



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 14, 2019
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force
FROM: Lourdes Leconte, Refugee Services (RS)
SUBJECT: December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Date: February 08, 2019
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Location: Miami-Dade College
Building 8, Room, Room 8525
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132
Contact: Lourdes Leconte
Office: (786) 257-5173
Cell: (305) 401-3374
E-Mail: Lourdes.Leconte@myflfamilies.com

This taskforce has been active in the Miami 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!

401 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite N-812 Miami, Florida 33128

**MIAMI-DADE REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2018**

ATTENDEES:

Bojan, Bajic;; Kerry, Allen; Sabine, Balmir; Ileana, Bustelo; Jackie Carrion; Berta Cassidy; Maria, Dominguez; Martha Ferrer; Emilie, Goeser; Kelly, Levy; Lourdes, Leconte; Omar, Lugo; Dorothy, Martin; Sergio Mora; Eduardo Morras, Arnold Munoz; Erica, Perdomo; Cristobal , Perez; Yeen Perez; Marie, Philogene; Maureen Porras; Oscar Rivera; Maria, Rodriguez; Veronica, Rodriguez; Jose Sanchez; Lilliam Sorzano; Evelyn Soto; Carmen, Torres ; Lucy Tucker; Ileana Vallejo; Cheryl White; Yadira Bello; Ardelio Aguiar; Sofia Iduate; Paulina Velez; Arno Lemus; Caridad Mas Batchelor; Regina Bernadin; Andrea Gordon; Gretta Jimenez; Felisha Johnson; Zulma Ruiz; Sonyetta Everett; Grace Toapanta; Sandra Sierra; Osvaldo Cruz; Yaqueline Mesa; Cesar Carpio; Gabriela Perez; Carmen, Gimenez; Sheria Goodman;

INTRODUCTION:

Lourdes Leconte, DCF Refugee Services Community Liaison for the Southern Region welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION:

Kelly Levy, Training Specialist III, CareerSource South Florida did an awesome job presenting the Labor Market Report Presentation for the region, at the request of the attendees she has provided an electronic copy of the presentation, it is attached to the minutes.

Representatives from most of the Refugee services providers and Local resettlement agencies took turns sharing the accomplishments, the challenges faced during 2018 and their hopes for the coming year. Refugee and Cuban Parolee arrivals are at an all-time low. The current political climate is creating uneasiness and uncertainties for service providers, who in spite it all remain hopeful that things will change for the better in the coming year and will continue to work helping the refugee population in our community.

After the meeting thirty-eight members converged to the Knife restaurant for the celebratory end of the year luncheon. Community Medical Group provided some Door prizes to attendees.

REFUGEE SERVICES (RS) UPDATE:**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- Volunteers needed for the planning of World Refugee Day 2019

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (*Sent via E-Mail in November and December*)

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

SOUTH FLORIDA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2018

South Florida VOLAG Consortium

November 5, 2018

Attendees:

Name	Agency	Email
Evelin Soto	Catholic Charities	ESoto@ccadm.org
Bojan Bajic	Youth Coop	Bojan.Bajic@ycoop.mail.org
Jose Sanchez	CWS	Jsanchez@cwsglobal.org
Carmen Torres	LRIS	
Lourdes Leconte	DCF - Refugee Services	
Silvia Lopez	ACCESS – CMG	

Jos Sanchez from Church World Services welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The group discussed the announcement from PRM to approve 9 VOLAG agencies in the US. It was mentioned that programs would count with “floor funding” to be able to operate. The amounts have not yet been determined. PRM will review sites to decide which will remain per location. It is expected that the decisions will be based on number of clients received, performance, amongst other criteria.

The asylum orientations continue to take place monthly at the Miami Asylum Unit.

The group also discussed the total number of enrollments for the MG program to November 30, 2018.

- Catholic Charities 187
- CWS 519
- Youth Co-op 936
- 1,642

In addition, there has been an improvement in the wait time for the EADs (Employment Authorization Documents), which are now taking approximately 3.5 months or less. This is good news, as program outcomes depend on clients being employed and self-sufficient.

It was informed that the Refugee Coordinator Position stationed at the US Embassy in Havana, Cuba, has been moved to Mexico. The refugee program at in Havana stopped accepting new applications in March 2018.

Youth Co-op announced that they are currently working on opening a shelter to serve Unaccompanied Children in Pompano. USCRI has been awarded a new grant for this purpose. It is expected that the shelter will be open in January 2019. They are currently working on hiring staff and ensuring that everything is ready for the opening.

