 children.
 - ix. IDEA Lab: Multimedia lab designed to prepare teens for 21st century jobs by

exposing them to new technology.

- x. Wet Lab: Biology lab in La Jolla
- xi. Innovation Lab: 3D printing and scanning, silhouette cameos, vinyl cutter, sewing and embroidery machines, milling machine, laser cutter, maker classes and workshops
- xii. Early Literacy: Program to make sure children reach grade level reading by 4th Grade.
- xiii. Computer Classes
- xiv. Resume Writing
- xv. Family for Literacy Programs: Brings family unit together to engage in reading as a family.
- xvi. Genealogy: Genealogy resources online
- xvii. E-books, Audiobooks and Magazines can be downloaded online as well
- xviii. College Prep Academy: Jump Start on College Admission Program
- xix. I CAN!: Library services for persons with accessibility needs
- xx. Online articles, encyclopedias, business plan handbooks, tutoring, investment sources, car repair manuals, Rosetta Stone (offered in 30 Languages)
- xxi. Museum Passes that can be checked out
- xxii. Instructor-Led Courses in a variety of topics
- xxiii. Memory Lab
- xxiv. Augmented and Virtual Reality

7. *Spotlight Presentation: Overview of New Neighbor Relief by Justin Mudekereza, Executive Director*

- a. New Neighbor Relief helps refugees start and transition their lives in America.
- b. Three Programs:
 - i. Learning English – help refugees learn English through a program they call “Daily Dose.” Daily Dose is a conversation English program aimed to help refugees use what they learn in their ESL courses in actual conversations with mentors.
 - ii. Job Development – help refugees attend “Welfare to Work” orientation and appointments and partner with service businesses that can potentially hire refugees.
 - iii. Transportation – provide transportation support by helping refugees acquire public transit passes, giving away bicycles, rides to appointments and help studying and preparing for drivers permit and license.

8. *Community Updates:*

- a. The San Diego District Attorney’s office is conducting needs assessments.
- b. There will be a job fair on October 26th for skilled new comers (doctors, engineers, teachers, etc.). This job fair for skilled new comers is the first of its kind. Mohammad Tuama will send an email to the Refugee Forum with the details.

- c. United Women of East Africa is hosting a Suicide Prevention training on Friday, September 22nd from 3-6 PM at City Heights Center 4305 University Avenue, Suite 640, San Diego, CA 92105.
- d. Nile Sisters Development Initiative is hosting an event: Refugee Crisis: Spotlight on South Sudan on Thursday, September 28th from 3:30-5:00 PM at The San Diego Foundation. Tickets are sold out, but the event can be streamed online.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 10:30 AM at the International Rescue Committee.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

Present: Anne Hoiberg, Angel Cametero, Deona Dorsey, Dilkhawaz Ahmed, Elizabeth Lou, Eric Millo, Ilena Gudino, Jackie Mola, Jane Hoey, Janessa Nedney, Joanne Thomasen, Justin Mudekoreza, Juan Estrada, Karly Gersberg, Kate Morrissey, Katia Garcia, Kristen Lowther, Kristen Maher, Madelyne Wagner, Maria Kelly Horsely, Marilyn Leritan, Marjorie Manglinong, Monica Emery, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Oliver Cabara, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamoon, Ryan Williams, Shlyn Guarian, William Ackermann, Virginia Magnus and Vernita Gutierrez.

2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida opened the meeting and made the following announcements:
 - i. There are 58 active Refugee Forum members. All 58 members will be eligible to vote at the November meeting elections. The November quorum will require 30 members present.
 - ii. The Refugee Forum's projected budget for 2018 will be posted online.
 - iii. Task Forces will have the same reimbursement limit of \$500 in 2018.

3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force participated on Dec 10th – community impact
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and there has been a lot of outreach and activities around the county. The main message that is being communicated to victims and survivors is “this is not your fault and you are not alone” and encouraging them to step out of the cycle of violence to a better life. The San Diego Police reported that homicides related to domestic violence have decreased by 20% and there have been 10 domestic violence related homicides this year. The El Cajon Domestic Violence Walk and Rally will be held on October 28, 2017 and will start at the El Cajon Police Department at 9:15 AM.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force had their first meeting with the new Co-Chairs last Friday. Their first initiative is to support the Skilled and Foreign Credentialed Newcomers Job and Resource Expo on Thursday, October 26th at 10 AM at the Ronald Regan Community Center (195 E Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020). The meeting was also used to brainstorm for future activities including a hiring fair in the spring that would focus on entry level positions for refugee participants. The Employment Task Force will be on Monday, November 13th at 2 PM at Alliance for African Assistance.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force is working on translating the Medi-Cal Early Registration Maps/Charts into 13 different languages and hopes to have this available by early 2018. The Health Task Force will meet on Tuesday, November 14th at 1 PM at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** No updates

4. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No representative Present
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** No representative present.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** International Rescue Committee had 5 arrivals for the month of September. They expect 10 arrivals for the month of October from Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services had 6 cases for the month of September, two of which were self-travel from Iraq and Afghanistan. There are currently no placements for the month of October.
- 5. **County Agencies and Committees**
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** The County of San Diego had 78 arrivals for the month of September (45 Afghan, 1 Cuban, 2 Ethiopian, 2 Kenyan, 7 Kazakhstan, 12 Iraqi, 6 Pakistani, 1 Republic of Congo, 1 Somali and 1 Sudanese). For the 2016-2017 Federal Fiscal Year, the County of San Diego has 2,635 total arrivals (33% Iraqi, 27% Afghan, 12% Syrian and 29% other). This is a 35% decrease from the previous Federal Fiscal Year.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammad Tuama):** The State Advisory Committee will have nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The next meeting will take place on December 14th and the information will be sent out to the Refugee Forum.
- 6. **By Laws Committee**
 - a. 5 Proposed Changes to the by-laws:
 - i. Include Advocacy Task Force
 - ii. Increase Dues
 - iii. Add definition of an Ethnic Community Based Organization (ECBO)
 - iv. Discounted due for ECBO's
 - v. Task Force/Committee Changes
 - 1. Distinguish the Executive Committee from the Task Forces
 - 2. Project task force budgets every year
 - 3. Define "Active" and "Inactive" task force
 - 4. Only active task forces may get reimbursed
 - 5. Exempt Word Refugee Day Committee
 - b. RSVP for the November elections on the Refugee Forum website:
<http://www.sdrefugeeforum.org/>
- 7. **Nominating Committee**
 - a. The Nominating Committee has only received two nominations for the elections and is hoping to receive at least two more. If you are interested in becoming an officer for the San Diego Refugee Forum you will need to have someone nominate you.
- 8. **Focus Presentation: Overview of C.A.R.E Program by Oliver Cabana, Crime Prevention Specialist, San Diego County District Attorney's Office**
 - a. C.A.R.E stands for Community Action Resource and Engagement
 - b. The C.A.R.E Program offers the following services:
 - i. Free meeting rooms for the community.
 - ii. Free assessment rooms for service providers
 - iii. Free Computer Access
 - iv. Youth Advisory Board
 - v. Community Youth Court

- vi. Interfaith Advisory Board
 - vii. Community Stakeholders Meeting
 - c. The C.A.R.E Program is located at 12 North Euclid Avenue, National City, San Diego, CA 91950
 - d. Contact information: info@sdcarecenter.org or 619-356-4489
 - e. www.sdcda.org
- 9. *Spotlight Presentation: Overview of YALLA by William Ackerman, Community Programs Manager for YALLA*
 - a. Four Main Programs
 - i. K-8 Academy Program
 - 1. Uses online programs and Chromebooks to provide lesson plans which conform to the needs of the learner
 - ii. YALLA Futures (9th-10th)
 - 1. Provides high school level tutoring and prepares student for college application process
 - iii. College Bound (11th-12th)
 - 1. ACT/SAT Prep, college counseling, college essay writing, and connections to colleges and university
 - iv. Soccer Program
 - 1. K-8 youth, YALLA subsidizes cost of competing in the Presidio League
 - b. www.YALLAsd.org
 - c. William Ackerman - william@yallasd.com
- 10. *Community Updates:*
 - a. Multicultural Fair on November 4, 2017 from 11AM to 2 PM at EJE Academies (851 S. Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020). The Newcomers Collaborative of El Cajon will be celebrating our diverse communities here in El Cajon by hosting this event with food, music and resource tables.
 - b. The Center for World Music is looking to profile experienced musician story tellers in order to start a dialogue around the music to create an opportunity to explore the richness that these musicians and cultures bring to the community. They are looking to connect with local artists. Contact Monica Emery at monica@centerforworldmusic.org or 858-882-7734.
 - c. First Annual Skilled and Foreign Credentialed Newcomers Job and Resource Expo on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 10 AM at the Ronal Regan Community Center in El Cajon. Mohammad Tuama is specifically looking for contacts from Qualcomm and the UCSD Extension Program. If anyone has any contacts from these organizations, please reach out to Mohammad.
 - d. On Tuesday, November 7, 2017 there will be a free community dinner and performance of the Twelfth Night at St. Michael's Chaldean Catholic Church. For more information, call 619-631-7400.
 - e. October is Breast Health Awareness Month – Vernita Gutierrez from Planned Parenthood would like to remind all women to get screened.

- f. October is also Let's Talk Month. Let's Talk Month is a national public education campaign to encourage parent/child communication about sexuality. Planned Parenthood provides tools for parents to have this talk with their children.
- g. Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services 7th Annual Family Health and Wellness Fair on November 17, 2017 from 1-4 PM. If you are interested in hosting a resource table, please contact Nawal Alkatib at nawal.alkatib@syhc.org
- h. Ryan Williams from Diane Feinstein's Office discussed the Trump Administrations refugee cap of 45,000. The Trump Administration did not consult with Congress until the day before the announcement. There is bipartisan frustration and rejection over the historically low cap and the Judicial Committee will voice this frustration.
- i. Kristen Lowther with SAY San Diego announced that they offer in-home support for expecting mothers up until the child is 3 years old. The program currently has three nurses that speak Somali and can work with this community.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November, 2017 at 10:30 AM at the International Rescue Committee.

