

**General Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Present: Adeem K., Alex Gunn, Alicia DeLeon Torres, Alvin Cook, Andrea Frost, Angel Carrefero, Ann V. Anne Hoiberg, Ariana Campos, Arwa J. Zakir Kakavand, Bianca Martinez, Bridget de la Garza, Charity White, Chris Williams, Delia A., Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Donnaly C., Elizabeth Lou, Eric Miller, Fernando Ortega, Hamoun Dolaqshahi, Jane Hoey, Jennifer Navala, Jorge Ortiz, Juan Estrada, Kelly Wraight, Kim Thomas, Kirsten Moore, Loredana Mitesce, Lori Gutierrez, Madelyne Wagner, Maggie Fenn, May Hasan, Michele Estill, Mohammed Tauma, Oren Robinson, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamoon, Ryan Williams, Susan Hagos, V. Gutieerez, Zainab Danso,

Opening.

* 1. Call to order at 10:33 am.
  2. Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
  3. Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
  4. Forum participants introduced themselves.
  5. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 29 paid members.

1. Community & Task Force Updates.
   1. Advocacy Task Force: No updates.
   2. Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force: No updates.
   3. Domestic Violence Task Force: No updates
   4. Employment Task Force: No updates.
   5. Health Task Force. Meeting held last Tuesday. Discussed workshop for WRD event on June 17. Dental caries are the most prevalent disease among newly resettled refugees. Looking for dental items and print material in the various languages.
   6. Susan Hagos.
   7. Will participate in World Refugee Day by providing information or items related to oral health. Next task force meeting: May 9, 2017, 1-3 p.m. at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.
   8. World Refugee Day Task Force:
      1. Great response for resource tables. Please spread the word to encourage cultural booth, performances, and vendors. Would like to have more signing or dancing performances during the event.
      2. Participant registration forms are on Facebook and forum website.
      3. This year’s World Refugee Day event will be Saturday, June 17th from 12 to 4:00 PM at
2. County Agencies & Committees.
   1. Reception & Placement. Resettlement Agencies Arrival Data and Updates
      1. Alliance for African Assistance: Approximately 40 refugee arrivals in April and about 40 so far in May. On track for approximately 600 for the federal fiscal year.
      2. Catholic Charities: No updates
      3. International Rescue Committee: Approximately 40 refugee arrivals so far in May.
      4. Jewish Family Services: No updates.
   2. County of San Diego (Oren Robinson reported for Abdi Abdillahi)
      1. Total number of arrivals for the month of April was 152.
      2. Refugees were from Iraq (36%), Afghanistan 19%); Syria (14%) and Other Countries 31%).
      3. Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County to date during current federal fiscal year is 2,053.
      4. County arrival data is posted on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the “Resources” tab.
3. State Advisory Council (Mohammed Tuama). Next phone conversation is scheduled for June 8, 2017 at 10 a.m. Mohammed will send phone number and access code to SDRF listserv.

d. Refugee Health: Christine Murto, Refugee Health Coordinator, County of San Diego, reported that 110 refugee health screenings were conducted in April 2017. A new program to address latent TB infection was started in March.

1. Focus Presentation. Dr. Sierra Washington, [Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-pacific-southwest).
   1. Dr. Washington presented on the organization’s mission and services provided and encouraged participants to share information about the services with refugees who may not know about the services available through the organization.
   2. Provides reproductive and sexual health care, education, and advocacy for the people of San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties**.**
   3. Euclid Community Center, Planned Parenthood, offers treatment of Female Genital Cutting (FGC).
2. Spotlight Presentation. Mohammed Tuama [Newcomers Support & Development,](http://www.newcomersd.org/)
   1. Mohammed Tuama is director and founder of this organization which started with a group of six individuals and has grown to 450+ members.
   2. Registered as non-profit in 2015.
   3. Help refugees, immigrants SIVs with foreign credentials, teachers, doctors, technicians in addition to those without a credential but skills to be transferred to U.S. including business support and cultural aspects.
   4. Activities: Tours of factories in El Cajon and training programs.
   5. Civic engagement program started to promote leadership. Educate community about health issues and advocate for themselves. Resident leadership academy.
   6. Resident Leadership Academy: 1) focusing on soccer; 2) focusing on Community Improvement Project. Will have a video.
3. **Community Announcements**

* The San Diego World Refugee Day Celebration is Saturday, June 17, 2017, 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the Officer Jeremy Harwood Memorial Park, 3700 Fairmount Ave., SD 92105.
* The Refugee Programs Bureau, of the California Department of Social Services, is organizing the 2017 Refugee Summit being held August 30-31 in San Diego, California.  Location is the Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel.
* The Alliance for African Assistance is offering an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for clients on June 13, 2017 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Location is 4305 University Ave.
* The Alliance for African Assistance’s Utility Advocacy Program provides assistance to clients having difficulty paying SDGE and telephone bills. They will visit your organization to meet with your clients. Contact Brittney at 619-286-9052.
* Native Interpreting is offering a workshop on different interpreter and translator certification programs on Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the College-Rolando Library. [www.nativeinterpreting.com](http://www.nativeinterpreting.com).
* The Grossmont Healthcare District (GHD) has awarded a grant to License to Freedom which will support License to Freedom’s community outreach efforts.
* Hamoun Dolatshahi, a senior at UCSD is creating space for refugees to interact with non-refugees and is looking for a host organization to support this effort.
* Women’s Museum of California in Liberty Station will feature four Iraqi women sharing their stories on May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
* Elizabeth Lou, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, announced that May is mental health awareness month and thanked those who have been participating in community dialogues on mental health.  A report of the findings from the community dialogues ([Advancing Equity: Refugee and Ethnic Mental Health](http://nilesisters.org/wp-content/uploads/170509PubAdvancingEquity.pdf)) is available online.

1. **Approval of Minutes**. Kirsten Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (April 2017), and Rebecca Paida seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
2. **Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**

Next Meeting: June 20, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.