It was also announced that Catholic Charities received a grant from Jeff Bezos’ Day One foundation, which will be used to help homeless families through their New Life Family Shelter. Details have not yet been discussed, however, Catholic Charities anticipates helping many families.

The team will meet for the annual Christmas Lunch on 12/18/18.

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2018**Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee****Minutes for the meeting on November 7, 2018**

By: Maria Rodriguez

Attendees: Berta Cassidy, Maria Avila, Michael Silva, Augusto Delvalle, Brad Ginter, Megan Humphreys, Amanda St. Jean, Miriam J. Garcia, Lourdes Leconte, Dorothy Martin, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Eudelia Talamantes.

The Immigration Subcommittee Meeting was held on November 7, 2018 at the office of Church World Service. Berta Cassidy provided USCIS updates, Amanda St. Jean provided EOIR updates, Michael Silva and Augusto provided CBP updates, followed by questions.

ASC OFFICES: The Application Support Centers (ASC) for the Oakland and Miami Field Offices will be relocated. Starting December 3, 2018, the ASC for the Oakland office will be located at **3718 W. Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderdale Lake, FL 33311**. Starting January 14, 2019, the ASC for the Miami office will be located at **1620 NE 163rd St, N. Miami Beach, FL 33162**.

The ASCs for the Kendall and Hialeah Field Offices will be relocated sometime next year. Addresses will be provided later.

PROPOSED RULE ON PUBLIC CHARGE: Comments will be accepted until December 10, 2018. The proposed rule will not affect lawful permanent residents applying for Naturalization.

POLICY MANUAL UPDATE: All applicants filing for naturalization based on marriage to a U.S. Citizen must be married to the U.S. citizen from the time of filing until the applicant takes the Oath of Allegiance. In addition, naturalization under this basis requires that the applicant have lived in marital union with the U.S. citizen for at least 3 years immediately preceding the date of filing the naturalization application.

FORM I-693: As of November 1, 2018, USCIS will require applicants to submit a Form I-693 that is signed by a civil surgeon no more than 60 days before filing the underlying application for an immigration benefit. The Form I-693 would remain valid for a two-year period following the date the civil surgeon signed it. This change does not apply to Forms I-693 submitted prior to November 1, 2018.

**Note* Form I-693 is not an initial evidence.*

TPS: Following a preliminary injunction issued by the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California on October 31, 2018, TPS for Sudan and Nicaragua will be automatically extended through April 2, 2019. TPS recipients may show employers a copy of the Federal Register Notice as proof of the automatic extension.

I-751 RECEIPT NOTICES: On Oct. 16, 2018, USCIS began issuing new receipt notices for certain Forms I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence, to replace previously issued receipt notices containing inaccurate information. Petitioners who received incorrect receipt notices will receive corrected ones shortly. If you have not received a corrected receipt notice by Nov. 15, 2018, please reach out to the USCIS Contact Center.

G-325A: Form G-325A will only be used for Deferred Action for Military requests. The form name has changed to: **Biographic Information for Deferred Action.**

Form I-290B: USCIS has released a new edition of Form I-290B dated May 17, 2018. Starting January 2, 2019, USCIS will only accept the new edition (5/17/18).

EOIR: Organizations on the Immigration Court's List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers and have moved can update their address on the following website: ProBono.ListAdmin@usdoj.gov. Organizations on the R&A roster should contact the R&A Coordinator. Email: R-A-Info@usdoj.gov.

EOIR is working with the Department of Homeland Security to correct issues with court dates on the NTA. The Immigration Court will not be prepared to see cases where DHS does not file the NTA within 14 days of the hearing.

CBP: If a client was not issued a physical I-94, they should check the CBP website.

CBP is hiring in Miami. Age cut off is 18-37. The job posting closes on November 30, 2018.

