

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, May 15th, 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:

CHIP/RLA, IRC, SDSU, HHS, HHS-Refugee, COSD HHS, County of SD, American Red Cross, Haitian Bridge Alliance, University of California Los Angeles, CAIR, EC Collab, UPAC, AAPCA3, CMSS-SYHealth, Cuyamaca College, NCRC, PANA, DA's Office, San Diego Union Tribune, SD National History Museum, UCIS, Refugee Net, East Region Adult Education, San Diego Unified School District, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, Native Interpreting, Maria Kelly Horsley, Somali Family Service of San Diego, Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego, Anne Holiberg, Oren Robinson, Women's Empowerment International and Mental Health of America.

I. Membership and Financials

1. 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 40 organizations that are members so far this year. 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:** Secured two film screenings leading up to world refugees day. June 7th is our next meeting. We're in the process of completing the 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. We're planning marketing and outreach with the World Refugee Day committee. We're still actively looking for another co-chair.
2. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On a Hiatus, anyone interested in this role please reach out.
3. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** We meet every other month.
4. **Employment Task Force:** Deferred
5. **Health Task Force:** Public Health for asylum seekers. We have two events coming up. Our first Trauma Informed Care Shop will be June 12th from 10:00am-12:00pm. This workshop is already booked up. There will be another Trauma-Informed Care Shop July 20th from 10:00am-12:00pm
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 April there was a total of 51. 46 Afghanistan. 1 Democratic Republic of Congo. 1 El Salvador. 1 Haiti. 1 Mexico. 1 Pakistan.

Resettlement Agency:

2. Catholic Charities: No arrivals scheduled for the year
3. Alliance for African Assistance: Deferred
4. Jewish Family Services: Deferred
5. IRC: Arrival numbers, 17 in March and 16 so far this month
6. From the Capitol of Sacramento: As a state we received 4,000 refugees. SIVs are the majority, 50% resettled in Sacramento. They are the biggest recipients of SIVs. 20,000 as a country which is very few. Just implemented a brand new program to help students called the California Newcomer's Education and Well-Being Fund. Your county is going to have a big chunk of money for a 3 year period. You are encouraged to work the school district and work out a plan to assist teachers and parents.

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.

June 9th the refugee awards vote will close. Please vote before then

County:

1. We have 57 arrivals. For the fiscal year, we have 507. For the month of March, the

IV. Presentations:

Focus: Resident Leadership Academy Project

- Presenter: Abdi Abdillahi

Presentations are available at sdrefugeeforum.org under minutes.

What would you like to see more of?

1. Administration Muslim Ban is of concern. Where we stand as a nation as far as cuts to refugee acceptance for the future will be known at the end of June.

V. Community Announcements:

1. Native interpreting is having workshop. Saturday June 2nd, enrollment fee is 30 dollars.
2. Danielle White MPH launched MIND. 2nd cohort begins June. It is designed to create health navigators equipping them with the skills needed to help guide people with mental health needs to the right resources.
3. San Diego Natural History Museum called and is committed to opening doors to everyone regardless of background.
4. 9am -10am suicide prevention faith workshop, 3 hours long.
5. There are cooking session lessons, being offered to various people in the community. Pay stipend is being offered to refugee youth. The youth get to cook dishes from different cultures, history. Interested in two more people in line-up.
6. Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a Public Health Event at 1655 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, Ca 92105 10:00am-6:00pm

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

VII. Adjournment 12:00pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday June 15th, 2018