



Date Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Time 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location International Rescue Committee

Address 5348 University Avenue, #205 San Diego, CA 92115

Minutes

Attendance: Aetna; Casa Cornelia Law Center; County of San Diego HHS; El Cajon Collaborative; International Rescue Committee; Karen Organization of San Diego; Newcomers Support and Development(NSD); SAY San Diego; Somali Family Service of San Diego; United Women of East Africa (UWEST); San Diego Youth Services I CARE Program; Grossmont Healthcare District; JACL' San Diego City College Cal Works Program; Asian Pacific Islanders Initiative; East Region Adult Education; Syrian Community Network; UC San Diego Global Health Program; Suzanne Cahill; John B. McNeece III; ABA Immigration Justice Project; Sheriff Department; San Diego Welcome Back Center; Public Consulting Group; Volunteers in Medicine San Diego; A Better Life Together, Inc.; Jewish Family Services; La Maestra Community Health Centers; License to Freedom; Mental Health of America;

Topic

Time

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:34
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
 - We still have about 43 members. If you'd like to sign-up you can do so via a form or online.
 - Elections are coming up quickly in November, and you must be a member in good standing to vote. If you have attempted to sign-in and do not see you or your organization's name it means you are not currently a member in good standing or an active member. October meeting is the last day to pay to be a member and participate in elections. Email or call me if you have any questions.

Resettlement, County, and State Updates

10:40

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**

Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.

Catholic Charities:

This past month featured 13 arrivals which were refugees and SIVs from Afghanistan. 16 Cuban Haitian migrants, with 2-3 more cases coming in every week. As the beginning of 2019, they have had 242 Cuban Haitians.

International Rescue Committee:

We have 25 scheduled so far for the month of September that are primarily refugees and some SIVs who are coming from the DRC, Iraq, Myanmar, and Ukraine.

Jewish Family Services: No updates.

County of San Diego:

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
- For the month of August, we had 65. Their population is increasing in San Diego. They are coming through San Ysidro, and DHS is not issuing any I-94, which prevents them from accessing social security, and other services. We are working towards retroactive payment.



- Primary refugees 25, Asylee 5, Cuban Haitians 21, SIVs 5. For the year of 18-19 we are at a total of 337 refugees, 14 secondary immigration, 54 Asylee, 286 Cuban Haitians, 180 SIVs. For the whole year, it is 876.

- **State Advisory Committee:**

- o Abdi
- o Next meeting will be September 18th from 1:30 pm that will be a teleconference. Please join, and I will send you the information as soon as I receive it.

- **County Refugee Health**

- o No updates.

Task Force Updates: No update

10:45

Review of Bylaws

Looking for 1 person to join ad hoc committee

To become an active task force and be eligible to do an event and receive funding, they must have two active co-chairs, meet regularly, and report directly to the Forum. In November we will be holding elections and selecting a committee to help us with the bylaws, elections and more. Contact the officers if you are interested in joining the ad hoc committee.

Advocacy Task Force:

The Task Force is currently looking for co-chairs to restart the task force. Please email Rebecca Miranda at Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org for more information and to get more involved.

Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:

The last meeting was in June. No Updates. Please email Rebecca Miranda at Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org or contact Patricia Ramirez for more information and to get more involved.

Domestic Violence Task Force:

We are looking into what can be done to enhance the services and resolutions.

We met on September 10th and that month we discussed the shortage of domestic violence services in San Diego. We also addressed what kind of resolution we can bring to improve/increase the services. It was very successful and I believe we really connected with the team. We are meeting hopefully next week and will update when it happens.

Employment Task Force: No updates.

Health Task Force:

Well attended meeting. We met on September 10th and moving forward we will be looking at alternate dates so it isn't conflicted with other meetings. We had a special presentation on how to help internationally trained healthcare workers with license and alternative pathways. We also discussed some projects we want to do this coming year which includes organizing a panel presentation/discussion, revisiting our medical registration maps, also how to spend our health task force funds before it expires. Next meeting is October 8 at 2:30pm at the Price Charities Building.



