1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

**Present:** *IRC, HHSA, CAIR, EC Collaborative, UPAC , San Diego Union Tribune, Aetna, 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, Robert Walsh, License to Freedom, United Women of East Africa, Survivors of Torture International, PANA, Access INC, Esther Keleta, San Ysidro Health, PCG, JFS, Neighborhood Health Care, Say San Diego, Public Consulting Group, Family Health Centers San Diego, National Conflict Resolution Center, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, Molina Healthcare.*

1. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*
   1. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
      1. Looking for new leadership and Task Force chairs. November will be our last meeting for 2018. No meeting in December.
   2. Membership and Financials:
      1. The Refugee Forum has 61 total members.
      2. The Chair and Treasurer positions are open. Elections will take place in November. Members in good standing can vote.
      3. Balance for the year so far is positive with a grand total of 10,344.40.
2. *Task Force Updates*
   1. ***Advocacy Task Force:*** Couple of projects in the works. The fact sheet will be sent out shortly. Political candidates’ questionnaire has already been sent out to them. The scorecard is expected to be sent out by the 30th. City of San Diego came to present community-based development grants, we will be compiling a memo, we’d love more people involved. Oct 25th, author will be coming to PANA to present on hate crimes in the U.S and teaching on ways we can untie and promote a more powerful future. Looking to have community survivors present.
   2. ***Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:*** *On hiatus* – *if you have any interest in joining the Asylum Seeker Task Force please contact Rebecca Paida or Mejgan Afshan.*
   3. ***Domestic Violence Task Force:*** October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The taskforce represented the forum at the SD domestic violence kick-off event Oct 10th. Created documents to help the forum become more aware. Compiled a list of trainings to become a domestic violence advocate. Also accumulated a list of resources from domestic violence council. We decided at the last meeting to commit to submitting a resource of the month. Teamed up with employment taskforce. Planning a health and wealth event with the employment taskforce on mental health first aid and more for the first week of November. Flyers will be sent out.
   4. ***Employment Task Force:*** Minutes will be sent out. The next meeting will be in El Cajon Oct 19th. We will need volunteers for our next event first week of November. Employee empowerment award will be given, accepting nominations.
   5. ***Health Task Force:*** Updated medical maps and charts for City Heights and El Cajon and is available in several languages. The Health Task Force will be holding a Mental Health Refugee Panel November 13th at the East African Cultural Center at 1:00p. Looking for a Co-chair.
   6. ***World Refugee Day:*** The World Refugee Day Task Force will begin meeting November. Currently on hold for meetings.
   7. ***Nominating Committee:*** Two officer positions will be open – nominate colleagues/friends – officers do not get to pick the position – accepting nominations
3. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
   1. ***Alliance for African Assistance:*** AAA has 206 for the year September had 22 arrivals inclusive of all groups. Afghan and SIV and DRC were the biggest groups this past year. Accepting interpreters, high need for Swahili and French.
   2. ***Catholic Charities:*** No report presented
   3. ***International Rescue Committee:***
   4. ***Jewish Family Services:***Total of 92 clients, have been resettled for the fiscal year, September, had 2 from Pakistan and 5 from Afghanistan.
4. *County Agencies and Committees*
   1. ***County (Abdi Abdillahi):*** 
      1. The County of San Diego had 54 arrivals for the month of September.
      2. The total number of arrivals for San Diego County for the federal fiscal year (October 2017-September 2018) is 844.
   2. ***State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama and Kathi Anderson):*** No updates
   3. ***Refugee Health (Christine Murto):*** No Updates
5. *Focus Presentation: Media Resources*

Presenters: Kate Morrissey, Immigration Reporter-San Diego Union Tribune, Tarryn Mento, City Heights Reporter-KPS News.

* 1. Presentation available at sdrefugeeforum.org

1. *Spotlight Presentation:* Khaled Bakrawi Center/PYM SD

Presenters: Yazan Z.

* 1. Presentation available at sdrefugeeforum.org

1. *Community Updates:* 
   1. Access Inc. has a workforce development program for youth 16-24 with multiple barriers to education and employment. Have an annual fair Friday with a lot of seasonal hires. Violence against women act is having a dinner Saturday October 27th from 4-7 pm at Marine Village. We have an MSW graduate from USC that has worked with LA refugee and forum and would like to be involved with us as a SAS member or volunteer.
   2. Welcome newcomers meeting is hosting a festival November 3rd in El Cajon
   3. *In City Heights* would like to promote what the forum is doing. Please follow on Facebook/contact/direct message.
   4. The American Red Cross caseworkers at local chapters around the U.S. help families locate missing relatives by working with partners in nearly every country around the world. For more information go to <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/international-services/reconnecting-families.html>

**Adjournment: 12:00 pm**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20th, 2018 at 10:30 AM at the International Rescue Committee