



Date Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Time 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location International Rescue Committee

Address 5348 University Avenue, #205 San Diego, CA 92115

Minutes

Attendance:

San Diego Hunger Coalition; SAY San Diego First Five Steps; Ruby VARGAS; COSD/HHSA/BHS; San Diego Welcome Center; Office of Rep. Juan Vargas; County of San Diego HHSA Central region child Welfare Services; Molina Healthcare; County of San Diego-BHS; Sheriff’s Department; Refugee Net; Syrian Community Network; San Diego Youth Services; County of San Diego Public Health Nurses; PCG; CMSS; RPB; Somali Family Services of San Diego; Women’s Empowerment International; Rebecca Miranda; Robert Walsh; San Ysidro Health Center; ERAE; United Healthcare; Women Empowerment; Mental Health America; Jewish Family Services; Legal Aid Society; Neighborhood House Association; National Conflict Resolution Center; A Better life Together, Inc; Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego;

Topic

Time

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:34
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer

FINACIAL UPDATE:

Organizations and individual membership is down from 65 to 43 members since 2018.

We have two ways to pay for membership dues for the year. \$35; for individuals in small ESBO, and \$70; for organizations. If your name is not among the 43 members that means you have not submitted payment and membership form. If you are not a member of good standing as of close of business today, you will not be allow to participate in the up coming elections, only members can vote. There will be a list of individual members and organizations to cross reference. On the other hand if you are not interested in being part of the process, you can join in 2020, this will not change and if you will like to participate in the election that how you go about it.

Because it’s once a year financial review I want to give everyone an accounting of San Diego Refugee Forum finances. As of today, there is a balance \$8,584.88. This year like many prior years, there were not a lot of expenditures devoted to task forces. Task forces for the most part with the exception of world refugee day, have \$500 per year for whatever fit on your task force when review the balances for the seek of this meeting only the refugee forum actually use the amount that was allocated to them so the balance did not go down that much.

For transparency, any transactions done on behalf of the forum are available on request; every member of good standing will receive a copy upon request. One of the great success this year as I mentioned at July, general meeting of World Refugee Day was extremely successful. We had some great sponsors; thanks to Monica and Rebecca we can not thank you enough for your efforts.

If you have any questions about the membership status of yourself or your organization, you may email us at the distribution email which is the Gmail or you may email me, contact may be finding at the bottom of the agenda.



Resettlement, County, and State Updates

10:40

Reception and Placement: VLOGs- Voluntary agencies, is now calling the Summon agencies.

Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.

Catholic charities: For October we have 4 primary arrival **and 3**

International Rescue Committee: 17 in totals for the month of October. These were primarily refugees and some CIV from Afghanistan

County of San Diego:

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
- for the year in total we have 976, out of that refugees 26, were 308, Asylee 59, for the month of September, we have 100refugees from Afghanistan, 51 from CIV

State Advisory Committee:

- o Abdi
- o Next meeting will be December 12th in Sacramento, more information will be provided, and Discussions would be on how to best serve the refugees. It is highly advisable to join the teleconference.
- **County Refugee Health**
 - o No updates.

Task Force Updates: Task forces are groups of agencies and individuals who come together to advocate for the need of the people. The Task force funds have not been utilized for this year, we encourage task forces to put more efforts. We have so far 6 task forces but not all of them are active. If you would like to join or chair a task force, please let us know.

10:45

Review of Bylaws: The bylaws committee had 2 meetings last month, 2017 was the last revision of our bylaws. Review of the bylaws is done once in 2 years. We are trying to implement new changes. If you have knowledge of working with bylaws, agencies please connect with Mohammed after the meeting.

Looking for 1 person to join ad hoc committee

To become an active task force and be eligible to do an event and receive funding, a task force must have two active co-chairs, meet regularly, and report directly to the Forum. In November we will be holding elections and selecting a committee to help us with the bylaws, elections and more. Contact the officers if you are interested in joining the ad hoc committee.

Advocacy Task Force: No updates

Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:

Our next meeting will be on 22nd of October in this location at 2.p.m. Our focus is on reviewing the difference of attorney, and putting people seeking asylum together to get resource in San Diego. We will be

Domestic Violence Task Force: No updates

Employment Task Force: No updates. ?

Health Task Force: We met on Tuesday October 8th, we talked about how to spend our money, suggestion of giving new refugees welcome bags with health hygiene items, distribution of fliers for the forum, partner in



health information share handout through agencies, education presentations for refugees families, also helping refugee family to navigate medical system. Our next meeting is going to be on Tuesday November 12th

Election Committee:

Nominate someone for the Vice chair and secretary position and if you want to nominate yourself, please feel free to do so. Please pay your dues if you have not, you have till the end of the day. As secretary, we attend official meetings, sharing work of you all. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Also, as we all know, helping student interns in our local schools is providing opportunities, so consider giving a student an internship opportunity

● **Spotlight Presentation:**

Topic: United Health Care 10:55
Presenter: Monique
Contact: 858 658-8517
Email: Monique_Knight@uhc.com

● **Focus Presentation:** 11:20

East Region:
Topic: Adult Education
Presenters: Jessica Hernandez and Ban Bahkai

● **Approval of September, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** 11:55

Jackline Mola made a motion to approve September meet, second by Mohammed Tuama.

Adjournment: Mohammed Tuama, Chair 12:00

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19th 2019

Join our mailing list at www.sdrefugeeforum.org

Refugee Forum Officers:

Chair Mohammed Tuama	Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)	M.Tuama@NewcomerSD.org
Vice Chair Mejgan Afshan	Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	Mafshan@cair.com
Treasurer Ross Fackrell	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Ross.fackrell@rescue.org
Secretary Jackline Mola	Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)	Jmola@mhasd.org