



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Ron DeSantis

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 2020

TO: Members of the Tallahassee Refugee Task Force

FROM: Theresa Leslie, Refugee Services (RS)

SUBJECT: Task Force Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2020

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: March 9, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM
Location: Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Blvd, Bldg 3, Rm201
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Contact: Theresa Leslie
Office: (850) 778-4065
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This task force has been active in the Tallahassee area in the past few years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups. An average of about twenty to twenty-five attend on a regular basis. The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of the refugee populations, share best practices, build collaborations between agencies, spot trends in refugee populations, characteristics or movements, help create good communication among service providers; get informed about upcoming community events, training, workshops, conferences, etc., at the local, state and national level; discuss refugee program service needs and possible solutions to meeting those needs. Meeting participants also receive updates, information and clarification on new federal and state regulations and policy changes pertaining to refugees. If there are any issues that you would like to include in the agenda, please contact me at the above address.

TALLAHASSEE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held virtual platform (Microsoft Teams) with the Department of Children and Families Refugee Staff, Theresa Leslie, who called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATIONS

International Rescue Committee, Una Bilic, Site Manager

Una provided updates on the IRC Comprehensive Refugee Services (CRS) program and the services being provided to refugee clients.

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Walter Sachs, Northwest Regional Director

Walter described the new CARE (Care Coordination) program being piloted in the Northwest Region. The program will be aimed at providing case management and referral services to help customers become economically self-sufficient as quickly as possible.

Leon County Schools, Adult and Community Education (ACE), Althoria Pickett, ESOL Coordinator

Althoria provided updates on refugee clients currently receiving ESOL services through ACE ESOL program.

Partner Agency Updates

Following the task force presentations, task force participants and community partners gave updates on their organizations and current operations and services offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
10:00 to 11:30 AM

Department of Children and Families
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Tallahassee, FL 32399

Or by Conference Call: 1-888-585-9008, the code: 951-031-034#

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