



**Date** Tuesday, August 20, 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:** Aetna; Casa Cornelia Law Center; County of San Diego HHSA; El Cajon Collaborative; International Rescue Committee; Karen Organization of San Diego; National Conflict Resolution Center; Newcomers Support and Development (NSD); SAY San Diego; Somali Family Service of San Diego; United Women of East Africa (UWEST); San Diego Hunger Coalition; United Healthcare; San Diego Youth Services I CARE Program; Grossmont Healthcare District; JACL' San Diego City College Cal Works Program; Asian Pacific Islanders Initiative; East Region Adult Education; Syrian Community Network; UC San Diego Global Health Program; Suzanne Cahill; John B. McNeece III; Horn of Africa; ABA Immigration Justice Project; Sheriff Department; San Diego Welcome Back Center

**Topic**

**Time**

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:35
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
  - We still have about 41 members. If you'd like to sign-up you can do so via a form or online.
  - Elections are coming up quickly in November, and you must be a member in good standing to vote. If you have attempted to sign-in and do not see you or your organization's name it means you are not currently a member in good standing or an active member. Email or call me if you have any questions.

**Resettlement, County, and State Updates** 10:40

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**
  - Alliance for African Assistance:** No updates.
  - Catholic Charities:** This past month featured one primary refugee family arrive. 85 Cuban Haitian migrants, with 84 Haitians and one Cuban. For August and September we do have more refugee and SIV arrivals, and they are Afghan, Syrian, and some more Haitian's coming in August.
  - International Rescue Committee:** We have 12 scheduled so far, all refugee arrivals for the month of August and 22 scheduled for September, who are coming from the DRC, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Myanmar, and Ukraine.
  - Jewish Family Services:** No updates.
- **County of San Diego:**
  - Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
  - For the month of July we had 166. 82 were Cuban Haitians. Their population is increasing in San Diego. They are coming through San Ysidro, and DHS is not issuing any I-94, which prevents them from accessing social security, and other services. We are working towards retroactive payment.
  - Primary refugees 33, Asylee 14, Cuban Haitians 83, SIVs 36. For the year of 18-19 we are at a total of 810.
  - This report is already posted on the website.
  - **State Advisory Committee:**
    - Abdi
    - Next meeting will be September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am that will be a teleconference. Please join, and I will send you the information as soon as I receive it.
  - **County Refugee Health**
    - No updates.



**Task Force Updates:**

10:45

**Review of Bylaws**

To become an active task force and be eligible to do an event and receive funding, they 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:**

The Task Force is currently looking for co-chairs to restart the task force. Please email Rebecca Miranda at [Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org](mailto:Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org) for more information and to get more involved.

**Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:**

The last meeting was in June. No Updates. Please email Rebecca Miranda at [Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org](mailto:Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org) or contact Patricia Ramirez for more information and to get more involved.

**Domestic Violence Task Force:** We met on July 17<sup>th</sup> and that month we offered two trainings on domestic violence and sexual assault to United Women of East Africa. It was very successful and I believe we really connected with the team. We are meeting hopefully next week.

**Employment Task Force:** No updates.

**Health Task Force:** We were previously inactive because both co-chairs stepped down. At our meeting last week, we held elections for new co-chairs. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:30-4:30 pm in the Price Charities building. Our events for 2019 are still in the works, but we are considering collaborating with the Asylum Task Force, maybe a panel discussion of some sort, and increasing the availability of the Medi-Cal maps project, and also just rebuilding the task force so if you are interested please come join and be a part of it. Our next meeting will be Tuesday September 10 2:30-4:30 at the Price Charities Building and we will be holding a meet and greet. We will have a guest speaker presenting on helping internationally trained healthcare workers with license and alternative healthcare pathways.

