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| **Date** | Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | **Location** | International Rescue Committee |
| **Time** | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | **Address** | 5348 University Avenue, #205 San Diego, CA 92115 |

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Alliance for African Assistance, Casa Cornelia, Catholic Charities, City of San Diego, County of San Diego HHS, Child Welfare Services, IRC, JFS, Karen Organization, Molina Healthcare, NCRC, PCG, San Diego Community College District, SD Youth Services, San Ysidro Health Center, SAY San Diego, Somali Bantu Community of SD, Somali Family Service of SD, Survivors of Torture, United Women of East Africa, Behavioral Health Services County of San Diego, Legal Aid Society, SD County Refugee Health, San Diego Workforce Partnership, San Diego Miramar College CalWorks, Ken Lavigna, A Better Life Together, Alexandra Greene, Office of Binational Border Health, Kyleig Browning

**Topic Time**

* **Welcome & Introductions:** Bob Walsh, Vice Chair 10:35
* **Membership & Financials:** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer 10:38
  + Reminder of membership opportunities, there are 12 paid members so far this year, if you want to check on your membership Ross can check quickly with PayPal, but it takes longer with checks that are mailed, reminder of benefits (voting privileges and table at World Refugee Day)

**Task Force Updates:** 10:40

Submit name today for chair and co-chairs

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| **Advocacy Task Force:** | No update |
| **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** | Hope to get up and running by next month, will add in Legal Task Force |
| **Domestic Violence Task Force**: | No update |
| **Employment Task Force:** | Co-chairs announced |
| **Health Task Force:** | No update |
| **World Refugee Day:** | Ramping up, speak to Mohammed, group has not met yet, has 6+ people |
| **Education Task Force:** | In developing and defining stages |

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

10:50

* **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**

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| **Alliance for African Assistance:** | 8 refugees, 9 SIVs |
| **Catholic Charities:** | 2 arrivals, 60 Cuban/Haitian in Jan  5 arrivals, 4 victims of human trafficking, 30 Cuban/Haitian |
| **International Rescue Committee:** | 19 total in February, 14 bookings in March |
| **Jewish Family Services:** | 25 arrivals in January (other information???) |

**County of San Diego:** 118 total arrivals in Jan, 60 Cuban/Haitian, 35 Afghan; 107 applied for CalWorks, 11 families without children.

In 1st quarter, Oct to Jan, 370 refugees thus far: 150 Afghan, 146 Haitian

Abdi –

**VESL Program** is open for applications

The County of San Diego has a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued under number 10068 for Vocational ESL Services for Refugees. You can go to <https://buynet.sdcounty.ca.gov/> to register and log in so that you may download the solicitation documents, which contain information on the County’s needs and what to submit to be considered for issuance of a contract by the County for these services.  RFP 10068 is under commodity codes 93141800, 93131500, 86111604, 86111600 and 86111700.

The Pre-Proposal Conference for this RFP 10068 is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM at 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92123.

The Pre-Proposal Conference will convey information on the RFP and provide an opportunity for organizations to ask the County questions on the requested services and RFP process.

Please contact Holly Lam 858-505-6613 for more information.

**Refugee Health Assessment**

The County of San Diego has a new Request for Proposal (RFP) or procurement out for our Refugee Health Assessment services.  If you are interested, please go to BuyNet, register, and look for RFP 10092.  If you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Department of Purchasing and Contracting and the Procurement Contract Officer at (858) 505-6358.

Here are key dates to be aware of and again see BuyNet for additional information.

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| Event Description | Date and Time |
| Pre-Proposal Conference | February 19th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  San Diego time |
| Questions due | February 21st , 2020 prior to 5:00 p.m. San Diego time |
| Proposals due | April 6th, 2020 prior to 3:00 p.m. San Diego time |

**State Advisory Committee:**

* Will meet at National University on 3/12/2020, more information to come.

**Focus Presentation:** 11:05

Topic: San Diego Continuing Education’s CalWORKs program and ESL

Presenter: Roberta Krauss, CalWORKs Director & Rita Shamoon, Job Development & Placement Specialist

CalWORKs specific continuing ed – students can get free education and start anytime. No financial aid offered but the program does pay for books, supplies, transportation, and childcare.

There are 7 campuses that serve students. The CalWORKs staff are multi-lingual. They offer student support services such as test prep, disability help, career services, work study and New Horizons.

All classes through the Continuing Ed program are free, help students fulfill residency requirements and are open entry/exit courses

Continuing Ed offers: Paid work study, academic and career counseling, multiple campuses, hybrid/online courses, flex schedules, education plans, ITP & Assistance with attendance

The program staff advocate for students

A student can be referred once they are approved for Cash-Aid, Welfare to Work program

HHSA Eligibility workers visit campus to enroll students in Welfare

Cash-Aid is not reduced if student is in Work Study

CalWORKs Work Study is open to new organizations becoming Work Study sites. Please contact them for more information.

Visit sdcd.edu for more information

* **Community Announcements:** All 11:50
  + Cynthia – SD Workforce Partnership
    - Credential Conversion Conversation – people willing to participate can earn $90 gift card for sharing their story. 3/3/2020 from 5-6:30 PM
    - Email [cynthiacg@workforce.org](mailto:cynthiacg@workforce.org)
  + Education Task Force will send out information this week to the Forum, people are encouraged to participate in this task force if they are interested in supporting children in school
  + Ross – IRC
    - Opening for a resettlement job, check rescue.org for more information
  + Abdi – County of SD
    - Reminder for meetings this week: VESL 2/20, Health 2/19
  + World Refugee Day Committee
    - Invitation to join task force
* **Adjournment:** Bob Walsh, Vice Chair 11:56

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, Join our mailing list at www.sdrefugeeforum.org**

**Refugee Forum Officers:**

Chair | Mohammed Tuama Newcomers Support and Development (NSD) M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org

Vice Chair | Bob Walsh Volunteer to Refugee Community Bwalsh1148@gmail.com

Treasurer | Ross Fackrell International Rescue Committee (IRC) Ross.fackrell@rescue.org

Secretary | Julie Germain Alliance for African Assistance Julie@alliance-for-africa.org

Ex Efficio | Abdi Adbillahi Program Manager/County Refugee Coordinator Abdi.abdillahi@sdcounty.ca.gov