



**Date** Tuesday, April 16th, 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:** Mental Health America of San Diego (MHA); Karen Organization of San Diego; Jewish Family Service S.D.(JFS); American Academy of Pediatrics- CA Chapter 3; Alliance for African Assistance; County of San Diego HHSA; Native Interpreting; Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA); Public Consulting Group; Robert Walsh; Spshelle Rutledge; Somali Family Service of San Diego (SFS); SAY San Diego; San Ysidro Health Center; San Diego Welcome Back Center; St. Luke's; BHS Adult & Older Adult; BHS County of SD; County of San Diego OES; Office of Representative Juan Vargas; Office of Representative Susan Davis; Blue Shield of CA Promise; El Cajon Collaborative; United Nations Association- SD Chapter (UNA); Women's Empowerment International.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Time</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions:</b> Ross Fackrell, Treasurer</li> <li>• <b>Membership &amp; Financials</b> Ross Fackrell, Treasurer               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 ways to make your membership dues- check and regular PayPal payment and PayPal gives a receipt. WRD is coming up fast, and you must pay dues to participate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10:35

**Task Force Updates:** 10:40

**Advocacy Task Force:**

The Advocacy Task Force has continued to work on their website, including the addition of a fact sheet. Their intent going forward is to make the website more interactive and user friendly. The Task Force is currently looking for co-chairs. The next meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans Office. Please email Rebecca Miranda at [Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org](mailto:Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org) for more information and to get more involved.

**Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:**

The Task Force has been preparing for an asylee orientation in May. They have been working on connecting with groups in Anaheim and San Francisco to see how they do orientation meetings and utilize those practices here. Representatives from the Task Force will attend a meeting in Anaheim on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Task Force hosted a viewing party for a film regarding asylees that was very successful. The Task Force will be having their next monthly meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00- 4:00pm at the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans Office. Please email Rebecca Miranda at [Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org](mailto:Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org) for more information and to get more involved.

**Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force did not have an April meeting, so there will be more updates to come in May. The Task Force is still looking for a vice chair, so please reach out to [Dilkhwaz@licensetofreedom.org](mailto:Dilkhwaz@licensetofreedom.org) if you are interested.

**Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force met on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Grossmont College. They will be holding a networking night on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am- 12 pm for refugees to learn how to network and to help them look for employment. They are looking for nominations for a Refugee Resiliency Award. Ideal candidates should exhibit resiliency and self-sufficiency. The next meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the IRC. Please email Ilena Gudino at [ilenag@jfssd.org](mailto:ilenag@jfssd.org) for nominations or more information.



**Health Task Force:** The Task Force met last Tuesday and hosted a presenter from “All of Us” research program. They emphasize the importance of getting more people involved in precision medicine. Additionally, they are looking to have a booth at the World Refugee Day event. The Task Force plans to have a Medi-Cal/Medicare panel and will discuss this possibility next month or in June. The next meeting will be held on May 14th from 1:00-3:00 PM at Alliance for African Assistance.

**World Refugee Day:** The date for the World Refugee Day celebration will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am- 3 pm at the Copley-Price YMCA. Tomorrow the planning committee will meet at the Copley-Price YMCA at 3 pm. The committee is looking for more performers for the event. In order to participate in the World Refugee Day celebrations, you must be a SDRF member in good standing (i.e. pay dues) and complete an application form to have a table at the event. The committee is currently looking into city sponsorship of the event. The Refugee Resiliency Award will be included in the event. There is a high need for more World Refugee Day volunteers and team leaders. The needed positions include a volunteer coordinator, a team to monitor food and activities, program/stage management, and promotion/outreach. Additionally, if you know anyone who is skilled in media or video production, please let us know. Lastly, there will be World Refugee Day t-shirts for purchase. If you know of any affordable graphic design or t-shirt production companies please contact the committee. For more information or interest in helping with volunteers, multi-media, or t-shirts, please email Monica Melgoza at [Monica.Melgoza@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Monica.Melgoza@sdcounty.ca.gov).

#### Resettlement, County, and State Updates

10:45

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**

**Alliance for African Assistance:** No updates.

**Catholic Charities: February:** No updates.

**International Rescue Committee:** 18 refugee arrivals from the DRC, Syria, and Iraq. None were SIVs. 3 Asylees in March and expecting 20 for April coming from the same countries with the addition of Afghanistan. SIVs are expected to trickle in.

**Jewish Family Services:** April had 9 cases and expecting more on 4/24. 3 from Afghanistan that were SIVs. 5 Congolese, 1 Pakistani. 33 Refugee individuals. Expecting 2 cases in May from Iraq.

#### County of San Diego:

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator

- 82 March. 67 families. 15 singles or couples with no children. 391 for the year. March may be the largest month for primary.

- A little more than 12,000 have arrived in the nation, which is not even 50% of the 30,000 limit. JFS 33 individuals, IRC 20, so these numbers are increasing.

- **State Advisory Committee:** The meeting was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and went very well. The discussion was around asylees, as the State is mostly trying to focus on helping this population. The next meeting will be in the Bay Area in San Francisco, hopefully by June or July.

- **Spotlight Presentation:**

11:00

Topic: Refugee Resiliency Award and Committee

Presenter: Jackline Mola, Secretary

- **Focus Presentation:**

11:10

Topic: World Refugee Day



Presenter: Monica Melgoza & Rebecca Miranda, Co-chairs

- **Community Announcements:** All
  - IRC has their 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Documentary Series this May. The dates are May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Approval of March 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by Jackline Mola, Secretary. Motion seconded by Silvia of JFS.
- **Adjournment:** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer 11:30

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**Join our mailing list at [www.sdrefugeeforum.org](http://www.sdrefugeeforum.org)**

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**Refugee Forum Officers:**

Chair | Mohammed Tuama  
Vice Chair | Mejgan Afshan  
Treasurer | Ross Fackrell  
Secretary | Jackline Mola

Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)

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