

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 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: Nicky Riodan, Hassan Abdilaman, Molly Fee, Kate Morissey, Christine Timloof, Dina Polus, Tala Al, Roysan, Lucia Acevedo, Chris William, Wayne Sandholz, Jennifer Navala, Oliver Cabana, Abby Maayah, Anne Hoiberg, Usman Auram, Patricia Ramirez, Jesse Imbnano, Victoria Hoang, Nao Kabashima Larkapor Moo, Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Elizabeth Lou, Bob Walsh, Nawal Alkatib, Shlyn Guarian, Morgen Chalmiers Bruce Adams, Abdi Abdillahi, Danielle Egiyen, Nicole Pinkowski, Rebecca Miranda, Ismahanm Abdullahi, Margorie Mang Lihong, Paula Barrow, Ali Asaadi Rashid Essa, Ban Ballard, Andrea Frost, Mungith Alhajar Brittney Willis, jane K. Hoey, Dannielle White, Rebecca Paida, Mejgan Afshan, Jackie Mola, Oren Robinson

2. Executive Committee Announcements and Participant Introductions

a. Membership and Financials

- i. Membership forms have been distributed to all participants at the meeting. Membership is good for one calendar year.
- ii. Membership dues have increased to \$35 for individual/ECBO members and \$70 for organizations.

b. Refugee Forum Officers Rebecca Paida (Chair), Mejgan Afshan (Vice Chair), Jackline Mola (Secretary), Oren Robinson (Treasurer) and Abdi Abdillahi (ex-officio) were in attendance.

3. Task Force Updates:

- a. **Advocacy Task Force:** The Advocacy Task Force will meet on March 13th at 12 PM. This year they are hoping to host a screening of the new Ai Weiwei documentary Human Flow.
- b. **Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:** On hiatus – if you have any interest in joining the Asylum Seeker Task Force please contact Rebecca Paida.
- c. **Domestic Violence Task Force:** No update
- d. **Employment Task Force:** The Employment Task Force will meet on February at 3:30 PM at PCG, 151 Van Houten Ave, El Cajon CA, 92020.

Following are events planned by the employment Task Force:

- WEDNESDAY MARCH 14TH 10 AM: **Mock Job Fair** at South Metro Career Center 4389 Imperial Ave, San Diego CA 92113
- FRIDAY MARCH 16TH 10 AM: **Job Fair** at South Metro Career Fair 4389 Imperial Ave, San Diego CA 92113

Employers will include:

- Hertz
- Nypro Plastic Molding
- Fleetlogix
- And many others!

e. **Health Task Force:** The Health Task Force will meet on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 1:00 P.M at Molina Healthcare.

f. **World Refugee Day:** The World Refugee Day Task Force will meet in the next few weeks to begin planning for the World Refugee Day Event in June.

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

San Diego Refugee Forum

Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
IRC – 5348 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

- a. **Alliance for African Assistance:** *No representative present.*
- b. **Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities had 5 arrivals from Afghanistan and 5 arrivals from Haiti. They anticipate 11 arrivals for the month of January.
- c. **International Rescue Committee:** *No representative present.*
- d. **Jewish Family Services:** *No representative present.*
5. **County Agencies and Committees**
 - a. **County (Abdi Abdillahi):**
 - i. The County of San Diego had 52 arrivals for the month of December, which is a particularly low arrival number for the county (39 Afghan, 1 Cuban, 3 Haitian, 8 Iraqi, and 1 Mexican).
 - ii. The total number of arrivals for San Diego County for the federal fiscal year (October 2017-December 2017) is 251 (71% Afghan, 10% Iraqi, 7% Haitian and 13% other).
 - b. **State Advisory Committee (Mohammed Tuama and Kathi Anderson):** No representative present.
 - c. **Refugee Health (Christine Murto):** Not present.
6. **Focus Presentation:** *Bruce M. Abrams, Esq. City of San Diego International Affairs Board*
 - a. Link to their website available at sdrefugeeforum.org
7. **Spotlight Presentation:** Arwa Kakavanand and Jesse Imbriano
Casa Cornelia Law Center
 - a. Link to their website available at www.sdrefugeeforum.org
8. **Community Updates:**
9. Motion approved for January minutes
10. **Adjournment: 12:00 pm**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the International Rescue Committee.