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*
2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*
 - a. Rebecca Paida opened the Forum meeting.
 - b. Refugee Forum Officers Rebecca Paida (Chair), Oren Robinson (Treasurer), Madelyne Wagner (Interim Secretary) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.
3. San Diego Refugee Forum Officer Elections – Nominations Committee
 - a. Total of six nominees for the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary: Mejgan Afshan, Annie Gordon, Adeem Ismaeil, Christine Liboon, Jackie Mola and Dhaha Nur
 - b. Naming of the Member-at-Large position at the January Meeting
4. By-Law Changes – By-Laws Committee
 - a. The By-Laws Committee proposed five changes to the San Diego Refugee Forum’s By-Laws, including:
 - i. Adding the Advocacy Task Force
 - ii. Increase membership dues
 - iii. Add section to include a definition of Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBO)
 - iv. Reduce the membership dues for Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBO) defined groups
 - v. Committee/Task Force Changes
5. *Task Force Updates*
 - a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force is working with PANA to provide volunteers for the Refugee Renaissance event.
 - b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** The Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force has been on hiatus for the year.
 - c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force is seeking the support of the East County Domestic Violence Coalition.
 - d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force will begin regular meetings in January.
 - e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force had their last meeting of the year last Tuesday. The Health Task Force sent out a survey that is open to the entire Forum. The Task Force is seeking public opinion on a new meeting date, time and location as well as the types of presentations, projects and resources the community is interested in.
 - f. **World Refugee Day:** No update.
6. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
 - a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No update.
 - b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities has 32 arrivals for the month of October and expects 15 arrivals in the month of November.
 - c. **International Rescue Committee:** No update.
 - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services has mostly assisted SIV cases for the months of October and November.
7. *County Agencies and Committees*

- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):** The County has 95 arrivals for the month of October (72 Afghan, 4 Cuban, 9 Haitian, 6 Iraqi, 1 Mexican, and 3 Syrian). Out of the 95, only 8 had refugee status, 2 were asylees, 15 Cuban/Haitian and 72 SIV.
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama):** The State Department approved 3,500 SIV cases for Afghans in addition to the already approved 10,000. The State Advisory Committee is holding elections on December 14th for the Chair and Vice Chair positions.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** No update.
- 8. **Focus Presentation: Center for World Music by James Gutierrez**
 - a. James Gutierrez provided an overview of Center for World Music and the programs they offer.
 - b. The PDF of the presentation can be found on the Refugee Forum website.
 - c. The Center for World Music is seeking to engage San Diego refugee/asylee artists for a Refugee Artist Series with the goal of educating the public on refugee experiences and contributions.
- 9. **Election Results**
 - a. *Mejgan Asfhan received the most votes, followed by Jackline Mola and Annie Gordan*
 - b. *All the proposed by-law changes were approved.*
- 10. **Community Updates:**
 - a. Karen Organization's Karen New Year will be held on January 13th at 9:30 AM at Crawford High School Auditorium. The event includes free food and performances.
 - b. Refugee Renaissance will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Mingau International Museum in Balboa Park. RSVP @ Voices.PANASD.org
 - c. Catholic Charities will be premiering the documentary "The Right to Thrive" on Tuesday, November 28th at 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego, CA at 6:00 PM.
 - d. Communities for Gateway Growth Grant Update: The grant funds a report that will include data and stories on how refugees and immigrants are integrating into the economy. The goal is to build a report with a series of recommendations for the Mayor and City Council to use as a planning document to better serve and integrate the refugee and immigrant community. The meetings will open up to the public next year.
 - e. There will be a Human Rights Day of Action on December 10th at the Waterfront Park from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.
 - f. The Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is offering Bystander and Ally training and scheduling these trainings for 2018.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Joint Officers' and Task Force Co-Chairs Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2017 - 2:30-3:30 p.m.
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave. San Diego CA 92105

Present: Bonnie Cutler, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Laurel Dalsted, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, Oren Robinson, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Susan Hagos

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Rebecca welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of forum officers and task force co-chairs.
 - b. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were in attendance.
 - c. Representation at the meeting included:
 - i. Advocacy: Rebecca Miranda, Oren Robinson
 - ii. Asylee/Asylum Seekers: None
 - iii. Domestic Violence: None
 - iv. Employment: Bonnie Cutler
 - v. Health: Madelyne Wagner, Susan Hagos, Rebecca Paida
 - vi. World Refugee Day: Maggie Fenn, Laurel Dalsted
2. Review of Current Task Force Work
 - a. Advocacy
 - i. Co-Chairs: Ramla Sahid and TBD
 - ii. Meets on regular basis, but participation has been inconsistent
 - iii. Participated in several events in 2016, but did not host any events
 - b. Asylee/Asylum Seekers
 - i. Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Lopez and TBD
 - ii. Reported that participation has been somewhat limited
 - c. Domestic Violence
 - i. Co-Chairs: Dilkhaz Ahmed and Afrah Abdulkade
 - ii. No report
 - d. Employment
 - i. Co-Chairs: Bonnie Cutler and TBD
 - ii. In 2016, the Employment Task Force organized four successful events with attendance approximately at 100 each.
 - e. Health
 - i. Co-Chairs: Madelyne Wagner and Susan Hagos
 - ii. Last meeting was January 11, 2017 and 22 individuals attended.
 - iii. Created a set of operating guidelines that includes background and mission, participants, officers, responsibilities, meetings, communication, and external network partnerships.
 - iv. Working on identifying a focus for 2017
 - v. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2017 from 1-3 PM at Nile Sisters Development Initiative
 - f. World Refugee Day
 - i. Co-Chairs: Maggie Fenn and Laurel Dalsted

