

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

### 1. *Call to order at 10:30 am*

**Present:** Anne Hoiberg, Angel Cametero, Deona Dorsey, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Elizabeth Lou, Eric Millo, Ilena Gudino, Jackie Mola, Jane Hoey, Janessa Nedney, Joanne Thomasen, Justin Mudekoreza, Juan Estrada, Karly Gersberg, Kate Morrissey, Katia Garcia, Kristen Lowther, Kristen Maher, Madelyne Wagner, Maria Kelly Horsely, Marilyn Leritan, Marjorie Manglinong, Monica Emery, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Oliver Cabara, Rebecca Miranda, Rebecca Paida, Rita Shamoan, Ryan Williams, Shlyn Guarian, William Ackermann, Virginia Magnus and Vernita Gutierrez.

### 2. *Executive Committee Announcements and Participate Introductions*

- a. Rebecca Paida opened the meeting and made the following announcements:
  - i. There are 58 active Refugee Forum members. All 58 members will be eligible to vote at the November meeting elections. The November quorum will require 30 members present.
  - ii. The Refugee Forum's projected budget for 2018 will be posted online.
  - iii. Task Forces will have the same reimbursement limit of \$500 in 2018.

### 3. *Task Force Updates*

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force participated on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – community impact
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** No updates
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and there has been a lot of outreach and activities around the county. The main message that is being communicated to victims and survivors is “this is not your fault and you are not alone” and encouraging them to step out of the cycle of violence to a better life. The San Diego Police reported that homicides related to domestic violence have decreased by 20% and there have been 10 domestic violence related homicides this year. The El Cajon Domestic Violence Walk and Rally will be held on October 28, 2017 and will start at the El Cajon Police Department at 9:15 AM.
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force had their first meeting with the new Co-Chairs last Friday. Their first initiative is to support the Skilled and Foreign Credentialed Newcomers Job and Resource Expo on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Ronald Regan Community Center (195 E Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020). The meeting was also used to brainstorm for future activities including a hiring fair in the spring that would focus on entry level positions for refugee participants. The Employment Task Force will be on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at Alliance for African Assistance.
- e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force is working on translating the Medi-Cal Early Registration Maps/Charts into 13 different languages and hopes to have this available

by early 2018. The Health Task Force will meet on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.

- f. **World Refugee Day:** No updates
4. **Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates**
  - a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** No representative Present
  - b. **Catholic Charities:** No representative present.
  - c. **International Rescue Committee:** International Rescue Committee had 5 arrivals for the month of September. They expect 10 arrivals for the month of October from Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria
  - d. **Jewish Family Services:** Jewish Family Services had 6 cases for the month of September, two of which were self-travel from Iraq and Afghanistan. There are currently no placements for the month of October.
5. **County Agencies and Committees**
  - a. **County (Abdi Abdullahi):** The County of San Diego had 78 arrivals for the month of September (45 Afghan, 1 Cuban, 2 Ethiopian, 2 Kenyan, 7 Kazakhstan, 12 Iraqi, 6 Pakistani, 1 Republic of Congo, 1 Somali and 1 Sudanese). For the 2016-2017 Federal Fiscal Year, the County of San Diego has 2,635 total arrivals (33% Iraqi, 27% Afghan, 12% Syrian and 29% other). This is a 35% decrease from the previous Federal Fiscal Year.
  - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammad Tuama):** The State Advisory Committee will have nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The next meeting will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup> and the information will be sent out to the Refugee Forum.
6. **By Laws Committee**
  - a. 5 Proposed Changes to the by-laws:
    - i. Include Advocacy Task Force
    - ii. Increase Dues
    - iii. Add definition of an Ethnic Community Based Organization (ECBO)
    - iv. Discounted due for ECBO's
    - v. Task Force/Committee Changes
      1. Distinguish the Executive Committee from the Task Forces
      2. Project task force budgets every year
      3. Define "Active" and "Inactive" task force
      4. Only active task forces may get reimbursed
      5. Exempt Word Refugee Day Committee
  - b. RSVP for the November elections on the Refugee Forum website:  
<http://www.sdrefugeeforum.org/>
7. **Nominating Committee**
  - a. The Nominating Committee has only received two nominations for the elections and is hoping to receive at least two more. If you are interested in becoming an officer for the San Diego Refugee Forum you will need to have someone nominate you.
8. **Focus Presentation: Overview of C.A.R.E Program by Oliver Cabana, Crime Prevention Specialist, San Diego County District Attorney's Office**
  - a. C.A.R.E stands for Community Action Resource and Engagement
  - b. The C.A.R.E Program offers the following services:

