



**Date** Tuesday, June 18, 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:** A Better Life Together; Catholic Charities; County of San Diego HHS; Jewish Family Service S.D.(JFS); Karen Organization of San Diego; SDSU School of Social Work; Survivors of Torture Int'l; National Conflict Resolution Center; Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans; Public Consulting Group; San Diego Continuing Education; Somali Family Service of San Diego; Spshelle Rutledge; St. Luke's; Carol Horina; EL Cajon Valley High School; County of San Diego Emergency Services; San Diego Sheriff's Department; Molina Healthcare; San Diego Youth Services; Office of Representative Juan Vargas

**Topic** **Time**

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:35
  - World Refugee Day is this weekend. Come and celebrate!
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
  - There are currently 40 active & paid member organizations, almost all of which signed up to table at World Refugee Day on Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am – 3 pm
  - Hopefully we will surpass last year's attendance numbers!
  - Membership is year-long. If you missed this past deadline you can still be involved as an individual, ECBO, or as an organization. Sign up on the membership tab online.

**Resettlement, County, and State Updates** 10:45

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**
  - Alliance for African Assistance:** No updates.
  - Catholic Charities: February:** No arrivals in June and none anticipated for July. Some in May: Afghan SIV and a single Iraqi SIV; Good amount of Cuban Nation, many single walk-ins. 53 since march 1<sup>st</sup> and 5 so far in June.
  - International Rescue Committee:** 18 refugees for June, not including any SIVs. There are 7 bookings for July. Primary pipeline is from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Afghan, Syria, and Iraq.
  - Jewish Family Services:** In the month of June we expect to see 25 people and 4 cases. 2 from Afghanistan & 2 from the Congo. In July we are expecting 2 cases with a total of 4 people, one from Afghanistan.

**County of San Diego:**

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
- May – 65 (30 refugees, 17 Cuban nation, 3 asylees, 2 trafficking victims, 13 SIVs
- 2018- 2019- 550 total
  - Primary refugees 239, secondary refugees 4, asylees 34, Cuban Nation 143, trafficking 3, SIVs 127
  - 43% of the year is primary refugee, 26% Cuban nation
  - May 46% are refugees
  - Top 3 arrivals: Afghanistan 29% Haiti 26% Congolese 17%, the rest 28%
- Update on arrivals from the state report: refugee as of May 2019 nationwide = Refugees 18,051, SIVs 4,688 for a total of 22,739 out of the 30,000 refugee ceiling.
  - Statewide refugees 1,031, SIVs 1,661 = 2,697



- Based on this rate by the end of September we will be at 27,000 out of the 30,000 cap set by President Trump
- **State Advisory Committee:** 11:16 on recorder
  - o Kathi Anderson
  - o We just had a recent meeting in Oakland last week
  - o Last several meetings have focused on asylum seekers for 1<sup>st</sup> time in history of SAC and the Refugee Programs Bureau that they are the focus. We are very excited.
  - o We have had panelists come and talk to the community from the legal, mental health, education perspective, etc. perspective
  - o Other significant part of the meeting that you may want to pay attention to was dedicated to the GRACE Act, so instead of a cap we would prioritize a minimum threshold number that has to be resettled in the United States
- **County Refugee Health**
  - o May we had a 105 refugees
  - o June we saw 51, largely from Haiti, the Congo, and Iraq
  - o We do case management to help patients who are unfamiliar with our health system, including appointment reminders, home visits, etc. Thus far it has been a very successful program
  - o It would be a good model for any type of health program, especially in terms of look intensive case management

**Task Force Updates:**

11:00

**Advocacy Task Force:**

The Task Force is currently looking for co-chairs to restart the task force. 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:**

Met last month and the next meeting will be Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing the mixer hosting with organizations involved in asylum seeking services. It's an event for the providers to facilitate discussion. We will also be holding an orientation later on in July. 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:** No updates.

