



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 28, 2019  
**TO:** Members of the Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force  
**FROM:** LeAndra Stafford, Refugee Services (RS)  
**SUBJECT:** January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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**THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

**Date:** March 13, 2019  
**Time:** 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Baptist Association of Jacksonville  
2700 University Boulevard South  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
**Contact:** LeAndra Stafford  
**Office:** (904) 485-9540  
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**E-Mail:** Leandra.Stafford@myflfamilies.com

This task force has been active in the Jacksonville area for many years. The participants are representatives of various government agencies, private not-for-profit organizations and mutual assistance associations. An average of about twenty-five to thirty people attend these meetings 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, request for proposals, 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.

*I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!*

5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211

## JACKSONVILLE AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING

### INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held at the Jacksonville Baptist Association. LeAndra Stafford, Community Liaison represented the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Refugee Services (RS) Program facilitated the meeting. There were 24 people in attendance. Molly Conrad, Procurement Manager of Refugee Services was in attendance. The meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

### GUEST PRESENTATION

1.) Matt Schmitt, Associate Director, Catholic Charities Bureau Inc.

Programs Overview

- A. The Diocese of St. Augustine has four regional offices (CCB): Lake City, Gainesville, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. All offices are COA Accredited (Council of Accreditation - the highest accreditation in the social service industry)
- B. CCBJax has several programs to those in need (Emergency Assistance, HOPWA, SSDF, TANF, and City Grants)
- C. The Emergency Assistance is through the United Way 211. Those in need cannot have accessed the program in the last 90 days.
- D. The other programs are designed to assist specifically Veterans, Persons with Aids, or Disaster Victims
- E. There is currently a case management component for disaster victims who need long term assistance (Those with damage from Hurricane Irma, there is still funding available for assistance)
- F. Food Pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays and 40 tickets each of those days is given out for food distribution. Food pantry can only be used once every 90 days. The food pantry is being moved to Old St. Payas Catholic School where St. Vincent Healthcare has built a full clinic in the old school (the food pantry will be housed next to it)
- G. Work Force Program is designed to assist the un and under employed to assist with job placement skills and to access skills to get a better job.
- H. CAMP: Camp I am Special is a summer camp for children and adults with special needs. It is a Buddy Camper Match Up that provides residential overnight camp. It provides 7 one-week sessions during the summer. The "Buddy" are volunteer high school students who are trained to work with the special needs of the camper. The camp is accredited through America Camp Association.
- I. Immigration Services: To Further or advance the legal status of immigrants; to help get families reunited in the US. Assist with Green Card and Citizenship. Services are based on a sliding fee scale (Low Bono or Pro Bono). It is DOJ accredited.
- J. Refugee Services: Provider Reception and Placement, Match Grant, ESOL classes in various location in the city, Integration Assistance, POWR

(Parishes Organized to Welcoming Refugees), and Cuban-Haitian Program.

## **REFUGEE SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS UPDATE**

- **World Relief (Jose Vega, Director):**
  - WR had 37 arrivals (8 SIVs included in this number) since Oct. 2018
  - Projection for the year is 100 arrivals, however, realistically 81
  - No Match Grant program this year
  - IA since October 2018 enrolled 19 cases; BIS closed 10 in Dec '18 and 4 in Jan '19. Enrolled ICM 6 and close 2 in mid Jan '19. For I& R, 208 Individuals services in 248 hours (have completed 6 hours of workshop presentations)
  - Innovations Classes are being completed. 14 students will be graduating this week.
  - All Nations Soccer league 3<sup>RD</sup> season will begin in February.
  - A new sewing class will be starting Jan 12<sup>th</sup> for 16 students. Kim Woodlock from Scarletthread.com will be teaching sewing skills and will be selling them on- line for World Relief (the curriculum is still being developed)
  
- **Catholic Charities Bureau (Matt Schmitt, Associate Director):**
  - CCB has 29 who have arrived or are scheduled to arrive since Oct. 2018 (27 Refugees and 2 SIVs)
  - 19 Match Grant slots filled and 0 remaining, waiting for approval for more allocations (they are only being approved on a case by case basis)
  - Expectation 100 arrivals (60 refugees and 40 SIVs).
  
- **Lutheran Social Services (Cristina Parcel, Director):**
  - LSS has 42 arrivals since Oct 2018, they expect 8 arrivals (a family of 6 from Vietnam) on Jan 24th
  - They have enrolled 38 in Match Grant and waiting for an approval for more slots
  - Expectation of 200 arrivals (160 refugees and 40 SIVs)
  
- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid:**
  - No updates
  
- **Early Learning Coalition:**
  - No updates
  
- **Department of Health**
  - No updates

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

USCIS – No Updates

FSCJ ESOL –

- ESOL classes are now at the South campus

- Enrollment will close on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> for Spring Semester classes
- Currently there are 591 ESOL students enrolled at Deerwood Campus
  - 491 enrolled at Downtown Campus
  - 50 enrolled at South Campus

**Beyond 90 –**

- Lori Chelf, founder, stated they have purchased a second house for a refugee family, they are now rehabbing it to rent out to a family. She also explained they are a nonprofit organization who buys houses, rehabs them, and make it affordable rentals for refugee families.

**Jacksonville University –**

- The nursing program will be working with World Relief (Robin Koirala) to coordinate services for refugees in need of medical services

**Steps to Success –**

- Michelle Hughes, Supervisor, a part of LSS, it is a workforce training extension for refugee services. They can provide career and finance literacy. They are housed in the New Town area of Jacksonville (near Edward Waters College). They can assist refugees who are no longer is eligible for the Refugee Employment program.

**NEW ISSUES/ ACTIONS TAKEN**

- 1.) Requested Volunteers to work on the next World Refugee Day Event for 2019. Asked those interested to indicate it next to their name on the sign in sheet and they will be contacted with a meeting date.
- 2.) Cristina Parcell (LSS) announced they will be posting the ITN for the case management portion of the consolidation of refugee services on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> on their website