



## General Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

**Present:** Abdi Abdillahi, Alejandra Solorzano, Alex Gunn, And Roman, Anne Hoiberg, Anne Smith, Asya Anderson, Awichu Akwanya, Bob Walsh, Bridget de la Garza, Candace Hadley, Diana Rhodes, Elizabeth Lopez, Eric Miller, Irene Radley, Jamie Schroer Colbert, Jane Hoey, Joel Day, Juan Estrada, Kathi Anderson, Kathryn Turner, Kristan Maher, Kristelle Dealca, Lara Easton, Leeann Lumsden, Lisa Griffin, Lori Gutierrez, Madelyne Wagner, Manquit Alhadjaj, May Hasan, Mohammed Tuama, Monica Emery, Nao Kabashima, Nawal Alkatib, Nicole Crosby, Nicole Keeley, Oliver Cabana, Oren Robinson, Patricia Cosulich, Paulina Reyes, Rahwa Weldeselase, Rebecca Paida, Rezhen Ahmed, Rita Shamoon, Roberto Sarmiento, Roseann Castaneda, Ryan Williams, Sara Ramos, Shlyn Guarian, Susan Hagos, Tiffany Tang, Val Marcone, Wesley Oliver

1. Opening.
  - a. Call to order at 10:30 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), Oren Robinson (Treasurer), and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.
  - d. Forum participants introduced themselves.
  - e. Membership and Financials. Oren Robinson (Treasurer) reported that there are currently 24 paid members (15 organizations and 9 individual members). Oren reminded everyone that SDRF now offers an option to pay membership fees online.
2. Community & Task Force Updates.
  - a. **Advocacy Task Force:** No updates.
  - b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** Next meeting will be March 15, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at 2-1-1 office location. The task force will be identifying a focus for their work this year.
  - c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No updates
  - d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force will be planning an employment fair for refugee clients.
  - e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force met on February 7, 2017 and met with ACLU to learn more about the status on immigrant and refugee populations. The task force emailed out a survey to members on the SDRF listserv to elicit impact on potential projects for the year and encourages participants to complete this survey. The next meeting of the Health Task Force will be Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Nile Sisters Development Initiative.
  - f. **World Refugee Day Task Force:** The World Refugee Day Task Force met in February. Location and date for World Refugee Day 2017 still being decided.

Please forward ideas to Maggie Fenn or Laurel Dalsted, co-chairs of the task force. Their contact information is located on the San Diego Refugee Forum website under the Task Forces tab.

3. County Agencies & Committees.

- a. Reception & Placement. Resettlement Agencies (formerly VOLAGs) Arrival Data and Updates
  - i. Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.
  - ii. Catholic Charities: No updates.
  - iii. International Rescue Committee: IRC San Diego resettled 88 arrivals in January 2017 and 72 so far in February. No additional arrivals are scheduled from today onward due to U.S. due to slowing down of refugee processing. Not anticipating any new arrivals coming for the foreseeable future with the exception of SIVs. Two cases from Afghanistan in next two weeks.
  - iv. Jewish Family Services: No updates.
- b. County of San Diego (Abdi Abdillahi)
  - i. Total number of refugee arrivals for the month of Jan 2017 was 365 of which 259 were individuals including children and 61 were TANF cases.
  - ii. Refugees were from Iraq (38%); Syria (16%); Afghanistan (15%); and Other Countries (31%).
  - iii. Total number of refugee arrivals in San Diego County so far (October 1, 2016-January 31, 2017) during current federal fiscal year is 1,552
- c. State Advisory Council (Mohammed Tuama): No updates.
- d. Refugee Health (Christine Murto): No updates.

4. **Focus Presentation. San Diego City Attorney's Office Criminal Division**

- a. Lara Easton, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney gave an overview of City Attorney's Office Criminal Division including the Neighborhood Prosecution and Collaborative Court Unit. This unit collaborates with the San Diego Police Department, other agencies, and the community respond to crimes include prostitution, graffiti, vandalism, gang offenses. Deputy City Attorneys work in neighborhoods such as Mid-City. Ms. Easton suggested SDRF might want to consider having a task force devoted to human trafficking.
- b. Nicole Crosby, Chief Deputy City Attorney, gave an overview of the Domestic Violence Unit which handles misdemeanor cases of domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual battery, stalking, and child abuse. The unit includes 13 full-time attorneys, three full-time victim advocates, three investigators, three legal secretaries, and six court clerks. The Family Justice Center provides a wide range of services to victims of domestic violence. Ms. Crosby stressed these services are provided to all victims of domestic violence regardless of one's immigration status.
- c. Kathryn L. Turner, Chief Deputy City Attorney, gave an overview of the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit (CEPU). This unit prosecutes violations of law that arise from consumer transactions or actions that damage the environment. Most investigations are based on complaints from law enforcement agencies, but they also investigate complaints of false or misleading advertising. Citizens can make a

complaint, by calling the hotline (619) 533-5600 or by an online complaint form. Recent consumer scams include fraudulent immigration consultants practicing law without a license. The CEPU publishes a newsletter from consumer which can found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney> under Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.

**5. Spotlight Presentation: San Diego Futures Foundation.**

- a. Alejandra Solorzano, Project Coordinator, presented on the San Diego Futures Foundations (SDFF) a non-profit organization located in City Heights whose goal is to make technology affordable for underserved populations in San Diego. The organization provides training in digital literacy and adaptive technology and offers a “Girls that Code” club. It provides services such as e-waste recycling, web design, IT services, computer repair, and video production. SDFF has distributed over 46,000 computers in the community. [www.sdfutures.org](http://www.sdfutures.org).

**6. Community Announcements**

- Native Interpreting is hosting a four-hour training on interpreting on April 1, 2017. Enrollment fee is \$30. Madelyne Wagner provided a flyer on this event.
- Women’s History Museum is hosting an event on February 23, 2017 at 6 p.m. to celebrate African American women. This is a free celebration.
- License to Freedom is hosting a community forum to focus on health relationships on February 25, 2017 at Masjid As-Salam.
- Office of Emergency Services, County of San Diego is offering a workshop on April 28, 2017. The public is invited to attend.
- Lisa Griffin, teacher at High Tech High School announced that her students High are doing a project on refugees and immigrants. Students are looking forward to ways to support the work of the forum participants. They are actively seeking guest speakers and opportunities to do community service related to refugees and immigrants. .
- Patricia Cosulich, student at University of San Diego, is conducting research on access to mental health care for refugees in San Diego.
- Intrepid Theatre will present, “Exiled Voices” on March 12, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Horton Grand Theatre. This performance is the culmination of eight-week long project in which professional artists are matched with refugee students at Crawford High School. Crawford High School. RSVP for performance on the Intrepid Theatre website. Contact person is Tiffany Tang.

**7. Approval of Minutes.** Kathi Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (November 2016), and Oren Robinson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**

Next Meeting: March 21, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) - 5348 University Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92105.