- ii. Venue for 2017 World Refugee Day event, considering City Heights library and adjacent park
 - iii. Will get food permit
 - iv. Consider partner organizations that could collaborate on event and increase participation
 - v. Time: late afternoon seemed to work better than previous morning; possibly schedule to overlap with Farmers Market
 - vi. Will link SDRF World Refugee Day Facebook page with SDRF general Facebook page
- 3. Review Current Task Force Operating Guidelines
 - a. Discussed possibly using the operating guidelines created by Health Task Force to create guidelines to be used by all the task forces.
 - b. Bridget will check the SDRF Dropbox to check for other operating guidelines that may have been used in the past.
 - c. Current practice has been Task Force chair must be a member of SDRF. Discussed whether or not membership should also be requirement to attend and participate in task force meetings. Decided that this might limit participation.
- 4. SDRF Meeting Location
 - a. Laurel will look into use of space at Bridge of Hope church and Joan Kroc Center.
 - b. Considered San Diego Metro Workforce and Horace Mann Middle School, however, these venues are unlikely to be available on a consistent basis.
- 5. SDRF Operational Budget
 - a. Individual membership is \$30 per year and organizational membership is \$60.
 - b. Need to promote membership on our social media. Benefits are name on SDRF social media, can be elected an officer or co-chair, and have a resource table at the World Refugee Day.
 - c. Oren will implement an option to pay membership online.
- 6. SDRF Social Media
 - a. We currently have two live Facebook pages: general SDRF and the World Refugee Day event page.
 - b. Oren is working on getting access to a Twitter account.
 - c. Currently have two Google groups. When we get sdrefugee.org email, we will shut down the older one group.
 - d. Do we want to share personal stories on Facebook to increase awareness of refugees?
- 7. Announcements/Other
 - a. Discussed possible focus for Advocacy task force
 - b. Discussed inviting government officials to SDRF

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 PM

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 27, 2017 - 3:30-4:30 p.m.
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave. San Diego CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Oren Robinson, Rebecca Paida

1. Updates from General January Meeting.
 - a. Attendance at the January 17, 2017 meeting was 68.
 - b. Space was adequate for the number of attendees, but officers will continue to look for larger meeting space
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Membership
 - i. Current membership for 2017 is 7.
 - ii. "Pay and Join" option is now active on the SDRF website. There is a \$2 fee for online credit card payment. Officers decided not to add the \$2 fee to cost of membership, keeping the cost of individual membership at \$30 and the organizational membership at \$60.
 - iii. It was agreed to set up the program so that an invoice will automatically be sent to purchaser prior to their annual membership being due.
 - iv. Decided to establish a deadline of April 1, 2017 to pay 2017 dues at the current cost. After April 1, the cost will be increased by \$5 for individual and \$10 for organizational memberships. Rebecca will announce this at the February general forum meeting.
 - v. Discussed possibility of increasing membership dues for 2018 with vote by forum members so forum can continue to provide \$500 annual budget to each of the task forces.
 - vi. Discussed access to SDRF listserv and decided to keep the listserv open to the public with ability to post to the listserv limited to members.
 - vii. Oren and Bridget will draft a message to send out via listserv and Facebook to encourage people to renew their membership for 2017 and share the benefits of membership.
3. Updates from Co-Chairs and Officers' Meeting
 - a. Venue
 - i. February meeting will be located at IRC
 - ii. Will continue to look for larger venue for future meetings, possibly Joan Kroc Center
 - b. Social Media
 - i. Decided to post guidelines for media on the SDRF Facebook and website indicating that media are welcome to attend forum meetings, but video and audio recordings of meetings are not allowed without prior consent of the forum officers. Kirsten will draft a statement to be posted on SDRF social media.
 - ii. Rebecca asked if the forum could offer a listing of current employment opportunities for refugees that service providers could access. Officers decided to table this discussion for another meeting.
 - iii. Oren has created a master list of all SDRF account information (social media and banking) and is trying to reclaim the domain name of sdrefugee.org

- c. Task Forces
 - i. Reviewed the current list of task force co-chairs and scheduled meeting dates of task force.
 - ii. Some of the task forces have been more active than others.
 - iii. Officers' tabled this topic for another meeting.
- 4. Planning for February Meeting
 - a. Agenda for February 21, 2017 meeting
 - i. Chief Deputy City Attorney Lara Easton is tentatively scheduled to present.
 - ii. San Diego Futures Foundation is tentatively scheduled to present.
 - iii. Possibly invite David Murphy, IRC San Diego to speak on the president's Executive Order signed 1/27/17 that significantly changes the U.S. refugee resettlement program.
 - b. Future Meetings
 - i. Rebecca reached out to the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants for possible future presentation to the forum. Do we have the capability to offer a live-cast? A back-up plan would be to have a video-taped presentation.
- 5. Other Items
 - a. Discussed plan for responding to media requests regarding the Executive Order. Rather than respond to media requests on the spot, officers will request interview questions prior to responding and will have prepared talking points.
 - b. SDRF statement on Executive Order.
 - i. Kirsten will draft a statement to be posted on the forum Facebook and website and share with officers.