Office of Public Affairs receives inquiries that are not media-related we refer the public to the CBP Information Center at <https://help.cbp.gov/>

The toll-free number is 877-227-5511 and users can click on this link to e-mail a question <https://help.cbp.gov/app/home>

Another option is the self-service database: <https://help.cbp.gov/app/home/search/1>

For I-94 issues please visit the following link; <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at Church World Service, located at 1924 NW 84th Avenue, Doral, FL 33126, from 10:00 am to 12:00 PM.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES – DECEMBER 2018**EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING****Dec. 14, 2018**

- REVEST is enrolling students for the upcoming first Mini Term of Spring 2193 from January 8 until March 6, 2019. So far around 1000 VESOL students are enrolled program wide in this current Mini Term 78.2, and around 700 are already enrolled for the first Mini Term 79.1 for Spring Term 2193. Approximately 250 students have been scheduled to test and more orientations are planned.
- The REVEST Program has been able to process almost 490 vocational registrations for the current Fall Term. Likewise, we have already processed 90 new vocational registrations for the next college Spring term. We continue providing training and advisement to advisors to be updated about changing procedures and system issues. We are planning presentations by other MDC departments on career options.
- Faculty meetings were conducted with all REVEST instructors Dec. 6 and 8, 2018. All CASAS testing procedures were reviewed with instructors to ensure a successful testing session. CASAS testing is taking place Dec. 10 -14, 2018. We expect completion rates to remain steady. All REVEST students were trained to employ basic test-taking skills. Our Wolfson and Hialeah Centers are now using the ECASAS computer-based test. We are very proud of the hard work of our determined faculty and especially our students.
- REVEST is offering ESOL classes through scholarships at Community Education (Miami Dade College) Kendall Campus starting Jan. 8, 2018. We plan to expand scholarship opportunities to the West Campus Miami Dade College as well as other Miami Dade College Campuses (Community Education). This will allow clients to be served by REVEST in a broader range of sites. Our current sites in Hialeah and Wolfson are also offering classes and we are ready to serve clients. Please get the word out.
- The SAVES Program's current trimester (2018-1) started on August 20, 2018 and will end on December 21, 2018. The total enrollment in the SAVES program during this trimester is 1,572. This number includes 550 new clients and 92 Success Management Academy (SMA) GED clients (16 – 18 yrs. old).
- The next trimester will begin on January 7, 2019 and will end on April 12, 2019. Please refer parolee/refugee/asylee students to the SAVES program. We offer English for Speakers of Other Language Instruction, General Basic Education and a wide range of Vocational/Technical programs. We understand that many Venezuelans are being granted

asylum and would qualify for the SAVES program. If there are agencies from the Doral area that are processing eligible Venezuelans, please remember to refer them to the SAVES program.

- Schools will be in recess from Monday, December 24, 2018 until Friday, January 4, 2019. Schools are in the process of administering final exams to all students who meet the required hours.
- SAVES continues to work closely with the M-DCPS Office of Public Relations, the Marketing Department, and SAVES schools to reach out to the community and disseminate information about the program. SAVES is currently advertising via newspaper, radio, career fairs, and opening of school meetings. Schools are also doing their own marketing to recruit students by participating in open-houses, going on the radio, distributing flyers to the public, presenting at students' orientation, and more.
- The SAVES voucher program is very successful. George T Baker Aviation and Technical College and Miami Lakes Education Center and Technical College offer many courses that are not offered at SAVES schools. Many students take advantage of these opportunities; and the completion and employment rate for these courses are very high.
- SAVES keeps up with the job market to maintain vocational courses current and motivate clients to seek our services. To this end, M-DCPS is working on the new program, "Natural Gas Operations and Distribution," scheduled to start in April 15, 2019, at Miami Lakes Educational and Technical College. This program is designed to prepare students for an entry-level natural gas general technician position. Tuition vouchers will be provided to all SAVES students who are interested in enrolling in this program.
- The SAVES Success Management Academy (SMA) GED program for students 16-18 years old continues to be implemented in eight SAVES Centers. New procedures were established for 2018-2019 school year to ensure more student/parent involvement, empowerment, and participation. These procedures are paying huge dividends with higher completion rates and students participation in higher education and vocational classes.
- SAVES Students' success stories are shared at the SAVES District meetings and published in the SAVES website www.savesdadeschools.com.
- The next SAVES District meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center. Please let us know if you would like to attend and share any information with SAVES school personnel.