- i. Free meeting rooms for the community.
      - ii. Free assessment rooms for service providers
      - iii. Free Computer Access
      - iv. Youth Advisory Board
      - v. Community Youth Court
      - vi. Interfaith Advisory Board
      - vii. Community Stakeholders Meeting
    - c. The C.A.R.E Program is located at 12 North Euclid Avenue, National City, San Diego, CA 91950
    - d. Contact information: [info@sdcarecenter.org](mailto:info@sdcarecenter.org) or 619-356-4489
    - e. [www.sdccda.org](http://www.sdccda.org)
  - 9. *Spotlight Presentation: Overview of YALLA by William Ackerman, Community Programs Manager for YALLA*
    - a. Four Main Programs
      - i. K-8 Academy Program
        - 1. Uses online programs and Chromebooks to provide lesson plans which conform to the needs of the learner
      - ii. YALLA Futures (9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)
        - 1. Provides high school level tutoring and prepares student for college application process
      - iii. College Bound (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
        - 1. ACT/SAT Prep, college counseling, college essay writing, and connections to colleges and university
      - iv. Soccer Program
        - 1. K-8 youth, YALLA subsidizes cost of competing in the Presidio League
    - b. [www.YALLAsd.org](http://www.YALLAsd.org)
    - c. William Ackerman - [william@yallasd.com](mailto:william@yallasd.com)
- 10. *Community Updates:*
  - a. Multicultural Fair on November 4, 2017 from 11AM to 2 PM at EJE Acadamies (851 S. Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020). The Newcomers Collaborative of El Cajon will be celebrating our diverse communities here in El Cajon by hosting this event with food, music and resource tables.
  - b. The Center for World Music is looking to profile experienced musician story tellers in order to start a dialogue around the music to create an opportunity to explore the richness that these musicians and cultures bring to the community. They are looking to connect with local artists. Contact Monica Emery at [monica@centerforworldmusic.org](mailto:monica@centerforworldmusic.org) or 858-882-7734.
  - c. First Annual Skilled and Foreign Credentialed Newcomers Job and Resource Expo on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 10 AM at the Ronal Regan Community Center in El Cajon. Mohammad Tuama is specifically looking for contacts from Qualcomm and the UCSD Extension Program. If anyone has any contacts from these organizations, please reach out to Mohammad.



- d. On Tuesday, November 7, 2017 there will be a free community dinner and performance of the Twelfth Night at St. Michael's Chaldean Catholic Church. For more information, call 619-631-7400.
- e. October is Breast Health Awareness Month – Vernita Gutierrez from Planned Parenthood would like to remind all women to get screened.
- f. October is also Let's Talk Month. Let's Talk Month is a national public education campaign to encourage parent/child communication about sexuality. Planned Parenthood provides tools for parents to have this talk with their children.
- g. Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Health and Wellness Fair on November 17, 2017 from 1-4 PM. If you are interested in hosting a resource table, please contact Nawal Alkatib at [nawal.alkatib@syhc.org](mailto:nawal.alkatib@syhc.org)
- h. Ryan Williams from Diane Feinstein's Office discussed the Trump Administration's refugee cap of 45,000. The Trump Administration did not consult with Congress until the day before the announcement. There is bipartisan frustration and rejection over the historically low cap and the Judicial Committee will voice this frustration.
- i. Kristen Lowther with SAY San Diego announced that they offer in-home support for expecting mothers up until the child is 3 years old. The program currently has three nurses that speak Somali and can work with this community.

**Adjournment: 12:00 pm**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November, 2017 at 10:30 AM at the International Rescue Committee.