Adjourned at 4:45 PM

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2017 - 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave., San Diego CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Oren Robinson, Rebecca Paida

1. Updates from Last General Meeting (February 21, 2017)
 - a. Attendance: 54 individuals signed in.
 - b. Discussed ways to improve the sharing of information during the Community Announcements portion of the meeting. Bridget will post a sign at the sign in desk to remind attendees to sign in.
 - c. Google groups. Discussed using a moderated (permission required to post) model versus public version. Currently, SDRF uses a public version. Discussed offering the member benefit of having limited posting to the SDRF Facebook page and officers decided to offer this incentive at March general meeting.
2. Planning for Next General Meeting (March 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: Spotlight Presentation: Vision for Justice Collaborative Annie Ruttenber and Roberto Sarmiento San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (Tentative)
 - b. Spotlight: Shlyn Guarian, Community Outreach Liaison County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency – Central Region (Confirmed)
3. Treasurer and Membership Report
 - a. Membership
 - i. Current membership for 2017 is 24 (19 are organizational and 5 individuals).
 - 12 members have paid online. (7 organizations and 4 individuals)
 - Currently we have about 50% of the membership we had at the end of the 2016
 - ii. Oren will announce that membership for pending members (paid in 2016) who have not yet paid in 2017 will pay an increase membership fee. After April 1, 2017 the cost will be increased by \$5 for individual and \$10 for organizational memberships.
 - iii. Membership fees for 2018. Oren will send an email to all forum members encouraging to renew their membership and will do a short online survey.
 - iv. Decided that any increase of membership fees for 2018 will be voted on by forum members. Oren will announce this at the March 2017 meeting.
 - i. Discussed access to SDRF listserv and decided to keep the listserv open to the public.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 24, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Mann Middle School, Room 203B

Present: Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Rebecca Paidá, Oren Robinson

1. Updates from last General Meeting (March 21, 2017)
2. Planning for next meeting (April 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: Panel Discussion: The Roles of Ethnic-Based Community Organizations and Assimilation and Planning
 - i. Identified ECBO's to invite
 - ii. Oren Robinson will moderate the panel discussion
 - iii. Created questions to ask panel members
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: None due to panel discussion
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Currently 24 paid members (15 organizations and 9 individual members).
 - b. The benefits of membership are having name on the SDRF website, members can post to and receive messages on the SDRF email distribution list, free resource table at the World Refugee Event in June 2017, and have the ability to vote on SDRF matters and. Online payment option is available.
 - c. Discussed membership fees.
 - d. Oren will send out a survey will be sent out soon to elicit feedback related to cost of membership fees.
4. Task Force Updates
 - a. Reviewed meeting activity of the various task forces

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, April 21, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave., San Diego CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Oren Robinson, Rebecca Paida

1. Updates from last General Meeting (April 2017)
 - a. Officers discussed how the general forum meeting went on April 21 which featured a panel presentation of ECBOs. Discussed possible ways to provide opportunities for organizations to have a discussion of concerns and issues.
 - b. County Department of Purchasing and Contracts offers regularly scheduled informational workshops for ECBOs and other organizations to learn how the County contract process.
 - c. Rebecca will connect with Racheal, County DPC regarding possibly sharing information at forum meeting or workshop.
2. Planning for Next General Meeting (May 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: Dr. Sierra Washington, Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest (Confirmed)
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: Mohammed Tuama, Newcomers Support & Development (Confirmed)
 - c. Rebecca reached out to the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants for possible future presentation to the forum. Do we have the capability to offer a live-cast? A back-up plan would be to have a video-taped presentation.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Membership
 - i. Current membership for 2017 is 32.
 - ii. Thirty-two (32) survey regarding possible membership fee increase.
 - iii. Discussed increase of memberships: organizations increase by \$15 and individuals by \$5.
 - iv. Oren shared themes in survey results focusing on desire for increased opportunities for networking and opportunity to hear from refugees about the lives and stories.
4. Refugee Resilience Awards
 - a. Will be presented at the general meeting in June.
 - b. Members will nominate candidates and officers reviewed nominations and select top five.
5. Other Items
 - a. Rebecca would like to reconvene the joint Executive Officers' and Task Force Chair meeting
 - b. Some individuals are interested in serving as co-chairs for the Advocacy task force
 - c. Rebecca drafted a letter to Senator Kamala Harris. Officers will review.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave., San Diego CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Rebecca Paidá, Oren Robinson

1. Updates from Last General Meeting (May 2017)
 - a. 46 individuals signed in at the May 17th meeting.
 - b. Discussed whether it would be helpful to request presenters' presentations ahead of the meeting and/or providing presenters with brief guidelines for presentations. Decided to table this topic at this time.
2. Planning Next General Meeting (June 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: None due to 2017 Refugee Resilience Awards
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: None due to 2017 Refugee Resilience Awards
3. 2017 Refugee Resilience Awards
 - a. Membership
 - i. Current membership for 2017 is 38, which is 90% of our goal to reach the amount needed to cover budget.
 - ii. Possibly announce membership fee increase at July 2017 general forum meeting. This increase would begin January 2018.
4. World Refugee Day Celebration
 - a. Previous officers' approved budget of \$3,000 for this event. Costs of previous World Refugee Events have varied significantly depending upon the venue used
 - b. Next meeting of the World Refugee Day Task Force meeting is to be determined.
5. SDRF Meeting Location. Discussed various options.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
PANA 4089 Fairmount Ave., San Diego CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdullahi, Laurel Dalsted, Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Rebecca Paida

1. Updates from Last General Meeting (June 17, 2017)
 - a. Approximately 80 individuals attended the June meeting, but many did not sign in.
 - b. Discussed sign-in procedures. Decided to have one sheet with member organizations and blank sign-in sheet for others attendees. Individuals sign in upon arrival but also have pass a blank sign-in sheet around during the meeting for people to sign.
 - c. Rebecca shared that a member expressed a concern about confidentiality related to SDRF Refugee Resilience Awardee. Rebecca will follow up with the member.
 - d. Rebecca will touch base with Oren regarding purchasing of \$100 gift cards to be given to the nine recipients of the Refugee Resilience Awards.
2. Planning for Next Meeting (July 18, 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: Jacqueline Mola, Mental Health of America, San Diego Focusing on Minority Mental Health (Confirmed)
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: Guerline, Jozef, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Inc. (Confirmed)
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Not available for this meeting, but will shared with officers via email.
4. Review of 2017 World Refugee Day Celebration.