● **Spotlight Presentation:**

10:55

Topic: Census 2020

Presenter: Joann Fields, Government Public Relations Director for the Asian Pacific Islander Initiative

- To receive funding for projects, grants, etc. the proof comes from the 2020 census. I call this relationship money, power, and respect. There is power in the representation.
- You can respond for the first time online either via the internet, phone, paper form, or in-person.
- It's important for people to know that these responses are confidential and protected. This information will not be shared with any Federal Bureau other than the Census.
- There is a lot at risk here. For example, \$55 billion Medicaid, \$8 billion in Federal Direct Student loans, \$7 billion in food stamps, \$3.5 billion in Section 8 vouchers. We know the demand is high but if we can't prove the need, it is hard to get that allocation of funding.
- There are only 12 non-English languages available on the census: Spanish, Chinese, Polish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Arabic, French, Portuguese, Japanese. We are looking for 59 other languages that are needed so we can reach all the communities that we serve.
- About \$2,000 per person for the next 10 years is at risk if we do not receive an accurate count.
- If you'd like to become involved on the federal level, you can go to [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov)
- On an organizational level you can go to regional offices.
- The Census will be held in April.

● **Focus Presentation:**

11:20

Topic: County Contracts

Presenter: Veronica Ford

● **Community Announcements: All**

11:35

- We are interested in creating a Bylaw Review Task Force, so please if you are interested please talk to any of the officers. We need one more person to fulfill the five person requirement.
- The position of Vice Chair and Secretary will be up for election.
- We will be sending a letter to the previous chair to resolve some residual matters.
- We will send an email regarding the election ad hoc
- Paloma from SD Hunger Coalition: We are drafting some messaging around public charge & food assistance. We are deciding if we should use the term permanent resident or green card holder, if I could have some comments on that. We are looking for legal and healthcare partnerships to standardize our messaging. Cal Fresh meeting this Tuesday at the Price building on the 6th floor 10 am – noon.
- Data Summit to register. There will be a check your Mood Day on October 10th. You can go to [livewellsd.org/mood day](https://livewellsd.org/mood-day) to register.
- Lucia from SAY San Diego Crawford HS – we are really focused on serving students and their families. If families that you're working with need backpack school supplies in the City Heights area, they can come to us. We prefer the families come and make the request. The pick-up would be on Friday. Our center is located at Crawford HS and it's open until 2:30 pm. Ask for Crawford Community Connection.



- Brittany from NCRC – We have a new workshop available to community orgs. Bystander challenge workshop regarding how to go from a bystander to an up stander. If you have a group or staff that would like that I can present to you. The next of the Dialogue series will be held on September 4th. 75 people came to the first one. Please feel empowered to be inviting people to join. The next one will be at Bayview Baptist church.
- United Healthcare – I am a community outreach representative to inform the San Diego county community what services we offer. We also work with the foodbank to see what health services they may be eligible for. If any of you would want to partnership with us, please chat with me afterwards.
- Sheriff’s dept. community relations director – We have been working with the District Attorney’s Office to create more communication with communities that have mental health needs. This helps guide family and community on how to conduct and relay that information when 911 is having to be called. Please contact me if you’re interested. I’m working with SDPD for a community resource fair. We are trying to plan it for October at Colima Park. We will be reaching out to our community resource partners to gauge interest.
- Refugee Health Task Force meeting – We now have a connection at the state level, who is Chief of the Office of Refugee Healthcare for the state of California.

- **Approval of Aug. 2019 Meeting Minutes:** 11:55
 - Due to lack of time, no motion was made to approve minutes
- **Adjournment:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 12:00

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15th, 2019

Join our mailing list at www.sdrefugeeforum.org

Refugee Forum Officers:

Chair Mohammed Tuama	Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)	M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org
Vice Chair Mejgan Afshan	Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	Mafshan@cair.com
Treasurer Ross Fackrell	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Ross.fackrell@rescue.org
Secretary Jackline Mola	Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)	Jmola@mhasd.org