

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, November 20th, 2018 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

1. Call to order at 10:30 am

Present: Anne Hoiberg, Yalla, SD, Be There SD, IRC, HHSA, CAIR, EC Collaborative, UPAC, San Diego Union Tribune, Aetna, East Region Adult Education, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, Native Interpreting, Somali Family Service of San Diego, Catholic Charities, Oren Robinson, Women's Empowerment International and Mental Health of America, Robert Walsh, License to Freedom, United Women of East Africa, Survivors of Torture International, PANA, Access INC, Esther Keleta, San Ysidro Health, PCG, JFS, Neighborhood Health Care, Say San Diego, Public Consulting Group, Family Health Centers San Diego, National Conflict Resolution Center, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, Molina Healthcare.

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions

- a. Rebecca Paida (President) opened the Forum meeting and made the following announcements:
 - i. Looking for new leadership and committee chairs. November will be our last meeting
- b. Membership and Financials:
 - i. The Refugee Forum has over 64 total members.
 - ii. The Chair and Treasurer position is still open. Elections will take place in November. Members can vote.
 - iii. Balance for the year so far is positive with a grand total of approximately 10,000
- c. Refugee Forum Officers Rebecca Paida (Chair), Mejgan Afshan (Vice Chair) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-offio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** Monthly meeting was Nov 8th. The fact sheet was sent out. Next meeting will be in January. Still looking for new members. Candidates questionnaire was published online back in October.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On hiatus – if you have any interest in joining the Asylum Seeker Task Force please contact Rebecca Paida, Jackline Mola or Mejgan Afshan.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** Put together a joint forum in October called health and wealth event with the employment taskforce on mental health first aid and more, it went well.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** Employed and Empowered, last meeting of the year we discussed activities to go on for the New Year and we are looking for new Co-Chairs.
- e. **Health Task Force:** Held a Mental Health Refugee Panel November 13th at the East African Cultural Center at 1:00p. Looking for a new Co-chair, we plan to nominate them first week of December.
- f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Day Task Force currently on hold for meetings.

4. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** Nothing to announce
- b. **Catholic Charities:** Nothing to announce
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** 14 total arrivals for October, 6 primary refugees, 4 SIVs, 4 Asylees.
- d. **Jewish Family Services:** 14 total arrivals, 6 SIV's from Afghanistan, 1 Eritrean, 7 Congolese, 3 Russian 1 other Asylee .
- e. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama and Kathi Anderson):** Will be meeting December 13th. Cathy hopes to focus on asylum seekers and asylees in general. It will be in Los Angeles.

5. County Agencies and Committees

- a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. The County of San Diego had 53 arrivals for the month of October.

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- ii. The total number of arrivals for San Diego County for the federal fiscal year (October 2017-September 2018) is 844.

b. *Refugee Health (Christine Murto):* No Updates

Vote/Nominations:

- i. 32 members, quorum reached.
- ii. Electing a new chair and a treasurer: Two elected, the roles to be decided among the officers.

6. *Focus: Vote/Nominations*

Presenters: N/A

Spotlight Presenters: Refugee Programs Bureau

Presenter: Jacqueline Hom, County Operations & Performance Unit Manager

- a. Presentation available at sdrefugeeforum.org

7. *Community Updates:*

- a. Various actions happening at the border,
- b. Mejgan: December 4th Stop Bullying town hall 6-8 pm at Ronald Regan Community center because of the rise of bullying in East County against refugees, Immigrants, Black and Latino families and children.
- c. Invited Nadia Murad December 10th to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the UVHR.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th, 2019 at 10:30 AM **TBD**