Summary Report on 2017 World Refugee Day Celebration
Submitted by World Refugee Day Task Force

- 30 organizations RSVP'd for the event for resource tables, nearly all showed up
- 1 vendor table RSVP'd but did not show
- 4 cultural tables: Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Burma
- 3 performances, 2 speakers (Congresswoman Susan Davis and the SDPD Assistant Chief Kaye)
- The activity tables are always a fantastic part of this event, it draws a lot of kids and they have a great time participating.
- The incorporation of the raffle prizes was done this year and well received, we provided passports for the kids to pick-up when they got there and have them stamped – once complete they could return to the information table for a raffle ticket.
- Photo booth with the World Refugee Day banner was popular, this is something started in 2016
- The Henna artist (which we paid \$250 for the day, participants did not have to pay for their henna)
- HHSA East Region used some available funds this year for printing of flyers through Xerox and rental of tents, chairs and belly bars – if anything the tents (there were 7) were a huge help, we had 75 chairs and 5 belly bars which could be scaled back for the future and possibly add tables to the order to have some extra
- Facebook was utilized quite a bit this year and brought our event to the public; Laurel did a great job of posting facts and information about the event on a daily basis to draw attention. There were some of us that posted live videos the day of the event which brought people out – they saw our videos and decided to come by.

- Tagging participating organizations was really beneficial to social media outreach as many of them then shared the event helping it to reach a wider audience
- Had good media coverage this year, the event was mentioned on KPBS the evening before with the location etc., the Union Tribune was there the day of and did a nice article, and the Iraqi station IMN was there as well.

Ideas for Future World Refugee Day Events

- Depending on where the event is held, renting tables and tents may be a good option – have a set number of spaces and have people pay a small fee to participate (maybe something small like \$20, or one price for Forum members and one for those that are not). At the start of each event there is a lot of questions and confusion as where to set-up and if we have tables. We indicated in a variety of spots in our correspondence that tables, chairs and tents are not provided yet every year there are a handful that show-up with nothing.
- If you are unable to get the food permits, food trucks may be open to providing a set number of plates or a discounted price if you pay them. I made the request via www.sdfoodtrucks.com and it was super easy to coordinate/communicate
- This year we extended it an hour from 1-4 to 12-4 – I'd suggest going with 3 hours, people started wrapping up at about 3:15, it was a bit of a long day.
- Allow yourself at least 2 to 2.5 hours for set-up
- Collaboration with the Farmer's Market – there may be vendors that want to bring their things over to the event after the market closes. We attempt to get there several weeks prior to the event to spread the word; however it's one of those tasks that never get completed.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, July 28, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
via Teleconference

Present: Bridget de la Garza, Kirsten Moore, Rebecca Paida, Oren Robinson

1. Updates from General Meeting on July 18, 2017
 - a. Following each meeting, Rebecca regularly thanks presenters via telephone.
 - b. Decided the SDRF secretary could also send thank you to presenter via email with invitation to join forum email listerv; and, for those who are not already a member, information on becoming a member.
2. Planning for Next Meeting (August 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: HHSA CalWorks (Tentative)
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: Mejgan Afshan, CAIR, (Confirmed)
3. 2017 World Refugee Day Celebration
 - a. Total cost for 2017 World Refugee Event was approximately \$1,500; however, forum received a \$1,000 donation from the County of San Diego, resulting an expenditure of only \$500.
 - b. Decided that projected budget for 2018 should include a budget of \$1,500 for the World Refugee Day.
 - c. Oren suggested including the projected 2018 in the 2017 Annual Report.
 - d. Four payees for World Refugee Day will be paid when new SDRF checkbook arrives.
4. Refugee Resilience Award Updates
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Current balance is approximately \$10,000. Oren will confirm balance and email this to the officers. This balance does not include the approximate \$450 to be paid in reimbursements for World Refugee Day expenditures.
 - b. Oren will review format of Treasurer Reports in the 2016 Annual Report in preparation for the 2017 Annual Report.
 - c. Membership: Two new organizations joined in the month of July. Current membership exceeds our 2017 goal of 40 members.
6. Task Force Updates
 - a. Advocacy. Rebecca Miranda is new co-chair. This task force recently established operating guidelines. Ramla Sahid initiated this task force in March 2016.
 - b. Asylum. This task force has been inactive in 2017.
 - c. Employment Task Force. This task force has been inactive in recent months. Some members have expressed an interest in activating this task force.
 - d. Health Task Force. Has been meeting regularly and has established operating guidelines.
 - e. Discussed possible options for acknowledging task forces that are inactive.
 - f. Rebecca will invite all task force chairs to a joint meeting with officers. Officers will request an updated list of meeting dates, participants, and operating guidelines.
7. Refugee Summit Scholarships for SDRF Members