**Employment Task Force:** No updates.

**Health Task Force:** No updates.

**World Refugee Day:**

The World Refugee Day Celebration is this Saturday from June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am- 3 pm at the Copely-Price YMCA. We look forward to seeing many of your agencies there. We will have plenty of food, performers, henna artists, so please come and celebrate with us! We will also be presenting the Refugee Resiliency Award to three individuals at the beginning of the event. If you wanted to support in another way, we are selling t-shirts for a \$10 donation and buttons for \$2. If you are interested we will be passing around a sign-up sheet and I brought them with me. If any of you are interested in volunteering please let me or Rebecca know. Please arrive by 10-10:15 to set up your table. Thank you all for participating and see you Saturday! For more information or



interest in helping with volunteers, multi-media, or t-shirts, please email Monica Melgoza at [Monica.Melgoza@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:Monica.Melgoza@sdcountry.ca.gov).

- **Focus Discussion:**

11:05

Topic: Future presenters and presentation topics (Suggestions by the Forum's Members)

- What topics would you like us to discuss? What are the needs of the population? What presenters do you want to see?

Response:

- Cal-Fresh for SSI recipients
- Resources for domestic violence survivors
- Resources for asylum-seekers
- Updates on border activity
- USCIS public charge
  - o All of the refugees/asylees populations are exempted, this only applies for immigrant visa holders
- Overall: Legal assistance
- Housing / Tenant Rights
- Later in the year: census 2020 information
- Arabic speaker led classes in schools
- Youth mentoring within the school district – CalNew Fund

- **Spotlight Discussion:** Task Forces

11:25

- According to the by-laws, task forces need to have 2 co-chairs otherwise they are not an active task force
- We would like to move task forces towards emerging needs of the community
- Refugee Youth Mentoring Program for ages 15- 24
- Manage care plans is a great resource created by the task force
- Elizabeth Jackson: We work with the developmentally disabled. We are trying to get the word out that these services are available to eligible refugees. Possible presentation?
- We are trying to see if there are any ideas for events to respond to the needs of the community
- We have the funding for task forces, and we would like to use it to provide resources to the community
- Please join a task force! Bring a project to the community!
- San Diego Refugee Forum is the best in California 😊

- **Community Announcements:** All

11:35

- Mohammed Tuama: June 25<sup>th</sup> is my birthday
- Rebecca: We are excited to announce the World Refugee Day sponsorship levels on our website as soon as we get the confirmations from the organizations. We are very thankful for all our sponsors and their contributions towards making this an even better event than last year!
- Increased visibility for the Resiliency Award
- Childhood Poisoning Prevention Program – We have a new Arabic speaking public health nurse on our program who will be tabling at the health fair
- Art of Inclusive Communication Training – free lunch, certificate of completion, \$100 gift card. We working on a Path Forward program that will be interfaith intercultural dialogue that will work on improving community cohesion and moving forward from recent tragedy in Poway. It is open to anyone so please come and invite everyone on July 25<sup>th</sup>



- Sheriff’s Department, Community Relations – If there is any interest on the public safety side such as domestic violence, please let us know. My primary goal is to go into the communities and bridge the gap. We want to build that collaboration amongst the community.
- Silvia Barragan, lecturer at the School of Social Work – in our undergrad we have a diverse student body, which then thins out in the Masters program. Price philanthropy is sponsoring a City Heights Masters of Social Work scholarship. We hope to attract those from the Southeast Asian pop as well as the East African population with a mental health bent. Full scholarship for 2 years at the MSW and the internship would be in City Heights for those residents. Information session June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am at the Price Philanthropy Building; another on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. You can find more info at the MSW SDSU website.
- Vital Aging Summit June 19<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 2:30 free community event at the San Diego Convention Center
- Go to the San Diego Refugee Forum website and send any info with the flyers to share!
- After the SDSU informational please come to WRD after!
- **Approval of May 2019 Meeting Minutes:** 11:45
  - Brittney Ochira NCRC & Seconded by Hassan from Somali Family Services
- **Adjournment:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 11:50

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July, 16th 2019**

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

**Refugee Forum Officers:**

Chair   Mohammed Tuama	Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)	M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org
Vice Chair   Mejgan Afshan	Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	Mafshan@cair.com
Treasurer   Ross Fackrell	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Ross.fackrell@rescue.org
Secretary   Jackline Mola	Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)	Jmola@mhasd.org