



General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Present:

Abdi Abdullahi, Adeem Ismaeil, Alicia Deleon-Torres, Andrea Frost, Angel C., Ann V., Anne Hoiberg, Bridget de la Garza, Carmen Kcomt, Carol Crisp, Christine Murto, Dan Collins, Danielle Fair, David Roberston, Diana Rhodes, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Donna Daun, Eric Miller, Eyal Bergman, Fadi Yousif, George Kuhrts, Guerline Jozef, Holly Arnold, Jamie Schroercolurt, Jessica Marin, Juan Estrada, Justin Mudekereza, Kate Morrissey, Kirsten Moore, Laura Alessio, Lucia Acevedo, Mariana Venegas, Mary Rutland, Michelle Ly, Munquith Alhajjaj, Nawal Alkatib, Paola Guzman, Priscilla Campos, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Ross Fackrell, Saif Ayoob, Samantha Hurst, Sheri Easterly, Sodaba Sherzai, Sumitra, Susan Schiele, Tiffany Tang

1. Opening.

- a) Call to order at 10:37 am.
- b) Rebecca Paida (Chair) opened the Forum meeting and welcomed attendees.
- c) Refugee Forum Officers: Rebecca Paida (Chair), Kirsten Moore (Vice Chair), Bridget de la Garza (Secretary), and Oren Robinson (Treasurer) were present.
- d) Forum participants introduced themselves.

2. Membership and Financials.

- a) Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 40 paid members. SDRF has met their membership goal for 2017.
- b) Membership fees are used to fund SDRF task forces which have a small budget for the year. Membership fees will increase slightly for 2018.
- c) Oren thanked the thirty-five member organizations completed the online survey regarding membership fees.

3. San Diego Refugee Forum Task Force Updates.

- a) Advocacy Task Force: Eight individuals signed up for the task force at the Advocacy Task Force resource table at the World Refugee Day event.
- b) Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force: No updates.
- c) Domestic Violence Task Force: The Domestic Violence Task Force had a resource table at the World Refugee Day event.
- d) Employment Task Force: No updates.
- e) Health Task Force. Susan Hagos thanked the many health-related organizations that participated in the SDRF World Refugee Day Event. Over 200 dental kits were distributed.

- f) World Refugee Day Task Force: The SDRF World Refugee event was held on June 17th and was attended by over 200 individuals. Maggie Fenn thanked the many individuals and organizations who contributed to the event. This year's event included a Kids' Corner with many different activities for children that was manned by volunteers coordinated by Diana Rhodes.

4. Updates from County Agencies and Committees

- a) Resettlement Agencies Arrival Data and Updates
- Alliance for African Assistance: No report.
 - Catholic Charities: No report.
 - International Rescue Committee: Nine (9) arrivals in May 2017 and nine arrivals to date in June. All arrivals were from Afghanistan.
 - Jewish Family Services: Seventeen (17) arrivals in May 2017 and nine arrivals to date in June.
- b) County of San Diego. Abdi Abdullahi, reported arrival data for San Diego County.
- Total number of arrivals for the month of May was 136.
 - Refugees were from Iraq (35%), Afghanistan 23%; Syria (13%) and Other Countries 30%.
 - Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County to date during current federal fiscal year is 2,217.
 - When reporting CalWorks cases, one family is considered one case.
 - County arrival data is posted on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the "Resources" tab.
- b) State Advisory Council
- Mohammed Tuama reported that the California has been approved for 9,358 arrivals in current federal fiscal year. Based on arrivals to date, California can resettle up to 830 remaining arrivals between now and September 30, 2017.
- c) Refugee Health.
- Christine Murto reported that 136 refugee arrivals had health screenings in May 2017. She also shared information about the Community Action Partnership (CAP) programs for senior refugees. Senior refugees can receive individualized assistance is selecting a health care plan that is best for them.

5. Focus Presentation. 2017 Refugee Resilience Awards.

- a) Rebecca acknowledged the presence of representatives from Congressman Vargas and Senator Feinstein's office at today's meeting.
- b) Awards were presented to nine refugees/asylees who have been in the U.S. for five years or less and who have demonstrated outstanding resilience and contributions to the community. Individuals were nominated by members of the San Diego Refugee Forum.

Award Recipients:

- *Giselle De La Rosa, presented by Survivors of Torture, International*
- *Hawazin Khalef, presented by IRC San Diego*
- *Mohammad Fatih. presented by IRC San Diego.*
- *Mustafa Thabit, presented by IRC San Diego.*
- *Mwadawa Saidi, presented by IRC San Diego.*
- *Rand Fadhiil, presented by Christine Liboon, IRC San Diego.*
- *Saif Ayoob, presented by Newcomers Support and Development*
- *Shatha Dahash, presented by License to Freedom.*
- *Toh Neh, presented by Karen Organization of San Diego.*

6. Community Announcements

- a) Eyal Bergman and superintendent of his school district went to Washington D.C. to advocate for additional funding for refugee children.
- b) Women Empowerment raised money for micro-loans for women. They are looking for cultural dancers for a fund-raising event.
- c) Family Health Centers of San Diego is looking for a bilingual (Arabic-English) child development specialist.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.