

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Call to order at 10:30 am

Welcome and Introductions:

San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Youth Services, SAY San Diego, Survivors of Torture International, Somali Family SVC, IRC, USD, Center for Community Solutions, Anne Holiberg, Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego, HHSA, Access Inc, EC Collab, Tabernacle African C. Refugee, Public Health Services, Heritage Bridge, Union of Pan Asian Communities, David C Robertson, New Neighbor Relief, Karen Organization of San Diego, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, Public Consulting Group, PANA, SCN San Diego, KOSD, CMSS/SYHealth, JFS and LWV Volunteer.

- I. **Membership and Financials:** The San Diego Refugee Forum meets every third (3rd) Tuesday of the month from 10.30- 12.00pm. Membership is open to the public; we have close to 60 organizations that are members so far this year. As a member, you can be a part of any task force, be listed on the website, get a vendor table at the World Refugee Day and CO-Chair a Taskforce.
- II. **Task Force Updates**
 1. **Advocacy Task Force:** Next meeting will be July 12th at 4:00pm.
 2. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On a Hiatus, anyone interested in this role please reach out to us.
 3. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** Held our meeting June 14th, had a strategic planning meeting. We will be compiling a letter based off of the information discussed. Love is not abuse is the phrase we narrowed down to for the PSA coming up in November. We want to target the youth population more. We are considering using social media and translating information posted as well. Looking to collaborate with the employment taskforce. Looking into having a domestic violence community forum. Looking into establishing a taskforce emergency fund. Our next meeting is July 12th from 10:00-11:30 at the Little House.
 4. **Employment Task Force:** Working on an employer mixer taking place August 17th to advocate for the community and encourage employers to see the value in hiring refugees. Next meeting July 9th.
 5. **Health Task Force:** The Trauma Informed Care Shop took place June 12th and was a success. There will be another Trauma-Informed Care Shop July 20th from 10:00am-12:00pm at 211, you can still be added to the waitlist.

Also updated medical maps and charts to better serve refugee, it has also been translated into other languages.

6. **World Refugee Day Planning Committee:** We will be holding the event June 23rd at Copley Price YMCA. This location provides us with more space for food and indoor seats.

III. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and County Updates

1. Total for FFY 370. As of May there was a total of 28. 15 from Afghanistan. 7 from Democratic Republic of Congo. 1 from El Salvador. 2 from Haiti. 2 from Iraq. 1 from Nigeria.

Resettlement Agency:

1. Catholic Charities: No arrivals scheduled for the year
2. IRC will be hosting a culinary arts course. It will be in the mornings for 6 weeks.
3. Jewish Family Services: Deferred

State Advisory Committee: Staff will be meeting at regional all refugee day.

IV. Community Announcements:

1. Looking for at hawk committee by looking through bylaws in November.
2. Tribune looking to write an article on impact SD is experiencing due to lack of arrivals.
3. Access Inc has a program called Save Legal Collaborative Network that helps victims of domestic violence and sex-trafficking. It is located at the Little House in El Cajon.

Refugee Resilience Awards

- V. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Jackline Mola- Motion to Approve Minutes, all in favor.

- VI. **Adjournment** 12:00pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday July 17th, 2018