

# San Diego Refugee Forum

## Minutes

Tuesday, April 17th, 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:

Elizabeth Liddell, Hani Duale, Ayan Mohammed, Monica Melgoza, Priya Gheriff, Naomi Pease, Luella A, Rebecca Miranda, Molly Fer, Nicky R., Abdi Abdillahi, Aveen Ahmed, Mohammed Salehi, Mary Cory, Neil A, Ahmed Agil, Javier Gomez, Danielle Choi, Ross F, Oliver Cabana, Nichole Pinkowski, Jennifer Navala, Naoval Aukatib, Saul Hoey, Yustina Said, Rita Shamoon, Anali Garces, Ryan Williams, Angel C, Jackie Mola, Rebecca Paida, Bob Walsh, Ciria Brewer, Carolyn Oya, Elizabeth Lou, Justin M., Mohammed Tuama.

### I. Membership and Financials

1. Last year we had 60 members, we just had 30 members renew. You do not have to be a member to join. As a member, you can be a part of any task force and get a vendor table at the world refugee day.

### II. Task Force Updates

1. **Advocacy Task Force:** Developing a score card and candidate questionnaire that will be distributed to candidates running for local offices. We are also working on the national mobilization for oral arguments for Hawaii versus Trump orders. Planning marketing and outreach with world refugee day committee. Still actively looking for another co-chair.
2. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On a Hiatus, anyone interested in this please reach out.
3. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** Held meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> discussing multicultural event in November. We're planning to print a lot of different collaterals and what a healthy relationship looks like and sharing with the community. Next meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup> 10-11:30am.
4. **Employment Task Force:** Deferred
5. **Health Task Force:** Elected Spshelle Rutledge as the new Co-chair. Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> will be a panel discussing public benefits for asylum seekers at Molina healthcare. The second event will be a trauma informed care workshop. More detailed information is available on the SD Refugee Forum website.

6. **World Refugee Day Planning Committee:** We will be holding the event June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Resettlement Agency:

1. Catholic Charities: Deferred
2. Alliance for African Assistance: Deferred
3. Jewish Family Services: Deferred
4. IRC- Arrival numbers, 17 in March and 16 so far this month

State Advisory Committee: No updates outside of 10 million dollars the state allocated to school districts impacted by refugees. It is called the California Newcomers Education and Well-Being Fund. The money will be distributed to each district.

County:

1. We have 57 arrivals. For the fiscal year, we have 507. For the month of March, the County of San Diego welcomed 32 Afghan, 6 Congolese, 1 Eritrean, 7 Haitian, 2 Iraqi, 9 Sri Lankan. 24 were SIV, 7 were Cuban/Haitians. 15 were singles or couples or couples with no children, and 42 were family members.

### **IV. Presentations: 15 minutes 60 minutes-**

Focus: A Guide to Language Access

- Presenter: Madelyne Wagner, CEO of Native Interpreting

Spotlight: ACLU San Diego and Imperial Counties

- Presenter: Esme Flores

*Presentations are available at [sdrefugeeforum.org](http://sdrefugeeforum.org) under minutes.*

### **V. Community Announcements:**

1. Louie- Mission-Driven Finance. Typically a lot of refugee and immigrants do not qualify for loans with banks, because of various factors such as having no credit rating or collateral. We step into that space and lend at a very reasonable rate. (858) 945-7572 Louie Nguyen, please connect with me on LinkedIn as well.

2. Cuyumaca College career fair. \$50.00 fee to attend April 25<sup>th</sup>
3. DA office has a fair this weekend
4. East county economic council. Careers in manufacturing May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cuyumaca College. Event is for job seekers and college students interested in manufacturing.
5. Employment taskforce meeting May 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30.
6. SeaWorld is hiring, they have 40 new positions. High school level education. Pays \$11.85 an hour, weekend. Guaranteed interview.
7. Analee Gonzalez. Nutrition educator for county.
8. Bus-line, trolley use, language April 31<sup>st</sup> El Cajon Police Department.
9. CARE SD provides legal services. Pro Bono lawyer. Uptick in racial and discrimination and they are there to help.

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

**VII. Adjournment** 12:00pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday May 15th, 2018