



Date Tuesday, July 16, 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: A Better Life Together; American Academy of Pediatrics – California Chapter 3; Catholic Charities; Center for Community Integration San Diego; County of San Diego HHS; El Cajon Collaborative; International Rescue Committee; Jewish Family Service S.D.(JFS); Mental Health America of San Diego County; National Conflict Resolution Center; Nile Sisters Development Initiative; Native Interpreting; Border Health San Diego; County of San Diego Emergency Services; San Ysidro Health Center; East Region Adult Education; County of San Diego Northeast Family Resolution Center; SAY San Diego; Peacemakers Fund; Public Consultant Group; Molina Healthcare; Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest; Robert Walsh; United Women of East Africa (ECBO); San Diego Sheriff’s Department; SAY San Diego FSFS; Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein; San Diego District Attorney’s Office; HHS RHAP; Behavioral Health Services; Office of Representative Scott Peters; Media Arts Center; Office of Senator Kamala Harris; Aetna Better Health

Topic

Time

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 10:35
- **Membership & Financials** Ross Fackrell, Treasurer
 - We had an amazing World Refugee Day event, thank you again to Monica and Rebecca!
 - There was a change due to strong collaboration, new innovation, and sponsorship – which is tied to membership
 - We were able to offer those performers a small financial donation.
 - The celebration was an example of your membership dues at work, as well as to the task forces
 - Your financial contribution does mean something
 - We’re up to 41 members in 2019, if you’re not seeing your name on the sign in sheet or on the website, it means we have not received your membership dues
 - Every November we have an officer election, and you can only vote if you’re a paying member in good standing.
 - Please look at the website and check out all the benefits to see why it is worthwhile to be a member in good standing. There is the paper form online or you can pay through PayPal on the website. Organizational dues (over 10 employees) is \$70, individuals is \$35/year or if you’re a smaller org 10+ then you can also qualify
 - Only HHS you’re covered under SD County!

Resettlement, County, and State Updates

10:40

- **Reception and Placement: VOLAGs:**

Alliance for African Assistance: No updates.

Catholic Charities: 1 Afghan SIV case scheduled for this month arriving in about a week. In August we have 3 cases scheduled- 2 Afghan cases that are cross referenced 5 and 1, so a family of 6 coming together, then one Syrian SIV coming in August also. As far as Cuban Nation entrance goes, in June we have 36 and then July at least 25 so far.

International Rescue Committee: For the month of July we have 32 bookings. It’s a mixture of US, Thai, and free cases. They’re coming from Afghanistan, DRC, and Myanmar. In August we also have another 10 bookings.

Jewish Family Services: No updates.



County of San Diego:

- Abdi Abdillahi, County Refugee Coordinator
- Overall for the month of June we had 91. Primary refugees were 38 (42%) out of 91, Cuban nation 36 (40%) and then two trafficking victims and SIV is 12 (13%). For the year we have 641. Primary refugees were 277 (43%), Secondary immigrants were 4, Asylee 37, Cuban 179 (28%), trafficking 5, SIV 139 (22%).
- For June we have 9 Syrians. No refugees from here, but the ones coming were already on the pipeline a couple years ago before the ban.
- For this month out of 91, 76 were from families, 15 for RCA cases (singles or couples with no children). Details are posted on the website.
- Based on last month at the SAC meeting, I don't think we can reach the 30,000 limit that the president set this year
- Last year we had 40,000 and we only had about 22,500 or 24,000 at the most
- As of May 31st we were at about 22,000 so we still have another 8,000 to go and no one from the resettlement agencies expects that to be met
- **State Advisory Committee:**
 - o Abdi
 - o Next meeting sept. 18th in sacramento.
 - o Can call the 800 number if you have any questions or concerned.
 - o Last three to four meetings were asylum seekers which is big in California
 - o Asylum seekers don't have any benefits except medi-cal for kids up to 19 and adults they have emergency health, but that's it
 - o Please call into the next meeting and try and participate
- **County Refugee Health**
 - o We saw about 32 patients last month
 - o Half from Afghanistan about 20% from the Congo, and Haiti was the primary country of origin.
 - o Please check with your cases to make sure they're linked with primary care. They might not know how to navigate the health system, which we've especially seen with the Congolese arrivals.
 - o Women that may have been on birth control, like Depravera, while they're in the camps, there may be a lag time, so please just check in to see what they might have been on. They might need to see a reproductive health provider so they don't have unintended pregnancies, which affects their resettlement. Check in with your women arrivals!