- a. Decided to offer five (5) scholarships to SDRF members to attend the Refugee Summit Registration Fees. Scholarships will be in the amount of \$190 which is the regular registration fee for the summit.
 - b. Oren will purchase tickets and draft an email to be sent to members regarding this scholarship opportunity.
 - c. SDRF members can apply for the scholarship, which will be selected via lottery. Only one scholarship per member organization will be awarded.
8. Other Items
- a. Gateway for the Growth Challenge, City of San Diego grant. Rebecca sent officers an email about this.
 - b. Officer Election. Discussed language in by-laws for filling officer positions when individual is not able to complete their term of office. Two officer positions need to be filled: Vice Chair and Secretary. Rebecca will follow up with officers regarding this.
 - c. SDRF Meeting Location. This item was tabled for next Officers' meeting.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, August 25, 2017 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
via Teleconference

Present: Abdi Abdullahi, Bridget de la Garza, Rebecca Paida, Oren Robinson

1. Updates from last general meeting (August 2017)
 - a. Abdi will request the contact information for the program presented at the meeting (Housing Support Program, County of San Diego) so it can be shared on the SDRF website.
2. Planning for next meeting (September 2017)
 - a. Focus Presentation: Misty Jones, Director, Public Library Program (Tentative)
 - b. Spotlight Presentation: Justin Mudekereza, Executive Director, New Neighbor Relief (Confirmed)
3. Task Force Updates
 - a. Asylum. This task force is not active at this time. Rebecca will reach out to Elizabeth Lopez.
 - b. Advocacy. Next meeting is scheduled and date is posted on SDRF website.
 - c. Employment. This task force has been recently reinvigorated. At the next meeting, operating guidelines will be discussed along with mission, goals, and role of co-chairs. At this time there is no chair or co-chairs. Next meeting is scheduled for September.
 - d. Domestic Violence. This task force is not active at this time.
 - e. Oren suggested we propose changes to the by-laws in regard to the task forces and present proposed changes at the October meeting.
4. Refugee Summit Scholarships for SDRF Members
 - a. There were 23 unique submissions.
 - b. Officers used an online random number generator to randomly draw three winning numbers from a randomized list of the 23 submissions.
 - c. Winners are Rebecca Miranda, Donnaly S. Crull, and Madelyne Wagner
 - d. Winners-up are Mohammed Tuama; Arwa Kakavand; and Rahma Weldeselase
5. Other Items
 - a. Officer Election. Elections will be held in November 2017 for the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary.
 - b. SDRF Meeting Location.
 - i. CARE Community Center located at 12 North Euclid Avenue, National City, CA 91950, is available for meeting space at no cost. Has technology, parking, and can accommodate up to 100 people.
 - ii. Decided to continue meeting location at IRC for the months of September, October, and November.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
September 22, 2017 at 3:30 PM
4089 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Present: Rebecca Paidá, Laurel Dalsted, Abdi Abdillahi, Oren Robinson and Madelyne Wagner

1. General Meeting
 - a. The City of San Diego Library sent PowerPoint to be posted on website.
 - b. The structure of the general meetings should be posted on the website so that the speakers understand their time slot and what should be covered – Madelyne will create this.
2. Treasurer
 - a. Oren contacted all of the members from 2016 that didn't renew and about half renewed.
 - b. Employment Task Force sent a request for reimbursement for \$500.
 - c. The Refugee Forum's Facebook and Twitter are currently active; however there hasn't been any additional or targeted outreach for new members.
 - d. Oren created budget projections that have been added to the Google Drive.
 - e. Rebecca proposed a gift card for Bridget for her work at Secretary.
3. Planning for October Meeting
 - a. Focus
 - i. Panel of local reporters covering refugee resettlement and immigration. With the Refugee Forum's media policy, Rebecca wants to give the reporters an opportunity to introduce themselves, what they cover and how to get in touch with them.
 - b. Spotlight
 - i. Laurel has been in touch with Oliver from the District Attorney's office to speak on the Care Center. If the interim District Attorney, Bonnie Dumanis, is able to present, then the presentation will become the focus presentation.
4. Task Forces
 - a. The Advocacy, Employment and Health Task Force are all functioning task forces.
 - b. The Domestic Violence and Asylum Seekers Task Force need to be revamped. Rebecca will reach out to the Co-Chairs of each.
 - c. The two co-chairs for each task force need to be members of the Refugee Forum.
5. By Laws
 - a. Two ad-hoc committees have been created – one for the officer elections and one for the by-law changes.
 - i. By Law Committee: Rebecca Miranda, Awichu Akwanya, Jackie Mola, Justin Mudekereza.
 - ii. Election Committee: Maria Kelly Horsely,
 - b. The By Laws Committee will present to the Executive Committee before presenting the changes to the Forum. The four changes that need to be presented include:
 - i. Advocacy Task Force needs to be added.
 - ii. Increase dues
 - iii. Community-based Member Organization distinction

