Minutes

Attendance: Mental Health America of San Diego (MHA); International Rescue Commission (IRC); Nile Sisters Initiative; Jewish Family Service S.D.(JFS); United Women of East Africa(UWEST); SAY San Diego; San Diego Continuing Education (SDCCED); Somali Family Service of San Diego (SFS); Women’s Empowerment; Molina Healthcare; National Conflict Resolution; CASA Cornelia Law Center; Catholica Charities, Diocese of San Diego; County of San Diego HHSA; East Region Adult Education; Anne Hoiberg; American Academy of Pediatrics- California Chapter 3; Karen Organization of San Diego; License to Freedom; San Diego Youth Services (SDYS); San Ysidro Heath; Public Consulting Group; Robert Walsh; Office of Representative Juan Vargas; Office of Representative Susan Davis; El Cajon Collaborative; Aetna Better Health; UPAC; HEAL MEDICAL; PDF San Diego; CASS; Neighborhood Association;

Topic Time
• Welcome & Introductions: Ross Fackrell, Treasurer 10:35
• Membership & Financials Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
  o You can pay your membership dues by check or PayPal. PayPal gives a receipt following payment. World Refugee Day is fast approaching and you must pay dues to participate.

Task Force Updates: 10:40

Advocacy Task Force:

The Advocacy Task Force has no updates. The Task Force is currently looking for co-chairs and meets at the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) office located at 4089 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA 92105. Please email Rebecca Miranda at Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org for more information and to get more involved.

Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:

The next Asylum Seeker Task Force meeting will take place on May 28th, 2019 at 2 pm at PANA located at 4089 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA 92105. They are working on planning a Provider Mixer for organizations that work with asylum-seeking populations as a way to connect with one another, share their work and best practices, and discuss challenges. They welcome outside input! Details to follow. Please email Rebecca Miranda at Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org for more information and to get more involved.

Domestic Violence Task Force:

The Domestic Violence Task Force is collaborating with UWEST and the IRC to secure a location where domestic violence (DV), victims can be referred. There will be no meeting in June. The Task Force is still looking for a vice chair, so please reach out to Dilkhwaz@licensetofreedom.org if you are interested.

Employment Task Force:
The Employment Task Force met on April 15th at Grossmont College. They will be holding a networking night on June 8th from 10 am- 12 pm for refugees to learn how to network and seek employment. They are looking for nominations for the Refugee Resiliency Award. Ideal candidates should exhibit resiliency and self-sufficiency. Please email Ilena Gudino at ilenag@jfssd.org for nominations or more information.

Health Task Force:

The Task Force met last Tuesday, May 14th from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Alliance for African Assistance and hosted a presenter from the “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.

World Refugee Day:

The committee will be selling t-shirts available for purchase at the next meeting on May 29th at 3:00 PM. The World Refugee Day celebration will be on June 22nd from 11 am- 3 pm at the Copley-Price YMCA. If you have not paid your dues, please pay to enable you to have a table. For more information or interest in helping with volunteers, multi-media, or t-shirts, please email Monica Melgoza at Monica.Melgoza@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Resettlement, County, and State Updates- Please see website for up to date information

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**
  - Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.
  - Catholic Charities: April featured one Cuban arrival. May included one Iraqi and 8 Cuban arrivals.
  - International Rescue Committee: April featured 37 arrivals from various countries. May had 21, and 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 they are expecting more on 4/24. 3 from Afghanistan that were SIVs. 5 Congolese, 1 Pakistani. 33 Refugee individuals. Expecting 2 cases in May and 14 individuals from Iraq. May two Afghan, one from Congo. They are expecting a bigger number in June.

**County of San Diego:**

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
  - April 2019 Total: 89. 38 of them are Refugees – See website for more information
  - Total for the Year to Date Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 18-19 is: 484
- Christine Murto, Refugee Health Coordinator
  - 74 Cases of Refugee Health Assessment Program with 15% from Syria and the rest from Haiti.

**State Advisory Committee:**

Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator - The next SAC meeting will be in Oakland, CA on June 13th.

- **Focus Presentation:**
  - Topic: The State Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP)
  - Presenter: The State of California Refugee Programs Bureau
• **Community Announcements**: All
  o Jewish Family Services: Breaking Down Barriers program is new to JFS and we are welcoming volunteers.
  o Jackline Mola, Secretary: The program presented today is new and we want to spread it to the community and ensure that U-Visa applicants are receiving support. If you need more training, please reach out to us.
  o National Conflict Resolution: We will hold a free training on June 28th.
  o The Office of Border Health with the County of San Diego will have emergency preparedness training at the IRC.
  o Say San Diego: They are working with Parents Academy on May 31st for new parents, introducing them on how the school system works.
  o Nile Sisters: They work with DV clients and speak all languages. Please refer them.
  o Head Start: They are reaching out to inform the community that they enroll children 18 months to 3 years of age.

• **Approval of April 16th 2019 Meeting Minutes**: Motion to approve the minutes by Jackline Mola, Secretary. Motion seconded by Silvia of JFS.
• **Adjournment**: Mohammed Tuama, Chair 11:30

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**San Diego Refugee Forum**

Serving all who seek refuge in San Diego

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**Refugee Forum Officers:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Mohammed Tuama</td>
<td>Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org">M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Mejgan Afshan</td>
<td>Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mafshan@cair.com">Mafshan@cair.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ross Fackrell</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Ross.fackrell@rescue.org">Ross.fackrell@rescue.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jackline Mola</td>
<td>Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jmola@mhasd.org">Jmola@mhasd.org</a></td>
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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2019**

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