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

**Present:** *Abdi Abdillahi, Ahmad Agil, Anne Hoiberg, Angel Puerte, Brenda Miko, Carolyn Ouya, Jane Hoey, Lori Gutierrez Madelyne Wagner, Mary Cory, Mejgan Afshan, Michelle Sandoval, Mohammed Tuama, Monica Emery, Muneqith Alhajjas, Oren Robinson, Paola Guzman, Priya Sheriff, Ramla Said, Rebecca Miranda, Shlyn Guarian, Yustina Said, Vernita Gutierrez, Zac Hansen*

1. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*
   1. Mejgan Afshan (Vice Chair) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
      1. Yesterday, the Trump Administration announced that the refugee cap will be set to 30,000 refugees, which is an all time low.
         1. Call congress and let them know that you do not support the refugee cap.
         2. Judiciary Committee Leadership: 1-855-472-8930
   2. Membership and Financials
      1. The Refugee Forum has 71 total members.
      2. Elections for Executive Committee meetings will be in November. The Chair and Treasurer position will be open.
   3. Refugee Forum Officers Mejgan Afshan (Vice Chair), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-offio) were in attendance.
2. *Task Force Updates*
   1. ***Advocacy Task Force:*** The Advocacy Task Force met last Thursday. They have been working on a score card to send out to political candidates for the November elections. They expect to send it out next week and will provide the results before the elections. The Task Force has also been working on a fact sheet for on the San Diego refugee population. The next meeting will be on October 11th at 4 PM at PANA.
   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 DV Task Force is compiling a list of all of the events happening in the County and will share that list with the Forum. The Task Force also intends on hosting two events that focus on domestic violence resources. The Task Force also hopes to partner with the Employment Task Force to put together information on financial abuse and budgeting and safety planning 101 and to gather employment resources for domestic violence survivors. The next meeting will be held on October 11th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at The Little House.
   4. ***Employment Task Force:*** The Employment Task Force is holding their annual Skilled Newcomers Expo on October 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Ronal Reagan Community Center (195 E. Douglas Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020). Please register at <http://www.newcomersd.org/>
   5. ***Health Task Force:*** The Health Task Force will meet on Tuesday, October 9th at 1 PM. The location of the meeting is to be determined.
   6. ***World Refugee Day:*** The World Refugee Day Planning Committee will meet later in the year to begin planning for World Refugee Day 2019.
   7. ***Nominating Committee:*** The Refugee Forum will have two officer positions (Chair and Treasurer) open. Nominations are open. You cannot nominate yourself, so have a friend or colleague nominate you. Elections will take place at the November meeting.
3. *Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates*
   1. ***Alliance for African Assistance:*** AAA has 15 arrivals scheduled for the month of September.
   2. ***Catholic Charities:*** Catholic Charities has 6 arrivals scheduled for the month of September.
   3. ***International Rescue Committee:***IRC had 5 arrivals in the month of August and 17 arrivals scheduled for the month of September. The IRC had 203 arrivals for the entire fiscal year (mostly Afghan, Iraqi, Pakistani, and Congo).
   4. ***Jewish Family Services:*** *No representative present.*
4. *County Agencies and Committees*
   1. ***County (Abdi Abdillahi):*** 
      1. The County of San Diego had 70 arrivals for the month of August.
      2. The total number of arrivals for San Diego County for the federal fiscal year (October 2017-August 2018) is 785
   2. ***State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama and Kathi Anderson):*** SAC had a teleconference last week. Meeting topics included: public charge and CBO vs. ECBO for funding purposes
      1. *Public Charge will not affect populations served by the ORR –* it will only affect the family-based visas.
   3. ***Refugee Health (Christine Murto):*** The Refugee Health Assessment Program saw 55 individuals last month (the majority of which were SIVs from Afghanistan).
5. *Focus Presentation: The Children’s Initiative 2017 – Live Well San Diego Report Card on Children, Families and Community presented by Sarah Mostofi*
   1. Presentation available at sdrefugeeforum.org
   2. Live Well San Diego Report Card on Children, Families, and Community 2017: <https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/17d248_90d2203166734c9fba01ea969097f714.pdf>
6. *Spotlight Presentation: Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans presented by Ramla Said and Rebecca Miranda* 
   1. Presentation available at sdrefugeeforum.org
   2. <https://www.panasd.org/>
7. *Community Updates:* 
   1. The San Diego NAACP will be honoring the San Diego Refugee Forum Chair, Rebecca Paida, on Friday, October 12, 2018 at Kona Kai Resort and Spa at 5:30 p.m.
   2. Nile Sisters Development Initiative is hosting a community workshop on tobacco. For more information and to register for the event, please go to their website <https://nilesisters.org/fulstop/>
   3. The National Conflict Resolution Center is hosting a free Communication and Conflict Resolution Training in Arabic. For information and to register, please contact Yustina Said at (619) 238-2400 ext. 233 or [usaid@ncrconline.com](mailto:usaid@ncrconline.com)
   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>
   5. The IRC is hosting their Refugee Voices Kick-Off Event on September 20th at 5:30 PM at the IRC office in City Heights. Please RSVP to Rayan Kaskos at [rayan.kaskos@rescue.org](mailto:rayan.kaskos@rescue.org)
   6. The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is hosting a community listening session for the Immigrant/Refugee RFP on Wednesday, September 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Copley-Price YMCA.

**Adjournment: 12:00 pm**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 10:30 AM at the International Rescue Committee