If you have any questions about our program, you can call us at (305) 823-5020 or visit the SAVES website at www.savesdadeschools.com

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT – DECEMBER 2018

Labor Market Report presentation by Kelly Levy, Training Specialist III, CareerSource South Florida



Labor Market
Presentation 2018.p

USCIS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2018

USCIS Miami & Caribbean District December 2018 Update

- ❖ **Application Support Center Moves** - Application Support Centers, often called ASCs, offer fingerprinting services, usually after filing an application with USCIS. Although all ASCs in our district are currently co-located with a corresponding field office, that will be changing soon. On Dec 3rd, the Oakland Park ASC will open at a new location: 3718 W Oakland Park Blvd. Lauderdale Lakes, FL. 33311. On January 14th, the Miami ASC will open at: 1620 NE 163rd St. N. Miami Beach, Fl. 33162. Kendall and Hialeah ASCs will be moving sometime in 2019. We will continue to keep everyone informed as these changes occur. Please refer to your ASC appointment notice for current information.
- ❖ **Updated NTA Policy Memorandum** - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is continuing to implement the June 28, 2018, Policy Memorandum (PM), [Updated Guidance for the Referral of Cases and Issuance of Notices to Appear \(NTAs\) in Cases Involving Inadmissible and Deportable Aliens \(PDF, 140 KB\)](#). Starting Nov. 19, 2018, USCIS may issue NTAs as described below based on denials of [I-914/I-914A, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status](#); [I-918/I-918A, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status](#); [I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#) (Violence Against Women Act self-petitions and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions); [I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petitions](#) when the beneficiary is present in the US; [I-929, Petition for Qualifying Family Member of a U-1 Nonimmigrant](#); and [I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#) (with the underlying form types listed above).

If applicants, beneficiaries, or self-petitioners who are denied are no longer in a period of authorized stay and do not depart the United States, USCIS may issue an NTA. USCIS will continue to send denial letters for these applications and petitions to ensure adequate notice regarding period of authorized stay, checking travel compliance, or validating departure from the United States.

USCIS began implementing the PM for [denied Forms I-485 and I-539](#) on Oct. 1, 2018. USCIS will not implement the memorandum with respect to employment-based petitions at this time. Existing guidance for these case types remain in effect.

USCIS will continue to prioritize cases of individuals with criminal records, fraud, or national security concerns for referral for removal proceedings. USCIS has not changed to the current processes for issuing NTAs on these case types, and the agency will continue to use discretion in issuing NTAs for these cases.

- ❖ **USCIS Issuing Biometric Notices for N-565/N-600 Applicants** – On Nov. 1, 2018, USCIS began requesting that domestic applicants filing Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document, go to an Application Support Center (ASC) appointment to submit biometric information (including photos, signature, and index fingerprint). USCIS will also ask applicants filing Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, to begin submitting biometric information at ASCs early next year.

Applicants will not have to pay a biometrics fee at this time.

USCIS is implementing this process as the agency works to transition operations to a fully electronic environment.

- ❖ **Outreach Sessions**

Below is a listing of our upcoming outreach sessions and events that will take place during the month of December. These sessions are free and open to the public. If you need additional information, please contact – Berta.M.Cassidy@uscis.dhs.gov or Zulma.T.Ruiz@uscis.dhs.gov

Date	Time	Type of Event	Location
December 1 st	10:00 – 11:30 am	Naturalization Information Session	Sunny Isles Library 18070 Collins Ave. Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
December 4 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Margate Catharine Young Branch Library 5810 Park Drive Margate, FL 33063
December 5 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	South Dade Regional Library 10750 SW 211 Street Cutler Bay, FL
December 6 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Shenandoah Branch Library 2111 SW 19 St. Miami, FL 33145

December 6 th	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Naturalization Information Session	Aventura Branch Library 2930 Aventura Blvd. Aventura, FL 33180
December 10 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Northwest Regional Library 3151 University Drive Coral Springs, FL 33065
December 11 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	West Dade Regional Library 9445 Coral Way (SW 24 St) Miami, FL 33165
December 11 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	California Club Branch Library 700 Ives Dairy Road Miami, FL
December 17 th	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	USCIS Information Desk	Kendall Driver License Center 11735 SW 147 th Avenue, Suite 23 Miami, FL
December 18 th	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	USCIS Information Desk	Stephen P. Clark Government Center 111 NW 1 st Street Miami, FL
December 20 th	4:00 – 7:30 pm	Library Information Desk	Kendale Lakes Branch Library 15205 SW 88 Street Miami, FL
December 20 th	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Library Information Desk	Arcola Lakes Branch Library 8240 NW 7 th Avenue Miami, FL

❖ **Upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies**

Below are scheduled dates for administrative N-400 naturalization ceremonies and the corresponding field offices where the ceremonies will take place (unless otherwise listed). Please note that although these dates are current on the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

- **Miami Field Office – December 7, 14, and 21**
- **Hialeah Field Office - December 15 and 19**

- **Oakland Park Field Office - December 21 and 28**
- **Kendall Field Office - December 7, 14, 15, 19, and 21**