- iv. Budgets and Task Force Allowances – need to define an active vs. delinquent task force.
- c. Other by law suggestion include:
 - i. Discounted membership rate for students and ECBOs
 - ii. Defining when a task force can be created and then added to the by laws
- 6. Language Access
 - a. African Coalition Workforce and New Neighbor Relief reached out to Rebecca regarding AB 635 and language access. This is an issue that the Health Task Force might take on, but it is possible that an ad-hoc committee may be formed on this issue.
- 7. Movie Event
 - a. Rebecca Miranda reached out to Rebecca Paida about the Advocacy Task Force screening the movie Human Flow. Rebecca Miranda wanted to know if the Refugee Forum would want to make this a Refugee Forum special event. All of the Executive Committee members agreed that this could be a great marketing event for the forum.
- 8. Year of Solidarity
 - a. On February 27, 2017, Council President Cole alongside Councilmember Gomez, proudly proclaimed 2017 to be the Year of Solidarity in the City of San Diego. The City of San Diego recognizes that the inclusion of all San Diego's diverse communities in civic conversation and decision making process is an integral part in shaping our region's future.
 - i. Rebecca suggested that the Forum can highlight this and build on the Gateways for Growth Grant
- 9. Survey
 - a. Rebecca suggested sending out a survey to the Refugee Forum members for those who attended the Refugee Summit.
- 10. Video
 - a. Rebecca suggested that Oren create a video of all of the work that the Refugee Forum has done this year – including photos from member organization highlighting the benefits they receive from being a member

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
October 25, 2017 - 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
4089 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Present: Abdi Abdillahi, Laurel Dalsted, Madelyne Wagner and Oren Robinson

1. Treasury
 - a. The officers present approved the purchasing of a checkbook for the refugee forum to reimburse task forces.
 - b. The Health Task Force made a request for reimbursement of \$500 for a translation project.
 - c. Public Consulting Group (PCG) has paid their 2017 membership fees. Abdi informed them that this membership payment is only good for the 2017 calendar year.
2. By-Law Changes
 - a. The goal is to revise the by-laws so that they can be followed closely by future officers.
 - b. In the future, changes may need to be made in regards to membership voting. In the current by-laws it states “members can exercise their vote no sooner than two months following receipts of their membership dues.” There isn’t a need for a two month waiting period.
 - c. The by-laws state that there is a “Member at Large” position, which could be one of the nominees if they are interested.
3. Website
 - a. A document will be added to the Refugee Forum website that includes a list of all the previous officers.
 - b. Google Translate has been added to the website.
4. Google Group
 - a. It may be helpful to remind the Forum that the Google Group can be used by anyone to share resources, exchange information, ask questions and make announcements pertaining to communities of refugees, asylees and asylum seekers.
 - b. Officers should look into creating a community calendar.
5. Annual Report
 - a. Madelyne has started working on the annual report and reaching out to the task force co-chairs for their reports.

San Diego Refugee Forum Executive Committee Meeting
December 6, 2017 - 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
6035 University Avenue #19, San Diego, CA 92105

1. January Meeting Presentations
 - a. Focus Presenter Ideas
 - i. Dr. Sheila, Elizabeth Lopez and Kathi Anderson wrote a report that they would like to present on. Kathi Anderson may not be available in January so it might be better to push this back to February.
 - ii. SANDAG
 - iii. City of San Diego on Welcome San Diego
 - b. Spotlight: Running out of ECBO options.
2. Election Results/Officer Transition
 - a. January meeting will determine the roles of the incoming officers.
 - b. Oren will email Mejgan and Jackie to see what positions they are interested in. If they want the same position, the person with the highest votes (Mejgan) will get first choice.
 - c. Oren has already updated the by-laws.
3. Annual Report
 - a. The Annual Report is about 95% complete.
 - i. The Financial Report is the only thing missing at this time.
 - b. Task Force/Co-Chair Review
 - i. Asylum Seeker Task Force was on hiatus last year.
 - ii. The Domestic Violence Task Force was formed in April 2012 and has been chaired by Dilkhawaz Ahmed since its formation.
 - iii. Task Force's need to submit some kind of records (i.e. minutes or agenda) on a quarterly basis
4. Gateways for Growth Update
 - a. Now being called "Welcome San Diego"
 - b. In February they intend on hosting a symposium
5. Additional by-law changes and operating guidelines for Executive Committee
 - a. Additional language for task force co-chair term limits
 - b. Voting Guidelines
 - c. Additional information about ECBO's reduced membership fee – may want to add eligibility requirements (i.e. less than 10 employees).
 - d. Operating Guidelines for the Executive Committee
 - i. Letters of support for grants
 - ii. Create Google Groups to ensure that a record is kept on the decisions that were made outside of Executive Committee Meetings
 - iii. Executive Committee Budget for printing
6. Treasurer Report:
7. Website Links:
 - a. The Forum Officers approved \$25 a month in order to fix our website links.

8. Secretary Report
 - a. Madelyne created a new agenda for the general meeting.
9. Refugee Forum location change
 - a. International Rescue Committee
 - b. District Attorney office in National City
 - c. East African Center
 - d. Church off of 54th
 - e. Library

Action Items

- Madelyne will create a survey for Refugee Forum members for presentation ideas.
- Oren will send out an email to Mejgan and Jackie to see what positions they are interested in.
- Oren will create the Financial Report for the Annual Report.
- Madelyne will send out an email to the Google Group when the Annual Report is complete.
- Madelyne will add Kathi Anderson to the updated agenda.
- Madelyne will look into the minutes about the member-at-large position.
- Madelyne will send an invoice for the Health Task Force budget.
- Madelyne will upload the PDF that gives a meeting rundown to the website

Tabled Items

- Executive Committee Operating Guidelines and Budget
- Rebecca suggested creating an Ad Hoc Committee for Welcoming San Diego
- Potential scholarships
- New meeting location