Task Force Updates:

10:50

Advocacy Task Force:

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

Asylee/Asylum Seeker Task Force:

Our next meeting will be on July 23rd and the details for a time and location will be sent out. It may be hosted at the migrant shelter, so RSVPs are necessary. We're also in the process of finalizing asylum seeker orientations in partnership with IRC and other task force members. Please email Rebecca Miranda at Rebecca.miranda@panasd.org for more information and to get more involved.



Domestic Violence Task Force: No updates.

Employment Task Force: No updates.

Health Task Force: No updates.

World Refugee Day: Thank you to all the members for making this happen, especially the task force chairs. So far everyone has been saying that this has been the best Refugee Day Celebration ever. Abdi says this was the best so far! This was due to all of you that we were able to make this a bigger and better event and thank you to the sponsors. What was different about this event was that we asked for sponsorship, had a stronger committee, more volunteers and talent for performers, as well as lots of agencies that signed up to table, great advertising, an accessible location, and more food. There will be at a Middle Eastern lunch as a thank you to the task force. We had over 600 people in attendance, compared to last year's 300, about 40 booths representing different agencies, and a lot more community support, and everyone was dancing! ☺

• **Focus Discussion:**

11:10

Topic: Bylaws and Task Forces

- Please contact Mohammed if you're interested in joining the ad hoc bylaws committee or the legal resources task force.
- We may combine the asylum and advocacy task force or have one combine with this new legal resources task force.
- Attendee comment: Please make sure to include translators on these task forces.

• **Community Announcements:** All

11:20

- Sheriff's department – It is Domestic Violence Awareness month in October. If you're interested, please contact the DV coordinator. We'd love to collaborate and support with this.
- Mental Health America: We're offering free Mental Health First Aid Training available throughout the county. It's an 8-hour certification and you become a mental health respondent for 2 years. It's a really amazing opportunity.
- Public Consultant Group – My name is Carol Crisp, I'm the outreach specialist and work with community agencies and employees. I have about 20 years of experience. I'm encouraged by this group and represent the entire region except the north.
- Madeline from Native Interpreting- We have partnered with SDUSD to offer a course on interpreting for special education IEP meetings. It's a 6 part 6 week introductory course for two hours a day, so just going over special ed services, rights, and interpreter skills and their role in the IEP process. It will be at Kimber Elementary. The enrollment fee \$150 and you can enroll on the website and I'll also send an email out.
- Maria for HHS Northeast Family Resource Center. I work in partnership with SAY San Diego at Crawford High School. I'm in charge of all the CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWorks in the community. I have been working with members from the IRC to obtain benefit letters. If your clients have any question about their status on medical please feel free to reach out. I cannot speak to you regarding your client but I can speak with you and your client. I work one on one with the client at SAY San Diego Crawford. Contact me if you have any questions.
- Lucia for SAY SD Crawford- We will be hosting a resource fair next Thursday, July 25th and the population would be students attending Crawford High School. If your organization is trying to engage high school age students this is a great opportunity to share about your program and



resources with them. Please reach out to me if you're interested. My information is on the SAY San Diego website under Crawford Community Connection and my name is Lucia Gonzalez.

- Brittany with NCRC – I just wanted to make sure you were all invited to the two community restorative circles this month. The one on July 25th will be an interfaith and intercultural event. The second on July 31st will be on the opioid epidemic as well as other recovery and rehab issues within the community. These are free and open to the public
- SPEAK city heights – It is the news media channel for City Heights community. We are striving to increase the visibility of the channel and if you have stories that you think should be featured, please contact me. We work with the Voice of San Diego reporter as well and work with the AJA project, most of which is done with their students and the students select the projects they want to report on. If you want to be on this list please let me know. Also, if you're in an office interested in finding out what's going on in City Heights, follow us on Twitter or Facebook! Our feed is mostly on WordPress, so please check it out and let people know about us!
- Mohammed – We are talking to a big foundation to present information about how to apply for grants with that foundation and other foundations in general. We will have an update about the from the census group about the 2020 census.

- **Approval of May 2019 Meeting Minutes:** 11:25
 - Motion to approve by Jackline Mola
 - Seconded by Kaya Agustin
- **Adjournment:** Mohammed Tuama, Chair 11:30

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20th 2019

Join our mailing list at www.sdrefugeeforum.org

Refugee Forum Officers:

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|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
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| 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 |