• **Spotlight Presentation:**

10:55

Topic: Census 2020

Presenter: Joann Fields, Government Public Relations Director for the Asian Pacific Islander Initiative

- To receive funding for projects, grants, etc. the proof comes from the 2020 census. I call this relationship money, power, and respect. There is power in the representation.
- You can respond for the first time online either via the internet, phone, paper form, or in-person.
- It's important for people to know that these responses are confidential and protected. This information will not be shared with any Federal Bureau other than the Census.
- There is a lot at risk here. For example, \$55 billion Medicaid, \$8 billion in Federal Direct Student loans, \$7 billion in food stamps, \$3.5 billion in Section 8 vouchers. We know the demand is high but if we can't prove the need, it is hard to get that allocation of funding.
- There are only 12 non-English languages available on the census: Spanish, Chinese, Polish, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Arabic, French, Portuguese, Japanese. We are looking for 59 other languages that are needed so we can reach all the communities that we serve.



- About \$2,000 per person for the next 10 years is at risk if we do not receive an accurate count.
- If you'd like to become involved on the federal level, you can go to [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov)
- On an organizational level you can go to regional offices.
- The Census will be held in April.

• **Focus Presentation:**

11:20

Topic: Grants to Nonprofit Organizations

Presenter: Grossmont Healthcare District Grants

- Grossmont, centered in East County, partners with Sharp to meet unmet healthcare needs, as well as give out grants. Please visit our website for more information.

• **Community Announcements: All**

11:35

- We are interested in creating a Bylaw Review Task Force, so please if you are interested please talk to any of the officers. We need one more person to fulfill the five person requirement.
- We will be sending a letter to the previous chair to resolve some residual matters.
- We will send an email regarding the election ad hoc
- Paloma from SD Hunger Coalition: We are drafting some messaging around public charge & food assistance. We are deciding if we should use the term permanent resident or green card holder, if I could have some comments on that. We are looking for legal and healthcare partnerships to standardize our messaging. Cal Fresh meeting this Tuesday at the Price building on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor 10 am – noon.
- There will be a Live Well San Diego Data Summit. It's on September 16<sup>th</sup>. You can go to [livewellsd.org](https://livewellsd.org) > Data Summit to register. There will be a check your Mood Day on October 10<sup>th</sup>. You can go to [livewellsd.org/mood day](https://livewellsd.org/moodday) to register.
- Lucia from SAY San Diego Crawford HS – we are really focused on serving students and their families. If families that you're working with need backpack school supplies in the City Heights area, they can come to us. We prefer the families come and make the request. The pick-up would be on Friday. Our center is located at Crawford HS and it's open until 2:30 pm. Ask for Crawford Community Connection.
- Brittany from NCRC – We have a new workshop available to community orgs. Bystander challenge workshop regarding how to go from a bystander to an upstander. If you have a group or staff that would like that I can present to you. The next of the Dialogue series will be held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. 75 people came to the first one. Please feel empowered to be inviting people to join. The next one will be at Bayview Baptist church.
- United Healthcare – I am a community outreach representative to inform the San Diego county community what services we offer. We also work with the foodbank to see what health services they may be eligible for. If any of you would want to partnership with us, please chat with me afterwards.
- Tyler with the Office of border health – Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Workshop. The last was held here two months ago. It will be held from 9-11:30 on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Vista. If you can make it please join & I have some flyers.
- Sheriff's dept community relations director – We have been working with the District Attorney's Office to create more communication with communities that have mental health needs. This helps guide family and community on how to conduct and relay that information when 911 is having to be called. Please contact me if you're interested. I'm working with SDPD for a community resource fair. We are trying to plan it for October at Colima Park. We will be reaching out to our community resource partners to gauge interest.
- Refugee Health Task Force meeting – We now have a connection at the state level, who is Chief of the Office of Refugee Healthcare for the state of California.



- The SD Women's foundation is having a grants kick off presentation, supporting agencies who support refugees and asylum seekers. The event is on August 28th from 6-8pm and the location is currently at the SD Women's Foundation, but this may change so go to the Facebook page to remain updated.
  
- **Approval of July 2019 Meeting Minutes:** 11:55
  - Motion to approve
  - Seconded by Kaya
  
- **Adjournment:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 12:00

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Join our mailing list at [www.sdrefugeeforum.org](http://www.sdrefugeeforum.org)**

**Refugee Forum Officers:**

Chair | Mohammed Tuama  
Vice Chair | Mejgan Afshan  
Treasurer | Ross Fackrell  
Secretary | Jackline Mola

Newcomers Support and Development (NSD)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
Mental Health America of San Diego County (MHA)

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