**San Diego Refugee Forum**

**Minutes**

Tuesday, August 21st, 2018 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

**Call to order at 10:38 am**

**Welcome and Introductions: By Rebecca Paida- SDRF Chair**

COSD HHSA, County of SD HHS, BHS, IRC Refugee, American Red Cross, UCSD, UCLA, CAIR, EC Collaborative, UPAC, AAPCA3, CMSS-SY Health, UPAC, District Attorney’s Office, San Diego Union Tribune, UCIS, East Region Adult Education, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, Native Interpreting, Somali Family Service of San Diego, Catholic Charities, Oren Robinson, Women’s Empowerment International and Mental Health of America, Sam Badwell, Robert Walsh, License to Freedom, IRC, Mission Driven Finance, Girl Scouts San Diego, United Women of East Africa, Survivors of Torture International, NDS, VIM, PANA, SDWF, CAIR San Diego, Access INC., CSA San Diego County, No Lost Generation Student Initiative, AAPCA3, Planned Parenthood, San Ysidro Health, PCG, ECC, Office of Congress Woman Susan Davis, JFS, Neighborhood Health Care, SCN, Say First 5, CCS, KRA Career Center, SDPD, City of San Diego, Council District 9,

Chair Rebecca Paida: - Rebecca acknowledged and appreciated those who are part of the forum that have contributed and continue to do great work. Elections will be held in November. We’re also still looking for volunteers for bylaws and elections committee.

**Membership and Financials**

There has been increased financials by approximately $ 866.3. The San Diego Refugee Forum meets every third (3rd) Tuesday of the month form 10.30- 12.00pm. Membership is open to the public; we have reached 60 organizations that are members so far this year. As a member, you can be a part of any task force and host a vendor table at the World Refugee Day.

1. **Task Force Updates** 
   1. **Advocacy Task Force**: July 24th is the 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 working on a fact sheet as well. We’re still actively looking for members to join.
   2. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force**: On a Hiatus, anyone interested in this role please reach out.
   3. **Domestic Violence Task Force**: We are working on cultural competency to make sure the community is served well.
   4. **Employment Task Force**: Next meeting is September 10th. We have an event on Friday called “Meet your Work Force.” Challenges of finding employment. We are looking to meet and collaborate with domestic task force.
   5. **Health Task Force**: Next meeting is September 11th at 1:00 pm at City Heights Library.
   6. **World Refugee Day Planning Committee**:
2. **Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and County Updates** 
   1. As of July there were a total of 67 new arrivals. 15 Afghanistan. 10 Burma. 1 Columbia. 12 Democratic Republic of Congo. 6 Haiti. 4 Iran. 7 Iraq 1 Mexico 9 Pakistan 1 Uganda 1 Venezuela

Resettlement Agency:

1. Alliance for African Assistance: Deferred
2. Jewish Family Services: Deferred

State Advisory Committee: We had a good meeting talking about State funding. We will send email that will show the figures.

County:

1. For the fiscal year, we have 715 Refugee Arrivals
2. **Presentations**:

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| *Focus:* City of San Diego Consolidated Plan Stakeholder Discussion  Michelle Harati, Community Development Project Manager  *Spotlight:* What is a Refugee and The Resettlement Process  Chris and Ilena Girdino and Chris Baca  *Presentations are available at sdrefugeeforum.org under minutes.* |
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1. Open Forum
   1. Free Life Skills and Career Ladder Leadership Academy, 10 week program begin Sep 12th. Target people are 92105 zip code, will be awarded certification and scholarship with a Specific college. Educating them on 4 major diseases affecting community.
   2. Partner Relay is a collaborative effort to improve emergency and public health communication with limited English-speaking and other isolated communities. To join our network please contact [Justine.kuzo@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Justine.kuzo@sdcounty.ca.gov) for more information.
2. **Community Announcements:**
   1. There is a Voice and Choice Women’s Self-Defense Free Class every Monday 10-11:00AM beginning August 27th. All female classes, instruction in English and Arabic. Location is at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church 1430 Melody Lane, El Cajon, CA 92019.
   2. There is an 8 week dance movement and arts therapy workshop where classes are held every Friday from August 17th to October 5th at El Cajon Library, 201 E. Douglass Ave El Cajon, CA 92020. Free admission, open to women and children light refreshments.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Jackline Mola- Motion to Approve Minutes, Chris Baca seconded. All were in favor.
4. **Adjournment** 12:00pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday September 18th, 2018