



Date Tuesday, February 18, 2020
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: 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

Table with 2 columns: Task Force Name, Update Status. Rows include Advocacy Task Force, Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force, Domestic Violence Task Force, Employment Task Force, Health Task Force, World Refugee Day, and Education Task Force.

Resettlement, County, and State Updates- Please see website for up to date information 10:50

- Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:
Table with 2 columns: Organization, Number of Refugees. Rows include Alliance for African Assistance, Catholic Charities, and International Rescue Committee.



Jewish Family Services:	25 arrivals in January
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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://buy.net.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.

	Date and Time
Pre-Proposal Conference	February 19 th , 2020 at 2:00 p.m. San Diego time
Questions due	February 21 st , 2020 prior to 5:00 p.m. San Diego time
Proposals due	April 6 th , 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 Shamon, Job Development & Placement Specialist

San Diego Continuing Education is the adult education division of the San Diego Community College District.



It offers free ESL and skills training classes at 7 campuses across San Diego. CALWORKS connects people on public assistance to Continuing Ed classes.

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 for college and are open entry/exit courses. . Examples of skills classes are a full range of health career training courses at Cesar Chavez Adult Center and vocational training classes at ECC. 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 sdce.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
 - 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