



Date Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Location International Rescue Committee

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

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

Minutes

Attendance: Attendance: Aetna; American Academy of Pediatrics; Casa Cornelia Law Center; County of San Diego HHSA; NCRC; International Rescue Committee; Karen Organization of San Diego; Newcomers Support and Development(NSD); SAY San Diego; San Ysidro Health Center; Somali Family Service of San Diego; Women’s Empowerment International; Legal Aid Society; City of San Diego; Somali Bantu Association; San Diego Welcome Back Center; Alliance for African Assistance; CA Dept of Social Services; Public Defenders Office; A Better Life Together, Inc.; Jewish Family Services; Jenna Buchwach; US Census; County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services; Molina; Refugee Program Bureau staff - Kathy Yang and Brian Tam.

Topic

Time

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:35
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
 - 2020 Membership Applications - if you’d like to sign-up you can do so via a form or online. 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. Benefits of membership: Participate in World Refugee Day and Officer voting in November. Email or call Ross if you have any questions.

Task Force Updates:

10:40

Advocacy Task Force:	No update
Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:	No update
Domestic Violence Task Force:	No update
Employment Task Force:	No update
Health Task Force:	Well attended meeting. Compile and distribute hygiene kits for students and distribute a list of resources for health education/resources.
World Refugee Day:	Group plans to meet next month to begin discussion of World Refugee Day event planning
Bylaws Review Committee:	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, they must have two active co-chairs, meet regularly, and report directly to the Forum.
Legal Assistant Task Force:	New task force forming



Resettlement, County, and State Updates- Please see website for up to date information

10:50

• Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:

Alliance for African Assistance:	Family of 7 and family of 3 arriving in Jan
Catholic Charities:	8 arrivals in December and 2 so far in January. 44 Cuban Haitian migrants in December and 42 so far in January.
International Rescue Committee:	36 scheduled in December and 20 so far in January.
Jewish Family Services:	No updates

County of San Diego:

Abdi – update of Board of Supervisors vote from 1/14/2020. Unanimous “Yes” for County to resettle refugees. Arrival report December 2019 – 117 resettled, 105 in CalWorks and 12 in WilsonFish. See FY Q1 Report for fuller numbers and statistics.

State Advisory Committee: Abdi - Next meeting will be March 12, 2020 at County Operations Center on Overland. Meeting will cover 1 or 2 days. On last SAC meeting in Sacramento, the committee members decided to have a great representation from ECBOs on the SAC committee; as a result, there were few workgroup created; one of these workgroup consists of Abdi Abdillahi, Zogg Martin, LA IRC Executive Director, and Mohamed Tuama which will be working on defining ECBOs, and mapping the state’s ECBOs. Please send information, the name of your organization and contact name to Abdi if you think your organization is an ECBO.

Refugee Program Bureau Updates:

11:05

Brian Tam

State Refugee numbers: FY 2020 Q1 - 301 Refugee, 1402 SIV

National Refugee numbers: FY 2020 Q1 – 3219 Refugee, 3686 SIV

Low numbers generally, 9% of all US refugees resettled in CA, 38% of US SIVs resettled in CA

WilsonFish transition – ORR is not extending WF, ORR requested state to run WF, WilsonFish will continue to work with Catholic Charities locally. The formal agreement was reached and the state run program will run beginning Feb 1. The state is providing cash aid only, support service funds are separate.

Kathy Yang, State Refugee Coordinator

Most CA counties have given consent to resettle refugees (all but 1), last day to give consent was 1/21/2020. There is an injunction over the executive order from a Maryland judge who stopped states/counties from giving consent to support refugee resettlement.

• **Focus Presentation:**

Topic: Census 2020

Presenter: Brett Serwall and Roberto Garcia



There are openings for those who speak various languages to work in their own communities helping the census, “enumerators.” Applicants must be 18+, speak English, no resume or experience is required, background check is required, the person must be a US Citizen or resident. Visit: <https://2020census.gov/>

There is a need for the Census to rent rooms for training purposes. Rooms need to hold up to 20 people and be centrally located to where the populations served will be. The Census will be looking for rooms between February and May. Please contact Brett Serwall for information about this opportunity.

Reasons why the census is important: Redistricting, Funding allocation

Census will take place April 1. People can participate online, over the phone, or speak with an enumerator (person who goes door to door). July 31 is the last day for the census.

- **Community Announcements:** All 11:40
 - Say SD – Community Education Forum in City Heights (contact for date/time)
 - US Census – interested in presenting to various groups
 - Casa Cornelia – need for language interpreters/translators (especially African languages)
 - Request for education taskforce at SDRF
 - Abdi – VESL opportunity
 - Legal Aid Society – Hiring testers to find out if people are being discriminated against in housing. Please contact layanA@lassd.org for more information.
 - County of San Diego – Love Your Heart event upcoming in February. Free blood pressure checks
 - Breaking Down Barriers – Mental Health Community Presentations
 - Brain Tam from State Refugee Coordinator Office – please update their office with refugee activities, they will post on State Refugee Coordinator website
 - Mohammad – Legal assistant task force needed
 - We will post events to FB page, website, and Google group.

- **Adjournment:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 12:00

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

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 Bob Walsh	Volunteer to Refugee Community	Bwalsh1148@gmail.com
Treasurer Ross Fackrell	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Ross.fackrell@rescue.org
Secretary Julie Germain	Alliance for African Assistance	Julie@alliance-for-africa.org
Ex Efficio Abdi Adbillahi	Program Manager/County Refugee Coordinator	Abdi.abdillahi@sdcountry.ca.gov